

From the editor's desktop

This volume inaugurates the appearance of *The Silk Road* as an annual publication, instead of semi-annually as previously. Most of our contributors are appearing in the journal for the first time. Some are well published scholars; others at the beginning of what one may hope will be long and fruitful academic careers. As always, I learned a great deal from working with our authors. If it may seem that the editor is exercising undue privilege in contributing more than one piece this time, that indulgence has been undertaken in one instance as a collaborative venture with a leading specialist and in the other only after having received substantial input from scholars who read the article in advance and encouraged its publication.

I have as well decided to inaugurate here a photo essay series featuring important objects of material culture and art displayed in museums along the "Silk Roads" which I have been privileged to visit, some of them off the map of most tourist itineraries. In many cases these days, of course, museums themselves have developed extensive websites and are putting their collections on-line. Others have yet to do so. These photo essays (best viewed in color in the pdf version of the journal) are but a sampling of a much more extensive collection of photographs which is incrementally being posted to "Silk Road Seattle" (<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/>) as part of its effort to make the arts of the Silk Road more readily available for teaching and study purposes.

As in several previous instances, this volume of the journal happens to have a fairly heavy concentration of material about Mongolia. Readers should keep in mind though that our perspective remains a broad one both geographically and chronologically. To date Western Asia has been under-represented here, something that we may hope to remedy in the future. As one who has recently returned from a month in Iran and is expecting to spend additional time in the Middle East this year, I am developing an ever greater appreciation for the idea that the Silk Roads are much more than the routes of exchange affecting East and Central Asia.

The only way the journal can continue to be a success and maintain a broad perspective is by receiving good submissions for future issues. While our target audience is still a general one, the journal welcomes a range of contributions. We expect to continue to publish work by established specialists, but also welcome work by others who can contribute carefully crafted articles of general interest. New discoveries, of course, are most welcome, but good summaries of existing knowledge may have their place too. *As I write these lines, next year's volume of the journal is still wide open for contributions*, which should be in my hands no later than the beginning of summer 2011.

We can offer the advantage of a generally short turn-around time between submission and publication, unlike the case of academic journals and edited volumes where a year or two (or even much longer) is the norm. I am happy to help authors for whom writing in English is a challenge, although I will not translate articles (Russian being an exception) which have been written in other languages. If you have questions about submissions, send them to the editor; also look at the new guidelines which have been posted to the Silkroad Foundation's website at the URL listed on the previous page.

— Daniel C. Waugh
dwaugh@u.washington.edu