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## Introducing «Asiatic Studies»

Since the Swiss Society of Asiatic Studies has succeeded the Swiss Society of Friends of Far Eastern Culture, the *Asiatic Studies* now replace the former *Bulletin* of the earlier Society. The new title not only corresponds to the new name, but it also indicates, as does the latter itself, the extension of our field of interest to the culture of all Asia. It represents furthermore the expansion of our organ from a yearbook to a quarterly review.

The publication of a review has been facilitated by the friendly coöperation of the publishers, A. Francke, of Berne. An essential ground for the change was, however, the propitious development of the Society and the steadily increasing recognition and esteem that its activities since its founding in 1939, and in particular its *Bulletin*, have enjoyed in Switzerland and abroad. This experience has convinced us that our publication meets a widespread need, and that a quarterly review will serve this better than a yearbook.

The *Asiatic Studies* plans to publish articles in French, German, English and Italian. The use of several languages, which is quite natural for Switzerland, will facilitate its access not only to the various linguistic sections of Switzerland but also to the various parts of the world. Moreover, we hope that the employment of several languages, together with the neutral standpoint of our review, will enable scholars of all nations to come into communication with each other again.

A distinctive characteristic of our review besides its variety of languages, as formerly of the *Bulletin*, is its endeavor, in contrast to other periodicals devoted to the study of Asia, to bridge the gap between the specialized professional scholar and the amateur. Under the careful direction of scientists and scholars it seeks with

its contributions not only to further and enrich the special fields of learning, but also to furnish valuable knowledge and stimulation to wider circles of cultured persons. It is not altogether easy to realize this double ideal. We hope confidently, though, to approximate ever more closely to it with the help of suitable collaborators from the world of scholars.

*The Editors*