

Introduction

Like the first issue of **Copenhagen Papers in East and Southeast Asian Studies**, this second number in the series is composed of papers which were first presented at the conference "Ten Years After: The Post-Mao Development", held November 7-9, 1986, in Elsinore, Denmark. In view of the eventful months following the conference, they have all been brought up to date during the autumn of 1987.

Stig Thøgersen traces developments within the Chinese educational sector during the period from 1977 to 1987, especially the effects on rural education of the post-1977 reforms. The problems encountered in this field are now recognized and widely discussed in China; the author examines and comments on the official policies and the ideology behind them, as well as on the actual state of rural education and the ensuing debates in Chinese educational circles.

Kirsten Rønbøl Lauridsen analyzes the ideological changes which have taken place during the post-Mao decade. Basic elements of Mao Zedong-thought have been delicately, but firmly discarded, and ideologists have turned towards traditional Chinese philosophy, in this case Confucianism, in their search for moral standards, intellectual values and national integrity.

Bonnie S. McDougall's paper is a detailed review of artistic aims and official policies during a decade of sustained excitement, created by writers and artists of avant-garde, reformist, bohemian or primitivist views active in the fields of literature, cinema, theatre, painting, sculpture, and music. Major issues are the changing relationships between writers and artists, and the authorities; their search for new forms of expression to convey their personal and unorthodox experiences and reflections; and the difficulties they encounter in the production and distribution of their work.

Anne Wedell-Wedellsborg explores the search in recent Chinese literature for individual identity as something apart from collective identity, a new phenomenon particularly belonging to the latest decade. Her paper deals with fictional characters whose insight into a reality other than that of their ordinary life and whose passionate craving for a more meaningful existence

have made them outsiders in a psychological sense of the word, i.e. alienated from the aims and values of their community.

Finally, my contribution, which was written only in the fall of 1987, is concerned with the 1987 January-February issue, of *People's Literature*, one of the first targets of the campaign against "bourgeois liberalization". Three of the many interesting items in the issue are presented: the optimistic manifesto with which the editors of the journal greeted the new year; the short story of a long silenced author; and the novella of life and beliefs in Tibet which was the official reason for the retaliatory measures imposed on the journal.

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Guest Editor