

From the Editor

With this issue, Tripod enters its third summer of publication. We have learned much during the past three years and hope to learn even more as we continue our efforts to reflect on the Chinese experience and its meaning for Christian mission. Our understanding has been greatly enhanced by our association with the many people who share the same goal. One such encounter took place at Geneva this May when the Ecumenical China Study Liaison Group got together to discuss present trends both within and without the Church in China. Despite the great diversity of opinion and perspective, the participants were unanimous in expressing their on-going concern for the Church there. A brief report of that meeting can be found below.

In this issue, Jean Charbonnier, M.E.P., reports on another kind of meeting, the International Conference on Chinese Literature, which was held last January in Singapore. His report is also a moving account of the sufferings endured by Chinese artists, especially during the Cultural Revolution. It is the conviction of the writers and poets present at the Conference that Chinese literature has a universal mission, and we join them in their hope that the present renaissance in Chinese literature will eventuate in its assumption of a more influential role in the development of world literature.

Louis Gutheinz, S.J., in part two of his discussion of Asian Theology Today, explores in depth the four major currents of contemporary Asian Theology and singles out some of the more urgent problems now facing Asian theologians.

In our fourth article, the first of a two-part study of the early Church in Sichuan Province, Pierre Jeanne, M.E.P. describes the work of Sichuan's earliest missionaries and the conditions in the local Church that led up to the Synod of Sichuan in 1803. In part two of his article, Jeanne will focus on the Synod itself and how its decisions influenced the growth of Christianity in that Province for over a hundred-and-fifty-years.

Peter Barry, M.M. has just returned from another tour of China, this time to the several provinces of Huadong. For a first-hand report of where he went, whom he met, and what he saw and heard, we refer you to 'An Easter Visit to Huadong'.