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Acknowledgements and Technical Remarks

The present volume is the ninth volume in a series of publications which are the result of a research project entitled “The East Asian ‘Mediterranean’, c. 1500–1800: A New Quality in the Development of its Neighbouring Countries”. The project has generously been sponsored by the German Volkswagen Foundation since May 2002. Therefore, I particularly wish to thank the Volkswagen Foundation for this sponsorship that made it possible to carry out and publish our research. More details on the project, our research and publications may be obtained from our website “eamh.net”. In addition to the research results of project members we have here included investigations by some of our partners, namely Ihara Hiroshi 伊原弘 from Josai International University 城西國際大學, Tōkyō, Sue Takashi 須江隆 from Nihon University 日本大學, Tōkyō, and Lin Yu-ju 林玉茹 from the Academia Sinica 中央研究院 in Taibei.

Except for the article by Heyryun Koh that is written in German all other contributions are in English. As far as possible, English and foreign terms, the Chinese, Japanese and Korean transcription as well as translations and bibliographical information have been standardized. In a few cases, however, due to authors’ individual preferences, some inconsistency may appear, as for example in the spelling of reign periods of emperors that are, as a rule, provided in small letters and in italics and are not capitalized. Our Japanese colleagues, however, preferred to capitalize them.

Unless an original text is quoted with a transcription in a different system, the Chinese transcription follows the pinyin-system, the Japanese the Hepburn, and the Korean the McCune-Reischauer standard.

Each contribution has its own bibliography. As a rule, no distinction has been made between Western literature and sources and those in Asian languages. Titles of sources and secondary literature in the bibliography have only been translated if the original was in Korean, as it is our impression that still the majority of sinologists does not know Korean.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues and in particular the members of my research team who have inspired our research in many fruitful discussions during the last years. Last not least, I am very grateful for the patience of the contributors, because, due to my move to the Centro de Estudios de Asia y África at El Colegio de México, México, the editing process of this volume has taken an exceptionally long time period.

AS (蕭婷)
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