

Editors' Preface

It was mid-March, 2023. The Association for Asian Studies annual conference was taking place in Boston, and for many it was a first chance to meet in person after the long Covid hiatus. On one of the conference evenings, a dozen of us, with Josh Fogel at the center, went for a late dinner. It was then that Josh announced his retirement in the summer of 2024. Retirement? Josh? The man is more active and vital than most of us youngsters . . . It didn't make sense, but that was that. Josh, like Josh, was already making plans for post-retirement activities. And, mind you, he has plenty of those under way; trying to schedule time for even a brief meeting is not an easy task.

As we headed back to the conference hotel, a number of us kept our distance from the soon-to-be-pensioner, and began conspiring. After all, retirement is a big thing, in and out of academia, and as such it requires a rite of passage, a late Bar Mitzvah of sorts. In the olden days, the gift for a Bar Mitzvah was a book, and that also works in our academic milieu, especially when it comes to a senior scholar of Josh's caliber. In our case, the idea has been a gift that, à-la Mauss, represents our essence and spirit, that is, our academic spirit, in the form of an academic publication. And so the idea for this *Joschrift* was born.

Yet, we realized soon that, with our rash decision to produce a book, we brought trouble upon ourselves and our contributors: not only did we not have sufficient time (even on Josh time, a deadline like ours would be tight!) but there was also the looming shadow of Josh's scholarly eminence. No doubt, he would accept as a proper gift only a work meeting the highest scholarly and editorial standards. We have tried to live up to these pressures as best we could, despite additional curveballs such as wars, illness, traveling editors, and life in general.

We were, however, fortunate to find so many of Josh's friends, colleagues, and students who happily rose to the occasion and joined hands with us. The reason is simple: the reader should understand, that for all of us in this volume, Josh Fogel is much more than an extremely prolific scholar (and extremely prolific he is—to be honest, it took us some consultation to recall all of his books, and we knew we had no chance of even coming close to all of his articles and essays). Yet, the issue at hand is more than an academic appreciation of his original and thought-provoking scholarship, and this brings us to the question of what actually is Josh?

Let us use a term to which Josh can easily relate: Josh is a *mensh*. To explain what that means to readers perhaps more familiar with East Asia, it is best to refer to, who else, but Confucius, and say that being a *mensh* is close to mastering *ren* 仁, that elusive ideal that combines humaneness, integrity, a sense of duty, and an understanding of what is right in every situation. Indeed, Josh has

all of these qualities, and more: “His mouth and heart are at one,” as the Mishna saying goes, without apologetic posturing.

Less than a year and a half separate the finished *Joschrift* from that Boston meeting. We pushed forward quickly, and with the embrace of all of our erudite contributors, and their rallying to the cause, somehow the gift we envisioned came together. We are grateful to the contributors who not only played along (and on time, usually) but also managed, thus far, to keep all that buzz a secret from the one who otherwise knows everything. We also wish to express our sincere thanks to our wizardly and generously flexible De Gruyter editors, Rabea Rittgerott and Jana Fritsche; Sophie Florence, our meticulous copy-editor who was willing to stick with us as submissions came in at the last minute; John Treat who helped with promptly correcting the Japanese and more; and Gal Mendel who took on the Herculean task of organizing Josh's massive bibliography and compiled the index.

We structured the book—that is, the seven parts it is divided into—by mapping Josh's main fields of interest, albeit not all of his diverse pursuits could be addressed. Therefore, each part pays homage to one of his major works: I. Historiography: *Politics and Sinology: The Case of Naitō Konan (1866–1934)*; II. Sino-Japanese Encounters: *Maiden Voyage: The Senzaimaru and the Creation of Modern Sino-Japanese Relations*; III. Law and Justice: *Decisions, Decisions, Decisions: Reading Tractate Horayot of the Babylonian Talmud*; IV. Politics: *Ai Ssu-ch'i's Contribution to the Development of Chinese Marxism*; V. Literature: *The Literature of Travel in the Japanese Rediscovery of China, 1862–1945*; VI. Art: *The Role of Japan in Modern Chinese Art*; and VII. Translation: *The Emergence of the Modern Sino-Japanese Lexicon: Seven Studies*.

We hope this general map will serve as a guide to Josh's work for the reader who is less familiar with his oeuvre and the research it has inspired. The “List of Publications” in the Appendix is yet another means of journeying through his vast scholarship. We naturally expect that list to only keep growing as Josh storms into the next phase of his rich career, known to others as “retirement.”

The Editors
Tel Aviv, Heidelberg, Toronto, Reno, Urbana-Champaign
New Year's Eve 2023