

From the editor's desktop

The Future of *The Silk Road*

By the time readers will see this, it may seem a bit late for “New Year’s resolutions.” However, since I did make some this year, I feel I should share them. As an enthusiast wanting to learn more about the silk roads (and be able to work on some other academic projects), I have resolved to try to carve out more time to do just that. But in making that resolution, I have come up against a problem: editing *The Silk Road* takes far too much of my energy, and that energy diminishes now with advancing years. What is the poor editor to do? Hence my second resolution, which is of more direct consequence here. Details will be forthcoming with the next volume of this annual (the one for 2017), which is to be the last for which I will be responsible. Starting in 2018, *The Silk Road* will have a new editor. Moreover, after the 2017 volume, the journal will no longer exist in hard-copy print: it will then become only an on-line publication. Print copy (which too many libraries nowadays are reluctant to catalog and store) is increasingly an unnecessary luxury, costly to produce properly and becoming almost prohibitively expensive to mail. We expect that the journal will also move to a new on-line home, a process that has been under negotiation for some time.

So, between now and 2018, contributions should continue to be sent to me at my regular e-mail address. I encourage authors working on a broad range of material to send me their work. Given the focus of the Silkroad Foundation on learning and teaching, the important thing to remember is that what we publish should have some appeal for a broad audience and not be aimed primarily at a small group of academic specialists. If the new editor wishes to establish different rules for submissions from those currently in place, he will communicate them next year. It is possible that the 2018 volume of the journal will appear with some delay, depending on exigencies of the transition. However, I will retain my interest in its success and have promised to help smooth that process.

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