Editorial

In the preface of the first volume of SCIAMVS, I expressed my sincere hope that our journal be one of the few that Otto Neugebauer, if he were alive, would have chosen for his rich bookshelf. Now I must mention another person who passed away just after the publication of the first volume — Kiyosi Yabuuti (1906–2000), my guru and the pioneer of historical research in the exact sciences in China. I last met him alive on January 10, 2000. On that occasion I showed him the table of contents of SCIAMVS and told him that the journal would be published soon. He could not hear well but smiled in obvious appreciation of the new endeavour. Only a month later his health broke down and he did not recover, so he never saw the published form of our journal. As a student of Yabuuti I am convinced that this journal would have pleased him greatly if he were alive.

I was admitted as one of Yabuuti's students because I intended to study astronomical texts in Sanskrit and he wanted to get information from original Sanskrit texts. At that time he had already made important contributions to the study of the relation between Indian and Chinese astronomy. His work was based on English translations of the Sanskrit texts, and he wanted to make his study more reliable with a person at hand who knew Sanskrit. He was also happy when I started learning Arabic because he was eager to have someone continue his research on the relation between Islamic and Chinese astronomy, who could deal with the Arabic texts directly.

Yabuuti's scholarly attitude can be compared to that of Neugebauer who invited A. Sachs, G. J. Toomer, D. Pingree, and E. S. Kennedy to Brown University. In many respects I found similarities between Neugebauer and Yabuuti. Both were very competent in mathematics and their mathematical insight led them to important discoveries in the history of the exact sciences even before reading the original texts. Both, however, asked for collaboration with those who knew the languages concerned in order to apply the same rigorous method to history as to the exact sciences.

I am very glad that the present volume is no less rich in original sources than the first one. All the articles offer new materials, either previously unknown, or edited and translated for the first time in modern languages. The materials are not only new; they are also important, because they give stimulus to the further study of the history of the exact sciences. There are few academic periodicals which would publish such articles, partly because the traditional methods of typesetting make the elegant preparation of such texts financially prohibitive. We have been able to achieve high quality of typesetting without great cost thanks to the typesetting

programs TEX and LATEX. I am grateful to Toshiaki Kashino who prepared the camera-ready copies with immense skill and enabled us to keep down costs. We have also benefited from the facilities offered by the Internet, which has meant that we have been able to do almost all the editorial work by e-mail.

Since this journal is maintained only through subscription, without any financial backing, we welcome further subscribers in order to ensure the continuation and high quality of the journal.

Kyoto
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Michio Yano, Chief Editor