

FOREWORD

This special double issue of *Early Medieval China* (volume 10/11, parts 1 and 2) is dedicated to Professor David R. Knechtges, who has for three decades been one of the world's most distinguished scholars of early medieval Chinese literature and cultural history. Readers of *EMC* will be well acquainted with David Knechtges's contributions to our field, for his work on the literature and literary milieu of the Han through Six Dynasties periods is unsurpassed in breadth and depth and addresses issues of concern to literary scholars and historians alike.

The genesis of the articles that follow was a symposium in Professor Knechtges's honor that took place on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 24-25, 2003. The symposium was sponsored by the university's Center for East Asian Studies and attended by fifteen scholars, many of them former students of Professor Knechtges. In addition to the presenters, Professor Emeritus Richard B. Mather and his wife Ginny were in attendance, as were Professor Knechtges's wife Professor Taiping Chang and their daughter Jeanne.

The articles included here are essentially the same as the symposium papers on which they were based, but some have been expanded and at least one is on a different topic. All of the authors profited from the lively discussion that followed each presentation. As befitted the occasion, Professor Knechtges was kind enough to take the lead in these discussions. In addition, a high point of the symposium was his own paper, "Recent Studies of the *Wen xuan*," a highly informative survey of editions and studies of the anthology that has occupied so much of Professor Knechtges's professional life. This valuable piece appears here in an amplified version.

Those who are fortunate enough to know David Knechtges personally know that not only has he exerted a powerful influence on the study of early and early medieval Chinese literature and cultural history, he is also an unfailing friend and devoted mentor. At Yale, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and during his thirty years of teaching at the University of Washington, he has

played a major role in shaping the lives and careers of his many students and friends. To him we owe a huge debt of gratitude and can only hope that this issue of *EMC* serves to express in some small measure our boundless respect and appreciation.

Robert Joe Cutter
University of Wisconsin-Madison
November 30, 2004