Contents

Preface by Victor H. Mair ix

Introduction: Kinesis versus Stasis, Interaction versus Independent Invention Victor H. Mair 1

1 Beyond Modernocentrism: Toward Fresh Visions of the Global Past Jerry H. Bentley 17

2 The Trans-Eurasian Exchange: The Prehistory of Chinese Relations with the West Andrew Sherratt 30

3 The Queen Mother of the West: A Study of the Influence of Western Prototypes on the Iconography of the Taoist Deity Elfriede R. Knauer 62

4 Natural History and Cultural History: The Circulation of Hunting Leopards in Eurasia, Seventh–Seventeenth Centuries Thomas T. Allsen 116

5 Some Thoughts on the Origins of the Turks and the Shaping of the Turkic Peoples Peter B. Golden 136

6 Early Loan Words in Western Central Asia: Indicators of Substrate Populations, Migrations, and Trade Relations Michael Witzel 158

7 Textiles as a Medium of Exchange in Third Millennium B.C.E. Western Asia Irene Good 191

8 Cultural and Political Control in North China: Style and Use of the Bronzes of Yan at Liulihe during the Early Western Zhou Yan Sun 215

9 Biological Evidence for Pre-Columbian Transoceanic Voyages John L. Sorenson and Carl L. Johannessen 238

Contributors 299

Index 301