

## ABOUT THE GUEST EDITOR

Richard VanNess Simmons was born in New Mexico, reared in California, and received a college education in Seattle, Washington. He holds a Master's degree in Chinese literature, and a Ph.D. in Chinese language from the University of Washington. He has more than 10 years experience and active fieldwork as a dialectologist in China's Jiangsu 江蘇 and Jehjiang [Zhejiang] 浙江 provinces. He is presently Associate Professor of Chinese at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Dr. Simmons' current research project is entitled *Investigation of the Boundary between Wu and Jiang-Hwai Dialects*. This is a three-year project funded by The Henry Luce Foundation U.S. China Cooperative Research Program for the years 1999–2001. Simmons is the Principal Investigator for this cooperative project and will be working with Dr. Zhiqiang Yu [Yu Jyhchyang 俞志強] of Baruch College (CUNY), Dr. Guh Chyan [Gu Qian] 顧黔 of Nanjing University 南京大學, and Professor Shyr Ruujye [Shi Rujie] 石汝杰 of Sujou [Suzhou] University 蘇州大學. The project will investigate, analyze, and classify Mandarin (Jiang-Hwai Guanhuah 江淮官話) and Wu 吳 dialects in the villages and countryside of the Yangtze Valley region of China.