FOREWORD

This issue of *NAN NǓ*, focused on medicine for women in imperial China, is the third special theme number to appear since the journal’s founding seven years ago. Like the earlier theme issues, one on female suicide (3.1 [2001]) and the other on gender and genre in late Qing China (6.1 [2004]), this number will be published as a separate book volume. But unlike these two previous numbers, this issue did not originate from an earlier academic meeting or panel presentation. For the last several years, Angela Leung, the special guest editor of this issue, and I had been discussing the possibility of organizing a *NAN NǓ* issue which would highlight some of the more recent trends in the study of Chinese medicine for women. With the publication of the path-breaking book by Charlotte Furth, *A Flourishing Yin: Gender in China’s Medical History, 960-1665* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), this particular specialization within the discipline of the history of Chinese medicine is now attracting ever more interest, both in East Asia and in Euro-America. We are pleased that a group of distinguished scholars, including Professor Furth herself, agreed to contribute their expertise to this theme issue. It is this kind of joint effort which helps make the study of men, women and gender in China such a dynamic and exciting field of research and analysis. And the *NAN NǓ* Board of Editors hopes to continue publishing on special themes in the future, to keep both China scholars and the broader public alert to further developments in gender study.

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