Patrologia Pacifica

PREFACE

It is my great pleasure to introduce the Western Pacific Rim Patristics Society (WPRPS) and its annual conferences.

At a social gathering of Australian and Japanese scholars and international guests at St. Benet's Hall, Oxford, on Thursday evening, August 23, 2003, during the 14th International Conference of Patristic Studies, the idea was proposed of creating a regional society for scholars, graduate students and other interested people in the countries of the western Pacific rim involved in early Christian and late antique studies. The idea was warmly welcomed and the Society was established. The WPRPS has been designed to advance research and teaching in these fields in these countries and to promote international co-operation and collaboration among scholars of the region. The society will be open to others throughout the world.

The inaugural conference was held at the University of the Sacred Heart, Tokyo, in September, 2004. A second Conference was held including the Conference: *Prayer and Spirituality in the Early Church*, at the Australian Catholic University in Melbourne, in July, 2005. The third Conference was held at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, in September, 2006 with more than fifty participants from Australia, Hungary, India, Japan, the Philippines and Russia. After the Nagoya Conference we met again at the Prayer and Spirituality Conference in Melbourne in January 2008 including delegates from Canada and Korea. The steering committee decided to change the Society's name to the Asian Pacific Early Christian Studies Society (APECSS) to emphasize the good relationship between Patristic studies, New Testament studies and late antique studies in the Asian and Pacific region in a broader sense. The next Conference is to be held at Tohoku Gakuin University in Sendai Japan from September 10–12 in 2009.

In this *Patrologia Pacifica*, five papers have been selected from the papers presented at the third WPRPS Conference Nagoya in 2006. I express my cordial gratitude to the editor and contributors. I do hope this volume will open a new page for our co-operation.

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