

Report of the Committee on Comparative History of East Asian Literatures
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The preliminary plans for a multi-volume, cross-border, *longue-durée* history of East Asian literatures are described in the latest number of *Literary Research / Recherche littéraire*. This project, launched by former AILC/ICLA President Hans Bertens, is the logical consequence of our association's continuing internationalization and makes a suitable counterweight to the histories of literature in European languages previously edited by our colleagues. The task of developing a suitable steering committee has advanced, largely thanks to the good will of ICLA Executive Board members. That committee will have the mission of defining the contents of the first few volumes, as well as identifying experts who will be invited to write the chapters. Many questions bearing on the boundaries and internal articulation of the whole remain to be solved.

The work will assemble expertise in the languages and literatures not only of China, Japan and Korea (already a daunting project!) but also of Vietnam, Mongolia, Tibet, Central Asia, Thailand, Burma, Southeast Asia, etc. The long historical perspective (we propose to start with archeological evidence of cultural exchange) introduces further philological and categorical difficulties. It is no wonder that nothing of quite this kind has been attempted.

A project of this scope will require funding. The chair of the committee has been successful in obtaining a first grant for the organizational phase of the project. This should enable us to hold a planning meeting in Chicago during fall 2017 or winter 2018. A preliminary gathering in Utrecht, to lay plans for this meeting, is desirable. Any suggestions of participants or other advice will be most welcome.