

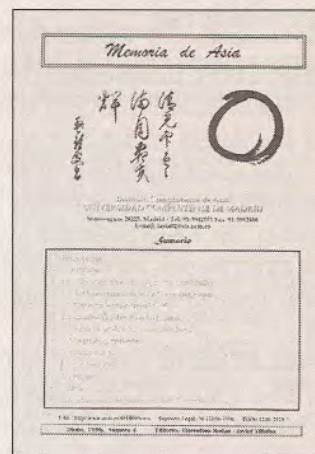
region already used in the context of the 5th conference held in Lammi and the tripartite unity of education, science, and the business world in their joint efforts to develop ties and cooperation with the countries of the Far East. Helsinki University of Technology and the University of Helsinki have recently established a consulting company Uniscience, Ltd., Oy, with the aim of exporting the knowhow of both institutions. One of the projects of Uniscience is directed towards the Far Eastern marketplace.

The fiteenth issue recapitulated the Nordic Conference and Exhibition on Japanese Scientific, Technical, and Business Information held in Espoo 15-16 June 1995, organized by the Helsinki University of Technology and Technical Research Centre of Finland jointly with Scandinavian and Japanese organizations. The conference brought together all major Japanese information providers and database hosts, as well as Japanese information services and providers outside of Japan. The proceedings were published as volume 152 of the VTT Symposium series of the Technical Research Centre of Finland. It contains 18 papers.

### East and Southeast Asia – Education and Science Networks

The sixteenth discusses to the concept of a university network in Asian Studies with as cover symbol a spider web overlaid by the Japanese characters *gaku*, science, learning and *ami*, net. Kauko Laitinen, a member of the Asia Task Force of the Finnish Ministry of Education and one of the compilers of the blueprint it prepared wrote in the editorial about the plan and its implementation in cooperation with 12 higher educational institutions of the country, which have joined together to offer their Asia-related courses and services.

A network university is not a building but a coordinated educational programme and introduces a new form of collaboration between universities and other institutions. It consists of courses already being given by the participating organizations, from which students from any institution can choose up to the full 60-week programme as their major subsidiary subject of study. A graduate school with the participation of foreign teachers is planned as a second step. Kauko Laitinen and Tero Salomaa explain the details in two articles and Lauri Harvilahti, chairman of the society, comments on the plan and gives full support of the society to its implementation. ■



## Memoria de Asia

■ By FLORENTINO RODAO

**M**emoria de Asia appeared for the first time in May 1995. It encompassed various aims. In the short-term it was intended to serve as a channel for the activities of the Complutense Institute for Asia and other centres related to Asia. In the even longer term, the hope was that it would serve to introduce Asia to the scholarly world of Spain, allowing it to take its place in study programmes, undergraduate and graduate, as well as awakening interest below the tertiary level. This last target is probably the most idiosyncratic among those of all the newsletters represented at this meeting and therefore it is necessary, I think, to give an overview of Asian Studies in Spain. There have been a great many initiatives to create centres on Asia, but no study programme has yet been consolidated. We are endowed with a goodly number of associations, but none of them is the main point of reference. Various small groups are working separately, but none of them attracts enough specialists. Balkanization would probably be the best word to describe the situation: there is no great feeling of the need to work together in order to strengthen Asian Studies. It is fine that there are so many groups working on Asia, but the lack of coordination is a big handicap. It is a splendid move that so many universities have set up Asian Studies Centres, but the market is still small.

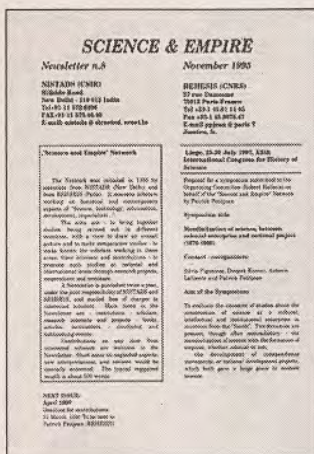
This self-imposed task of extolling Asian Studies has recently influenced the nature of the *Memoria de Asia*. As our principal aim has been to serve as a point of reference and coordination: small items of news of a maximum of ten lines, the addresses of persons or the place to contact them, articles carrying information about Asia, and an editorial page. There was a total of 92 news items in the sixteen-page last issue. The newsletter can be obtained free of charge. We have had 280 letters asking to receive it. This would have been unthinkable number had these people been asked for money. At the same time, we have been



able to compile a database of the scattered but not scarce, Spanish and Latin American Asianists.

The *Memoria de Asia* is divided into articles and news. So far the articles have been devoted to cultural activities, visits, scholarly meetings, publications, dissertations, and scholarships. In later issues, new sections on works or exhibitions have been included, and news related to business and economy is not overlooked. Javier Villaba has been the person who has taken on most of the responsibility. His Achilles heel is that he is a perfectionist, which has caused delays and discussions. Looking at this positively, it has meant that we have been spared the usual criticism levelled at publications: misspellings, typographical errors, and so on.

Financing has been the most difficult problem. Work has been free and copies and correspondence fees have been charged to the Diploma de Estudios Asiáticos and the Master on Asia. The most recent issue coincided with the sending out of a questionnaire for Asianists. The idea of the challenges awaiting us in the future is our principal stimulus. ■



## 'Science and Empire' Network & Newsletter

■ By **PATRICK PETITJEAN**

The Network was initiated in 1990 by scientists from NISTADS (New Delhi - India) and from the REHSEIS (Paris, France). It involves scholars working on historical or contemporary aspects of 'science, technology, colonization, development, imperialism'. The aims are: to bring together studies being carried out in different countries, with a view to drawing an overall picture and to making comparative studies, to make known the scholars working in these areas, their interests and contributions, to promote such studies at nation-

al and international levels through research projects, cooperations, and seminars. A Newsletter is published twice a year, under the joint responsibility of the NISTADS and the REHSEIS, and mailed free of charge to interested scholars. From spring 1997, a group of scholars from Tokai University (Japan) will join the publishing collective. Papers are in English or French.

Main items in the Newsletter are: institutions in which studies are in progress and related to 'Science and Empires', presentation of scholars working in this area, their research interests and projects, book reviews, surveys of related articles or newsletters, survey papers about 'what's new' in a particular country or part of the world, or about what has been published recently on 'Science and Empire', reports on symposiums or conferences held, preparation and announcement of forthcoming events, which are organized by members of the network, or which may interest them. Contributions on any item from interested scholars are welcome in the Newsletter. Short notes on neglected aspects, new interpretations, and reviews would be specially welcome. The typical required length is about 500 words.

Eight issues have been published in four years and this has been the main activity of the Network. The mailing list contains over 700 addresses, and one-third of the contributions is spontaneous. The number of pages has been increased from 12 to 16 pages.

Regular meetings of the network are organized during the International Conferences of History of Science. The last one was held in 1993 (Zaragoza), and the next one will be held in July 1997 (Liege, Belgium). Between these big gatherings, more limited meetings are held, taking the opportunities of symposiums or colloquiums, such as the 50th anniversary of the French Orstom (Unesco, September 1995).

For the XXth International Congress for History of Science (Liege), the Network is organizing, jointly with the Latin American Society of History of Science, a symposium entitled 'Mondialization of science between colonial enterprises and national projects'. The aim of the symposium, which represents the present network agenda, is: to evaluate the situation of studies about the construction of science as a cultural, intellectual, and institutional enterprise in countries from 'the South'. Two dynamics are present, though often contradictory: the mondialization of science with the formation of empires, whether colonial or not; and the development of independence movements, or national development projects, which both allocated a large place to modern science. Three sessions are scheduled: Science in the colonial enterprise; local, regional, and national dynamics; and the construction of science and national frame. ■





**N**ewsletters  
on Asia  
in Europe