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The present volume is the sixth volume in a series of publications which are the result of a research project entitled “The East Asian ‘Mediterranean’, c. 1500–1800: A New Quality in the Development of its Neighbouring Countries”. The project has generously been sponsored by the German Volkswagen Foundation since May 2002. Therefore, I particularly wish to thank the Volkswagen Foundation for this sponsorship that made it possible to carry out and publish our research. More details on the project, our research and publications may be obtained from our website “eamh.net”.

All contributions are in English. As far as possible, English and foreign terms, the Chinese, Japanese and Korean transcription as well as translations and bibliographical information have been standardized. In a few cases, however, due to authors’ individual preferences, some inconsistency may appear. This will especially be the case in contributions with Persian and Arabic expressions.

Except in the article by Liu Yingsheng, who preferred to use short characters, the original Chinese characters are always included in the text as long characters. For Japanese terms Kanji are provided respectively. Unless an original text is quoted with a transcription in a different system, the Chinese transcription follows the pinyin-system, the Japanese the Hepburn, and the Korean the McCune-Reischauer standard.

Each contribution has its own bibliography. As a rule, no distinction has been made between Western literature and sources and those in Asian languages. Titles of sources and secondary literature in the bibliography have, as a rule, not been translated. The reign periods of emperors are provided in small letters and in italics and are not capitalized.

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AS (萧婷)
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