

Greeting from the Co-Editor

Archaeology is a truly global endeavour, with a long and distinguished history influenced by explorers, literati, and collectors from many parts of the world, including Japan, extending back to the antiquaries of the European enlightenment and of Edo and Meiji eras. I often begin my lectures with reference to the richness of the Japanese archaeological record—and the response is often ‘how do we find out more—especially if we do not read Japanese?’ The *Japanese Journal of Archaeology* is providing the answer.

The exchange of ideas and information about archaeology between Japan and the rest of the world has formed an important part of the discipline since the late 19th century. One of the reasons that Edward Sylvester Morse was so influential in the development of the field was that he published his report on the Omori Shell Mounds in both English and Japanese, and maintained a correspondence with the leading figures of the day, including Charles Darwin. Today we are re-discovering the significance of the scholarship of other early western archaeologists active in Japan including William Gowland and Andre Leroi-Gourhan, and of the impact of Japanese specialists abroad, such as Tsuboi Shogoro and Koganei Yoshikiyo. C.T. Keally from Sophia University has estimated that over 100 foreign archaeologists have proactively engaged with the Japanese archaeological record over the following century. We have yet to research how many Japanese archaeologists have worked overseas, but they are legion. There are now few parts of the world where Japanese archaeologists have not undertaken research.

With new media, heightened interest in Japanese culture around the world, and enhanced encouragement for younger Japanese to experience the world beyond Japan, we have an unprecedented opportunity to engage people around the world with the wonders of Japanese archaeology. Our understanding of the Japanese archaeological record has the potential to contribute greatly to the human history as a whole, and this requires a wider appreciation of Japanese archaeological methods and thought.

Since the 1960s a series of exhibitions have brought some of the highlights of Japanese archaeology to overseas audiences, from Vancouver to Kuala Lumpur, and from Washington to the European capitals of Paris, London and Berlin. There are regular opportunities to see the treasures of ancient cultures from around the world at exhibitions in Japan. Such exhibitions are often accompanied by beautiful and informative catalogues

GREETING FROM THE CO-EDITOR

and conferences. *Japanese Journal of Archaeology* offers the potential to create a forum for enhanced dialogue, building on the interest created by these one-off events. It also provides the opportunity to take Japanese archaeology beyond the exhibition gallery, conference hall or library, to a truly global audience, accessing the Journal from their computers wherever they are.

The attention of the world will be focused on Japan for the Tokyo Olympics in 2020. As I write, there is even an initiative to have the Olympic cauldron or ‘seikadai’ in the form of a Jomon pot—following on from two Flame pots becoming the most popular exhibits ever about Japanese art at the British Museum in London a year ago. Four years prior to the Tokyo Olympics, the World Archaeological Congress will meet in Kyoto, in August 2016. With this constellation of events, we have an unprecedented opportunity to capture the imagination of archaeologists and the public in Japan and around the world, overcoming the language barrier and ensuring that Japanese archaeology takes its rightful place as a fully integrated, active participant in the global archaeological community. A kind of archaeological Olympiad! It is therefore very timely that the Japanese Archaeological Association has decided to establish the *Japanese Journal of Archaeology*, and it is an honour and a privilege to serve on the first Editorial Committee. I hope that all archaeologists of Japan, broadly defined as archaeologists from Japan and those from elsewhere with an interest in the archaeology of the archipelago, will support this bold new endeavour.

Simon Kaner
Co-Editor