

Report on the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association

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ABSTRACT

This short essay reports the proceedings and some highlights of the 83rd Annual Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association, held on May 27 and 28, 2017, at Taisho University.

KEYWORDS: 83rd Annual Meeting, Japanese Archaeological Association

The 83rd General Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association (2017) was held on the 27th (Saturday) and 28th (Sunday) of May at Taisho University. Founded in 1926, Taisho University's ethos is based on a synthesis of the three denominations of Buddhism and its four main schools in Japan. The university buildings, which feature plenty of windows, have a bright and open feel. The general meeting, the first ever held in this university, proceeded smoothly, thanks to the efforts of around 80 alumni and students acting under the leadership of Tadashi Midoshima, chairman of the executive committee.

On the 27th, the general meeting, lectures, and the first session were held in the worship hall (Building 8), and then a social gathering took place in Odaijikido hall. On the 28th, there were oral presentations in Buildings 5 and 7 (three venues). Also, in Building 5, there were separate sessions (three venues): a poster session, a high school poster session, and a book exchange. A cumulative total of 1,426 people took part, 380 on the 27th (309 members and 71 non-members) and 1,046 on the 28th (685 members and 361 non-members). As of March 31st, 2017, the association has 4,091 members. During the previous fiscal year, 15 members passed away and 60 left the association.

The general meeting commenced at 10:00 a.m. on the 27th, with a silent tribute to Kiyotari Tsuboi and the 14 other members who had passed away. Association president Akio Tanigawa gave an opening address and then outlined various matters concerning the association as well as the policies the association would take with respect to these matters. These included the association's support of and cooperation in the 8th World Archaeological Congress held in Kyoto last year, its support of recovery work following last year's earthquake in Kumamoto, commemorative events to mark the 70th anniversary of the association's foundation, and the establishment of a disaster response committee. After this, Tadashi Midoshima gave a welcome speech, mentioning that Tadashi Saito

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taught at Taisho University for 14 years and that there is an exhibition on his work: 'Japanese Archaeology as Seen in Letters: From the Collection of Tadashi Saito.' The MC then announced that the general meeting fulfilled the designated requirements and mentioned that President Tanigawa would act as chairman, pursuant to the association's articles of association. Taking the chair, President Tanigawa nominated a vice-chairman and a secretary and then commenced the proceedings.

First up on the agenda was the announcement, approval, and awarding of the 7th Japanese Archaeological Association Prize. The association's selection committee announced that they had nominated Satoru Hirose's research, 'The formation of royal authority in ancient times and the production of burial mound figurines' for the grand prize. They then announced that the association had nominated for the encouragement prize Nobuhiko Kamiyo's research, 'Shelling and grinding technology in the Jomon period.' The nominations were then approved by the board of trustees, and the prizes were awarded. Next on the agenda was the announcement and approval of membership qualification review. The head of the membership qualification review committee announced that 51 applicants had passed the review process, and he then issued his approval of the applicants. The new members promptly took the stage, and Yayoi Hisasue (from Osaka Prefecture) gave a speech on behalf of all the new members, describing their aspirations as members.

Next, the association's undertakings during the fiscal year 2016 (general meeting, public seminars, board of trustees, annual reports and bulletin, etc.) were reported. There then followed a succession of reports from individual committees: the imperial tombs report, the reports of the research environment review committee, the PR committee, the international exchanges committee, the social science and history textbooks review committee, the committee for the protection of buried cultural properties, the special committee for responding to the Tohoku Earthquake Disaster, the special committee for responding to the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake, the committee for revising rules and guidelines, the future vision subcommittee, and the committee for reviewing cultural property issues. The special committee for responding to the Tohoku Earthquake Disaster announced that it would wind up its five years of activities after publishing the 'Report of the Special Committee for Responding to the Tohoku Earthquake Disaster.' The committee for revising rules and guidelines announced that it had reviewed the rules for supporting members and the guidelines concerning copyright. There were then reports on the business plan and budget for the fiscal year 2017 and on the commemorative events to mark the association's 70th anniversary.

The meeting then proceeded to the next item: matters for deliberation. The director in charge of financial affairs gave briefings on the financial statements for the fiscal year 2016 (balance sheet and statement of net assets variation) and the special financial report

concerning donations for the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. The auditor then presented the audit report and announced that the accounts were lawful and proper. Following a question-and-answer session, the financial statements were approved. The meeting then deliberated and subsequently approved the establishment of a disaster-response committee and the reappointment of the secretariat. The disaster-response committee will serve as a standing committee for the purpose of facilitating swift and flexible responses to disasters. There being no further matters to discuss, the general meeting was brought to a close.

A commemorative lecture meeting was held from 2:00 p.m. on the same day. Following an opening speech by President Tanigawa and another by Taisho University president Kanobuo Otsuka, Hideichi Sakazume (professor emeritus at Risho University and former lecturer at Taisho University) delivered a lecture titled ‘Tadashi Saito and the history of Japanese archaeology.’ The first session commenced at the same location at 3:10p.m., the theme of which was ‘Inheriting and Developing the History of Japanese Archaeology: Focusing on the Research Challenges Left by Tadashi Saito.’ There were five presentations on this theme. After these presentations, the attendees moved to Odaijikido hall, where a social gathering was held.

On the morning and afternoon of the 28th, there were oral presentations at three separate venues. There were a total of 31 presentations: 11 at the first venue, 10 at the second, and 10 at the third. A total of five sessions were held during the day. The second session consisted of four research presentations under the theme ‘Exploring Papua New Guinea’s Ethnography for Insights into the Formation of Jomon Pottery.’ Six research presentations made up the third session, which was titled ‘Surveying and Researching the Shiraho Saonetabaru Cave Ruins’ (the session was jointly held with the association’s osteoarchaeology study group). The location for this session was packed to the rafters, due, in part, to a timely press release. The fourth session was ‘Underwater Heritage and Archaeology: Trends and Outlook’ and it consisted of five research presentations. The fifth session was comprised of four research presentations under the theme ‘Internationalizing Japanese Archaeology: Meaning, Significance, Method,’ a theme decided by the association’s English language bulletin publishing committee. The theme for the sixth session was ‘The Damage to Cultural Heritage Caused by the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake and the Issues Associated with the Restoration Thereof,’ a theme decided by the association’s special committee for responding to the 2016 Kumamoto Earthquake. This theme consisted of four research presentations, which focused on reports from the disaster-stricken areas and which brought home once again the seriousness of the damage to cultural heritage.

For the poster session, there were 24 presentations. The presenters delivered their explanations of the posters from 1 to 2p.m. As for the high school poster session, which

the association had started in the previous year, there were nine presentations delivered by students from several prefectures, including Miyagi and Fukuoka, and the session was well attended. From 1 p.m., the students delivered their explanations and then a prize ceremony was held. The grand prize was won by Rikuto Morisaki of Tokushima Bunri High School for his presentation 'Considering the Takajizo in Indigo Production Areas,' and by Masateru Haruguchi from the history club of Fukuoka Prefectural Itoshima High School for his presentation 'A Survey of the Fire Beacon Platforms of a Volcano.' The merit award went to Moeko Kobayashi and Yui Amami, both from the history study club of Saitama Prefectural Inaguen Sogo High School, for their presentation 'Snake-like Ironware Excavated from Shogunyama Tomb in Gyoda City, Saitama Prefecture, and Horse Figurines Fitted with Snake-like Ironware Excavated from Sakamaki Tomb 14.'

Benefiting from favourable weather, the general meeting was well attended and the two days were a great success. Much of this success is attributable to the tremendous support of Taisho University and the devoted efforts of the general meeting executive committee and the students. I would like to express my appreciation to these individuals.