

Editorial

We are pleased to present Volume 7, Issue 1 of the *Japanese Journal of Archaeology*: the official English language journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association (*JJA*). *JJA* was launched back in December, 2013 with one of its objectives being the internationalisation of Japanese archaeology. This issue features two articles that are the products of two new initiatives that are designed to further that objective.

The article by YAMADA Shunsuke, entitled ‘Lineages of Deer Antler Sword Ornaments’ is a translated version of the original article written in Japanese and featured in Volume 5, Issue 1 of *Nihon Kokogaku (Japanese Archaeology)*, the official journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association, that received the 9th Japanese Archaeological Association Award (Excellent Article Prize) for this publication in 2018. As the Editor’s Note by SASAKI Ken’ichi stated, the original article was written for a Japanese audience and to contribute to the advancement of knowledge about the Kofun (mounded tomb) period. Therefore the paper exemplifies the way good Japanese archaeological scholarship is perceived in Japan.

Indeed, various *archaeologies* are practiced across the world. The differences among them derive from different trajectories of modernisation respective regions went through, different processes of disciplinisation that the archaeologies of those regions experienced, and different realities generated through globalisation that the practitioners of such unique archaeologies have to face. In that sense, internationalisation of any archaeology today inevitably takes the form of the conscious creation of spaces in which different archaeologies encounter one another. Retrospectively, *JJA* has been functioning as a space of such encounter without fully recognising and realising itself to be as such. The *JJA* editorial committee has decided to regularly feature the translation of selected *JAA* award-winning works (both articles and the extended abstract of books). We hope this new project will enhance the effectiveness of *JJA* as a vehicle for the dynamic and exciting internationalisation of archaeologies including Japanese archaeology.

The article by Gina BARNES, entitled ‘The Jōmon–Yayoi Transition in Eastern Japan: Enquiries from the Kantō Region,’ is quite different from YAMADA’s article in many ways. It is an exploration of the potential of systematically applying novel perspectives fully informed by the recent development in studies of plant grain/seed impressions on potsherds and other plant archaeological approaches to the study of the transition to irrigation agriculture in the Kanto region. The study of agricultural beginnings in the Japanese archipelago has been heavily focused on the beginning of rice paddy-field agriculture in western Japan. Latest developments in various, technically-advanced approaches to plant remains, however, are revealing that intertwined trajectories that went on at various tempos and ever-changing spatial scales/extensions constituted the real picture of the transition to farming in the archipelago. That also makes us realise that our views on the phenomenon

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is biased by a certain image widely shared on the organic linkage between rice paddy-field agriculture, ‘Japanese-ness’ and the Japanese archipelago as an internally homogenous space where a unified history, the history of ‘Japan,’ unfolded. It is wonderful that such eye-opening work was undertaken by a scholar who is based overseas but has been conducting data-rich and theoretically and methodologically-informed research on various topics concerning Japanese pre- and proto-history, and we are pleased that we can publish the outcome of such endeavour in *JJA*.

In its seventh year of existence, *JJA* is preparing to make another move for the future: an online submission system. With user-friendly instructions attached to each step to submit a manuscript and accompanying visuals, it will make submission easier and shorten the time taken for peer review and editing. We thank you for your continued support for *JJA*.

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Chief-Editor, Japanese Journal of Archaeology
Fukuoka, September 2019