

Editorial

It has been six years and four months since the first issue of the Japanese Journal of Archaeology (*JJA*) was published in December 2013. *JJA*, the official English journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association, was launched with the following objectives: 1) showcasing the operation and the outcomes of ‘Japanese archaeology’; and 2) the internationalisation of Japanese archaeology.

From the beginning, *JJA* recognised ‘Japanese archaeology’ as an arena, rather than an entity, where various practices concerning what have been taking place in the area of the world that is now the sovereign territory of the state of Japan are conducted and where various practices conducted by Japanese archaeologists concerning human pasts across the world are represented. *JJA*, deriving from that recognition, was launched as a completely open-access, web-based journal open to everyone regardless whether a member of the Japanese Archaeological Association or not, and has published contributions by scholars from Japan and abroad that cover various types of archaeological practices and their outcomes. This recognition, or re-definition, of ‘Japanese archaeology’ derived from the growing awareness of globalisation in archaeology. In a world where the acceleration of the speed of the flow of people, commodities and information generates both good and undesirable consequences to the survival and well-being of humanity, we cannot confine ourselves to a space defined by a national boundary, language, or culture. In such a world we have to open ourselves up for international dialogue that no doubt leads to mutual self-reflection and transformation.

Because of such hope for the opening up of Japanese archaeology and for the realisation of this mutual self-reflection and transformation, *JJA* also launched programs such as a) featuring the translation of original articles written in Japanese, representing some constitutive characteristics of current Japanese archaeological practices, b) organising an all-English session at the Annual General Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association tackling issues of significance in world archaeologies, and c) organising workshops on how to conduct one’s research and publish its outcomes in international journals.

These six years have been long enough to establish *JJA* an active, sustainable program. Now the *JJA* session at the Annual General Meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association and the *JJA* workshop are important events in the calendar of the Japanese Archaeological Association. I hope you begin to feel that something new is happening, partially but significantly thanks to the *JJA* as a program. At the same time, *JJA*, as an international journal, still has some way to go in establishing itself as an arena for the representation of ‘Japanese archaeology’ defined above; admittedly, we still need more contributions from across the world to establish *JJA* as *the* place where novel contributions to world archaeologies from perspectives of ‘Japanese archaeology’ defined above are

Koji Mizoguchi

published.

This is the last issue published under my Chief-Editorship of *JJA*. Let me take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported *JJA* during its first phase of existence. I should like to thank my Co-Editor, Professor Simon Kaner, for sharing aspirations, ideals and ideas and for selfless dedication. Finally, thank you all for your continued support to make its missions truly realised.

Koji Mizoguchi
Chief-Editor, Japanese Journal of Archaeology
Fukuoka, March 2020