

Editorial

We are pleased to present Volume 9, Issue 2 of the *Japanese Journal of Archaeology*, the official English language journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association. This issue consists of three parts: one original article, a special section on the Japanese archaeology of gender, and an English summary of a book awarded the Japanese Archaeological Association Prize.

The article by MORI *et al.*, entitled ‘Estimating the Sources of Stone Tools Made of Tuffites during the Yayoi Period and their Archaeological Significance,’ is an outstanding and rare example of an interdisciplinary approach to Japanese archaeology. At universities in Japan, curricula in the natural sciences and that in the social sciences and humanities are completely separate. In fact, high school students who intend to major in science and engineering at university and those who intend to major in humanities and social sciences are usually enrolled in different classes. This reality considerably hinders interdisciplinary studies in Japan. I congratulate the authors for overcoming this difficulty. In fact, this article presents one of the first applications of laser ablation-inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometry (LA-ICP-MS) to Japanese archaeology.

The special section on the Japanese archaeology of gender is also very important in at least two respects. One is that the entire special section is contributed to and edited by native Japanese archaeologists who did not receive degrees at English-speaking institutions. For native Japanese archaeologists who have not spent considerable time abroad, it is extremely difficult to write in English, and I praise the authors very highly for their painstaking effort. The other is that the Japanese archaeology of gender is, as is the case with other areas of Japanese archaeology, data-oriented and empirical. Owing to this data-oriented approach, hypotheses and models presented in this special section are convincing, and I hope that this special section will contribute to advances in archaeological theories of gender.

The article by YAMAZAKI Takeshi, entitled ‘Zooarchaeology of the Earliest Farming Period’ is an English summary of his book, *Nōkō Kaishi-Ki no Dōbutsu-Kōkōgaku*, published by Rokuichi Shobō, Tokyo (2019). The author personally wrote the English summary, which was edited by the editorial committee. His book is an important contribution to Japanese archaeology for at least two reasons. First, there are not many zooarchaeologists in Japan because of the reason stated in the above paragraph. Second, while most works on zooarchaeology in Japan are skewed toward the Jomon period, his work focuses on the Yayoi period, when wet rice cultivation was fully adopted in Japan. He vividly illustrates subsistence activities other than agriculture during the Yayoi period.

For the reason explained in the Editorial of the previous issue, we could not include two papers I had hoped to publish in this issue. Another paper on gender and a full translation

Ken'ichi Sasaki

of a paper to which the Japanese Archaeological Association Prize was awarded in 2019 will appear in Volume 10, No. 1. I appreciate the understanding and patience of our readers.

Ken'ichi Sasaki
Chief Editor
Tokyo, March 2022