

From the Editor

編纂者のメッセージ

EMJNet AT THE AAS: As we have for the past several years, members of EMJ met on the Thursday afternoon of the start of the AAS Annual Meeting. This time we departed from past practice and had two formal presentations by Marcia Yonemoto and Peter Shapinsky on the subject of maps and mapping in Early Modern Japan. Although smaller than our last gathering, an enthusiastic audience spent three hours in discussion. We hope to be publishing these two presentations in a future issue of *EMJ*.

Solicitation of Proposals: Early August marks the deadline for submission of panel proposals for next year's AAS. As in the past, EMJNet will be willing to support and endorse panel proposals that deal substantially with the history, culture and society of Early Modern Japan. Proposals should be sent to Philip Brown at brown.113@osu.edu. As a condition of support, if proposals are accepted with EMJNet endorsement, *Early Modern Japan: An Interdisciplinary Journal* should be given first opportunity to publish papers based on the presentations.

If your proposal is not accepted by the AAS Program Committee, please consider offering it as the core of next year's EMJNet meeting, which we will once again schedule for the Thursday afternoon before the evening program that opens the formal AAS meeting. Proposals for EMJ activities should be submitted to Philip Brown by September 30 (brown.113@osu.edu). Note that we have in the past entertained a variety of formats, from very informal discussions with authors of recent books, to formal presentations of a more traditional nature.

A NOTE ON THIS ISSUE OF *EMJ*: This issue marks a considerable departure for *EMJ* from past practice. While we have always sought to present materials that go well beyond the purview of the standard professional journals in the field, publishing essays on pedagogy, state of the field articles on Early Modern Japanese studies in France and the USSR, with this issue we publish articles entirely in Japanese for the first time. If our readers feel this venture to be worthwhile, the

opportunity to publish in Japanese can expand the range of materials and authors who we can publish: Japanese scholars with very limited confidence in their own English-language ability would be able to share their contributions with their non-Japanese colleagues more directly in this format. Please do convey your feelings about this approach to the editors.

Introduction to a Symposium: Collecting Books, Accumulating Knowledge: Early Japanese Books and Manuscripts in the Library of Congress

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The three essays found in this issue were first presented in an unusual panel at the AAS Annual Meeting on March 30, 2003. The panel was distinctive in two respects. First of all, the *lingua franca* of the panel was Japanese (supplemented by occasional interpretation into English). Secondly, the panel topic dealt with books and publishing in Japan (as well as Japanese book collection and library development in the U.S.), topics which heretofore rarely, if ever, had appeared on the AAS panel roster. The panel was well attended, and resulted in an active exchange of knowledge and information on the topic. Most noteworthy were the extended comments by Ms. Miwa Kai, retired curator of the Japanese collection at Columbia University. Ms. Kai shared her background into the circumstances behind the diffusion of materials from Japan to the Library of Congress, and several East Asian collections at U. S. universities after WWII.

The three essays below are by Kigoshi Osamu, Kanazawa University, Komine Kazuaki, Rikkyō University, and Watanabe Kenji, Rikkyō University. These three eminent scholars of medieval and early modern Japanese literature took part in a series of surveys (Watanabe actually served as team leader) sponsored by the National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tokyo, that catalogued most of the collection of premodern Japanese books in