



EARLY MODERN JAPAN

An Interdisciplinary Journal

Volume VIII Number 1

CONTENTS

May 2000

From the Editors' Desk 編纂者から

Back Issues and Publication Schedule 2

Articles 論文

The Study of Women in Early Modern Japan: An Introduction with Bibliography
by Anne Walthall 2

The End of History? Sunday Night on NHK by B.M. Bodart-Bailey 5

Book Reviews 書評

Edo Tōkyō Hakubutsukan 江戸東京博物館 [The Edo-Tokyo Museum]. *Sankin kōtai: kyodai toshi Edo no naritachi* 参勤交代：巨大都市江戸のなりたち [The System of Alternate Attendance: Origin of the Edo Megalopolis] by Morgan Pitelka 8

Selçuk Esenbel, *Even the Gods Rebel: The Peasants of Takaino and the 1871 Nakano Uprising in Japan* by Brian Platt 12

Marleen Kassel, *Tokugawa Confucian Education: The Kangien Academy of Hirose Tansō (1782-1856)* by Herman Ooms 15

Book Notes, Etc. 研究書ノート等

Watanabe Kouichi ***Residence Groups and Rank-Order Consciousness in Early Modern Japan*** 18

Fukuda Chizuru ***The Early Modern Order and the Daimyo House Disturbances*** 19

Editors

Philip C. Brown

Ohio State University

Lawrence Marceau

University of Delaware

Editorial Board

Sumie Jones

Indiana University

Ronald Toby

University of Illinois

For subscription information please refer to the end page

The editors welcome preliminary inquiries about manuscripts for publication in *Early Modern Japan*. Please send queries to Philip Brown, *Early Modern Japan*, Department of History, Ohio State University, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210 or, via e-mail to brown.113@osu.edu.

Books for review and inquiries regarding book reviews, please contact Lawrence Marceau, Review Editor, *Early Modern Japan*, Foreign Languages & Literatures, Smith Hall 326, University of Delaware, Newark, DE 19716-2550. E-mail correspondence may be sent to lmarceau@udel.edu.

Subscribers wishing to review books are encouraged to specify their interests on the subscriber information form.

From the Editors' Desk

編集者から

Back Issues and Publication Schedule:

When *Early Modern Japan* resumed publication last year, two issues arose that we did not fully anticipate. The first was a large number of requests for back issues. As editors we were very pleased with the level of interest in *EMJ* that these requests revealed. At the moment, however, we have very few copies of back issues left. Other than file copies, most are completely gone. To ameliorate this situation, we plan to place earlier issues of *Oboegaki* (*EMJ*'s predecessor) and *EMJ* on our web site in the near future. Please check:

<http://emjnet.history.ohio-state.edu/>.

On a different note, we found that a number of subscribers (especially libraries) were confused by our use of a new volume number. Where, they wondered, was Volume VI, Number 2? The answer was that VI:2 was never published. We also made a decision that for the moment, we would publish only one issue per year, but that all subscribers would continue to get two issues for their standard subscription. However, in addition to this misunderstanding, we found that our record-keeping software was also geared to subscriptions based on a two-issue volume. Consequently, in order to minimize our potential confusion over when subscriptions expire, we have numbered our last issue Volume VII:2 and this issue Volume VIII:1.

The editors would very much like to publish on a semi-annual basis. That, however, depends on the volume of suitable material that is submitted to us. *EMJ* provides a flexible forum in which to publish a variety of professionally oriented material that goes beyond standard scholarly articles and book reviews. Two examples appear in this issue: The review of early modern Japanese women's history that begins in the next column, and the commentary on the NHK historical drama of the *Akō rōnin*. We encourage readers to submit manuscripts on current developments in the field in Japan, teaching and pedagogy, notices of books of interest, exhibitions and other fare that does not typically fall within the scope of other professional journals in the field. Editors'

e-mail and postal address are noted on the inside of the front cover of the journal.

The Study of Women in Early Modern Japan: An Introduction with Bibliography

Anne Walthall

University of California, Irvine

As a field, the English-language study of women in Japanese history is barely ten years old. This despite early attempts to trace the history of women in Japan, one by Mary R. Beard, *The Force of Women in Japanese History* (Washington, DC: Public Affairs Press, 1953) that includes a chapter on the Tokugawa period (pp. 94-140) and the other by Joyce Ackroyd, "Women in Feudal Japan" in *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan* 3rd series vol. 7 (1959). Following a hiatus of over twenty years, a few books and articles began to appear, heralded by Edwin McClellan, *Woman in the Crested Kimono: The Life of Shibue Io and Her Family Drawn from Mori Ogai's 'Shibue Chusai'* (Yale University Press, 1985) and two special editions of the *Journal of Family History* in 1983 and 1986 containing articles on family composition drawn largely from demographic research. The first books on nineteenth century women such as *A Daughter of the Samurai* by Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto (Doubleday Doran and Company, 1934) and *Facing Two Ways: The Story of My Life* by Baroness Shidzue Ishimoto (Stanford University Press, 1984) dealt almost entirely with life in the Meiji period. In these cases the focus was on individual women and the vicissitudes they had to overcome.

The 1990s has seen women's history go in a number of directions. Drawing on the work of Japanese scholars, several historians have suggested that relations between family members in peasant households showed a strong degree of interdependence between husband and wife and considerable flexibility in assigning gender roles. (For examples in English from the Japanese side, see Ueno Chizuko, "Genesis of the Urban Housewife," *Japan Quarterly* (April-June 1987): 130-142 and Fumie Kumagai, "Modernization