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Subscribers wishing to review books are encouraged to specify their interests on the subscriber information form at the end of this volume.

The Early Modern Japan Network maintains a web site at <http://emjnet.history.ohio-state.edu/>.

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## From the Editor

### 編纂者のメッセージ

While computerized techniques for preparing publications like this ease the task considerably, glitches arise – always at the last minute. Such was the case with this issue, and I would be remiss if I did not extend special thanks to Satomi Kurosu and Janine Sawada for their responsiveness under pressure.

## Introduction to Essays on the State of the Field

### ©Philip C. Brown, Ohio State University

In April 2000, a group of early modern Japan specialists gathered at The Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio to discuss the state of the field in various disciplines that take that slice of Japanese history as the object of their study. After re-writing, soliciting comments and re-writing again, *Early Modern Japan* begins to publish the fruits of that conference in this issue. We will publish the essays and separate bibliographies for each field, and alternatively organized bibliographies will be placed on the EMJ web site at the following URL: <http://emjnet.history.ohio-state.edu/>.

Two participants were sought for each of five general fields along with one scholar to provide a kickoff and one to serve as overall respondent. Individuals were sought who, wherever the nature of the field permitted, were firmly anchored in the period that is widely considered to fall under the rubric of “early modern,” that is, the period from the late sixteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century. Assembling a broad range of scholars was also an explicit objective: younger scholars as well as mid-career and older scholars; scholars from different parts of the United States as well as at least some scholars who were from outside the United States or people who had at least demonstrated an interest in exploring non-English, western-language materials through their scholar-ship. Where a particular methodological expertise such as

statistics was a significant part of a sub-field, someone who had mastered that methodology was sought as a participant. In general, the final composition of the workshop reflected this diversity. The fields designated and participants were:

Political and “diplomatic” history:

Philip Brown, Ohio State University

Brett Walker, Montana State University

Religion and thought:

Janine Sawada, University of Iowa

James McMullen, Oxford University

Literature and the performing arts:

Haruo Shirane, Columbia University

Lawrence Marceau, University of Delaware

Socio-Economic history:

Seljuk Esenbel, Bosphorus University (Turkey)

Satomi Kurosu, Reitaku University

Art History and archeology:

Patricia Gra-ham, University of Kansas

Sandy Kita, University of Maryland

Respondent:

Conrad Totman (Yale University)

(Our inaugural speaker was unable to attend due to illness.)

The organizer made no explicit demarcation of field boundaries, nor were authors prohibited from treating a work that might also be treated by someone working in a different field. Like their Chinese, Korean, South Asian and European counterparts, many of the figures in the world of early modern Japanese letters were polymaths, dipping into literary pursuits, governance and art as they pleased. Likewise, just as Karl Marx can not be treated simply as an economist or historian, or Max Weber as simply a political scientist or sociologist, many of these figures elude rigid classificatory schemes. What is true for individuals holds as well for many other subjects and artifacts from the era. Are travel diaries literature, art, or personal diaries and therefore treatable as sources for a social or economic historian? The answer, of course, is that they can be any of these. Are commoner protests (*ikki*) something that should be treated as political events or as sociological phenomenon? Once again, both approaches are reasonable. From the outset, the choice of what specific