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編纂者のメッセージ

In this issue we present the final set of essays from the State of the Field conference held in the spring of 2000 at The Ohio State University. The two substantive appraisals focus on political/institutional history and socio-economic history. These are followed by a summary of concerns reflected throughout the discussions at the conference.

The essays we have published through this and the last two issues of EMJ represent our most ambitious effort to date. Response from readers, in the form of requests for additional copies, has been impressive and very rewarding for all of us who have been a part of this effort. Several of these essays have been translated and/or reprinted already.

The magnitude of this effort raises two important questions. The first concerns what might be done in future issues that will be of similar interest to readers. One possible approach would be to plan future issues in whole or in part around clearly identified themes. To this end, the editors issue a CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THEMATIC ISSUES OF EMJ. Proposals should 1) indentify a well-defined theme and potential contributors, and 2) a guest editor who will be in charge of soliciting contributions, assuring their submission to referees and for publication on time, and who will take a substantial role in copy editing.

A second concern has become clear during preparation of the three State of the Field issues: There are parts of our work that deserve more attention than the current staff involved in production of EMJ – Lawrence Marceau and Philip Brown – have been able to devote to them. In particular, this involves copy editing in preparation of the journal for print and preparation of files (e.g., bibliographies from the State of the Field series) for posting on our web site.

As part of efforts to deal with the first issue, we have established a basic style sheet for the journal that will appear in the back matter of every issue and on our web site. Final submissions (after revisions based on comments from the editors and outside referees) must conform to these guidelines. In addition, we are actively looking for colleagues to help with copy editing and preparation of files for posting on the EMJNet web site.

Finally, EMJNet was originally created based on the idea that it would give us extra opportunities to do interesting and innovative things, either on our own or in conjunction with the annual meetings of the AAS. In the past two years, EMJNet has sponsored regular panels at the AAS and has also held independent round table discussions at each of the last two annual meetings, one on bunjin culture and society organized by Cheryl Crowley and the other on the theme of Blood in Tokugawa culture, organized by Bettina Gramlich-Oka. A panel for the EMJNet meeting in association with the 2004 AAS annual meeting in San Diego is now largely complete (more in the fall issue of EMJ), but proposals for additional EMJNet activities for the next AAS meeting can still be considered.

Readers with an interest in proposing a thematic issue of the journal, activities for the forthcoming AAS, or volunteering to assist with editing and manuscript preparation (both printed and internet) should contact Philip Brown at Department of History, 230 West 17th Avenue, Columbus OH 43210 or at brown.113@osu.edu. Proposals for EMJNet’s meeting in conjunction with the AAS annual meeting need to be submitted by September 15, 2003.

As always, we continue to encourage subscribers and readers to submit materials for publication with EMJ. Scholarly articles are routinely sent out to colleagues to be refereed, but in addition, we have published a variety of other kinds of work in the past: translations of documents, essays on early modern Japan studies in different countries (France and Russia, with others recently solicited), articles on teaching and the use of computers in Japanese studies and research. We continue to seek a broad array of materials that go beyond what scholarly journals ordinarily publish but which clearly serve the development of early modern Japanese studies.