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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, 230 West seventeenth Avenue, Columbus, OH 43210 USA or, via e-mail to brown.113@osu.edu. All scholarly articles are sent to referees for review.

Books for review and inquiries regarding book reviews should be sent to Glynne Walley, Review Editor, Early Modern Japan, 2661 Portland St. #6, Eugene, OR 97405. E-mail correspondence may be sent to [tgwalley at gmail.com](mailto:tgwalley@gmail.com). Readers wishing to review books are encouraged to specify their interests in an e-mail to the Book Review Editor, Glynne Walley.

From the Editor:**編集者のメッセージ****1) In This Issue**

This issue of *EMJ* presents three approaches to understanding elements of daily life and common entertainments in Tokugawa Japan. The first article is actually the concluding piece of a set of essays on the theme of "Death and Dying in Early Modern Japan," which appeared in our last issue. Drawn from a workshop held at the National University of Singapore in September, 2009, these papers examined outcasts and medical practice, samurai attitudes toward death, and personal experiences of two literary figures with death in the family and their own approaching death. As a capstone to these earlier articles, eminent historian of religion **Ōtō Osamu** contributes a broad treatment of **funeral and burial practices** across the spectrum of Edo society, providing us with insights into ordinary folk as well as the elites and intellectuals. (N.B. *EMJ* has a long-standing interest in proposals for thematically linked essays and welcomes thematically linked submissions of multiple manuscripts. Each manuscript will be individually evaluated by referees, however.) Next, **Charo D'Etche-verry** provides a detailed analysis of audience involvement in the performance of **kabuki theatrical performance**. She posits a higher degree of sophisticated authorial initiative in actively engaging members of the audience than is often recognized. In our final research essay, **Dylan McGee** builds on his presentation at last year's Early Modern Japan Network meeting in conjunction with the Association for Asian studies to analyze the **introduction of clocks into Edo literature** and its illustration. Finally, I should note our **departure from ordinary book review format** in **Morgan Pitelka's** review essay. The essay not only reviews an exhibition catalogue, but also web-based reaction to the exhibition. Further, this review itself initially appeared on Pitelka's blog and has been adapted from that format. In publishing this review we are experimenting with an unusual approach, and editors look forward to reader comments on

this approach.

As always, *EMJ* welcomes submission of individual scholarly articles, but in addition, we are also interested in translations, discussions of teaching, and other professionally oriented materials that do not normally appear in scholarly journals. Authors should feel free to contact the editor at brown.113@osu.edu with inquiries.

2) EMJNet at the AAS. The Early Modern Japan Network was first formed to support the presence of panels and papers on early modern Japan at the Association for Asian Studies. To that end, we act as sponsors for panel proposals submitted to the AAS Annual Meeting Program Committee as well as sponsoring our own meeting in conjunction with the AAS Annual Meeting. People interested in having EMJNet support for proposals submitted to the AAS or proposing panels at the EMJnet meeting held in conjunction with the AAS should contact Philip Brown (brown.113@osu.edu) early in the process of developing the panel proposal. For our own meeting we have typically sponsored one or two panels, but we have had as many as four or five in the past.

Our program consists of a panel on conceptions of destructive forces in medieval and early modern Japan and brief business meeting.

Date: Thursday March 15, 12:30 - 15:00

Place: Oxford Room of the conference hotel

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE, TIME AND PLACE. Like all "meetings in conjunction" this panel will not be listed in the formal AAS Program (announcements listing the panel will be available at registration).

Given that AAS panels begin on Thursday evening, we hope that those who fly in to make those sessions will join us for this intriguing panel!

Earth, Wind, and Fire: Change and Continuity in Conceptions of Destructive Forces

Organizer and Chair: Gregory Smits

This panel examines early modern perceptions of destructive forces of nature. These per-

ceptions contributed to, but were also conditioned by, literary and academic writings. Each paper explores relationships between the powerful forces themselves and the texts connected with them. Through the lens of urban fires, Haruko Wakabayashi examines the influence of medieval ideas and writings on early modern perceptions of disasters. She is thereby able to point out continuities and differences from the medieval past. Kristina Burhrman's paper on windstorms also examines medieval ideas that continued to influence early modern thought. Similarly, Gregory Smits' paper on earthquakes examines the influence of early modern lore on the emerging science of seismology in the Meiji era. Burhrman's paper examines the productive interrelationships between folk culture and academic theories, a topic also explored by Smits. As a whole, these papers shed light on the interrelationships between society and nature, academic writings and folk culture, and the dominant ideas in different eras of Japanese history.

Gregory Smits, Pennsylvania State University.
Early Modern Earthquake Prediction: Between Theory and Folk Knowledge.

By the late Tokugawa period, an extensive body of lore concerning precursors of earthquakes had developed. Some elements of this lore, unseasonably warm weather for example, resulted from prevailing understandings of earthquakes as caused by trapped yang energy. Other items, catfish swimming vigorously at the surface for example, came from folklore. Writings in the wake of earthquakes in 1830 and 1855 held out the possibility of predicting earthquakes by understanding warning signs. This paper examines early modern views of earthquake precursors and argues that this accumulated lore influenced the development of seismology during the Meiji period and beyond.

Kristina Burhrman, University of Southern California.
Dangerous Winds in and out of Season: The Calendrical Prediction of Storms Between Theory and Folk Knowledge in the Seventeenth Century

Aristotelian and Chinese *yunqi* theories of wind production and storm origin circulated dur-

ing the 17th century. However, popular understanding of storms in diaries and observational writing tied the risk of such disasters primarily to the luni-solar calendar. This paper analyzes discussions of major storms during the early seventeenth century, focusing on the 1614 storm featured in *Keichō kenbun-shū* and elsewhere. Theoretical discussions influenced topics such as seasonality, memory, and precedent. However, experientially based folk knowledge that could not be reconciled with *yunqi* or *Yijing* theory such as predictions based on cloud formations, wind direction, and month/day combinations, survived to appear in later Edo-period almanacs.

Haruko Wakabayashi, Princeton University.
From *Hōjōki* to *Musashi abumi*: A Comparison of Medieval and Tokugawa Perceptions of Fire

In 1657, a catastrophic fire burned Edo to ashes. In many ways, the fire is analogous to the great fire of 1177, which destroyed a third of the Heian capital. Historical and literary sources from the two periods reveal continuities and changes in the views of fire and the various meanings ascribed to it from medieval to Edo. The paper will focus particularly on *Hōjōki*, known for its stylistic influence on many of the disaster writings of Edo, and the presentation of fire in *Musashi abumi* to examine how medieval perceptions were adapted or modified for the Tokugawa audience.

Yoshiaki Shimizu, Princeton University. **Discussant:**