



## Editors' Introduction

WITH THIS first issue of the year 2013, we welcome a number of new editorial board members to the fold, each of whom adds new strengths and interests to the journal's ever-expanding base. Mark Bender of The Ohio State University has been a long-time contributor to *Asian Ethnology*, and he brings his expertise of China, its ethnic minorities, as well as a broad, general knowledge of folklore with him. Juliane Schober of Arizona State University contributes her vast experience in Southeast Asia and her knowledge of Buddhism and the anthropology of religion to the board. We also welcome Nicholas Thomas of the University of Cambridge and Clare Harris of the University of Oxford to the board. With *Asian Ethnology's* broadening interests in material and visual culture, we felt that we needed more consultants in this area of expertise. Professor Harris's in-depth knowledge of Indo-Tibetan art and architectural forms, both past and present, will benefit us in developing the journal's offerings in visual culture, while Professor Thomas's deep engagement with the material cultures of Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia will also aid us in exploring the various entanglements of objects with other aspects of culture. Both also bring a practical dimension to the journal resulting from their daily engagements with museums. Museology is an area we feel needs expansion in *Asian Ethnology*, and we hope that their input will generate more interest in this important area of study that interrogates the display of culture and the underlying ideologies and agendas at play in the exhibitionary complex.

The arrival of new board members also means the departure of some others. We therefore wish to thank Richard Bauman and Hiroko Kawanami for their service to the journal, and wish them both a very productive future in their own academic endeavors. We also hope they will continue to support the journal in the years to come.

Now that we are adding museology and visual culture to our list of preferred topics, it is also time for us to strongly encourage reviews of relevant documentary and ethnographic films. We have already taken steps to increase the number of book reviews in these vital areas, so we now wish to invite board members and general readers alike to submit suggestions of films that need reviewing in our journal, or to submit reviews of significant films to us for consideration. Establishing a base in this new area of inquiry will take some time to achieve, but we feel that as media plays an important enough role in our daily lives, as well as in our teaching, a new section on film reviews will be welcomed by our readership. To this end, we hope ethnographic filmmakers will send review copies of their newest works to Associate Editor David White (djwhite@nanzan-u.ac.jp). We have also aimed at increasing the amount of reviews published in each issue, which has led us to reflect on how to organize them categorically. To this end, we have decided to attempt consistency by grouping reviews according to geographic region listed alphabetically. When there are books reviewed on general topics—that is, works not specifically about Asia, but of relevance theoretically or otherwise—these will appear before those listed according to geographic region.

Lastly, we hope that our readers will continue to participate in the journal's growth by reading, citing, and recommending its contents to colleagues and students throughout the world. Our commitment to honest scholarship is unwavering, and we hope to give voice to scholars not often heard in the global arena, while at the same time maintaining the same academic standards expected of a peer-reviewed journal. This is not easy to achieve, but we feel it is a worthwhile goal to pursue. Therefore, we welcome you all to join us in our continued effort to bring the cultures of Asia to the attention of academics and informed readers alike. May the remainder of the year be auspicious for all of us.

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17 July 2013, Nagoya, Japan