

Foreword

In November 2000, the Center for Japanese Studies of the University of Hawai'i and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, with support from the Japan Foundation, joined together in the organization of an international symposium at which a number of scholars were asked to reconsider how history has been constructed over time in Japan. The multinational planning committee for this meeting, taking into consideration recent trends in historical scholarship, decided that it would be most productive to concentrate on reevaluating Japanese historiography from earliest times through 1912, the last year of the Meiji period. Participants came to the conference venue in Maui from Japan, the United States, China, and the United Kingdom, and can be regarded, we believe, as representative of the various traditions of academic training in which they were schooled.

In addition to the authors of the chapters that follow, Martin Collcutt, Wayne Farris, David L. Howell, Ishii Shirō, Liu Jianhui, Sharon A. Minichiello, Saitō Makoto, Sonoda Hidehiro, Tao Demin, Ronald Toby, and Watanabe Masako were all on the program of this symposium. Liu and Toby took part in absentia, sending papers that were presented by others. A later draft of Tao's paper was published as "Negotiating Language in the Opening of Japan: Luo Sen's Journal on Perry's 1854 Expedition," *Japan Review* 17 (2005), pp. 91-119. Toby delivered a different version of the paper read in Maui, "By Any Other Name': Matsushita Kenrin's Commentaries on Foreign Historical Accounts of Japan," at the Marius B. Jansen Memorial Conference "Japan and Its Worlds: The Internationalization of Japanese Studies," at the International House of Japan, 2 December 2001, and he has decided to publish this material on Matsushita Kenrin only in the proceedings of that conference. Primarily because of the press of other commitments, Collcutt, Farris, Howell, Ishii, Liu, and Sonoda chose not to submit revised essays for this volume. Fogel, Minichiello, Saitō, and Watanabe served as commentators and panel chairpersons, but did not prepare papers for this conference.

We would like to thank all of those who participated in the Maui conference and all of those who helped in the production of this volume, especially the respective staffs of the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Hawai'i and the International Research Center for Japanese Studies. To the Japan Foundation, without which the symposium would not have been possible, we would like to express deep gratitude. We are only too fully aware that this volume is not the final word on the many historical texts it addresses, but part of an ongoing, centuries-long process of textual elucidation in which every new era and every new point of view offers further clarification. Does each text produced in the past speak to us in different subsequent eras? Do our respective historical settings condition our respective capacities to understand those texts? We are only just beginning to fathom possible answers to these immensely complex historical questions.

James C. Baxter
Kyoto
Joshua A. Fogel
Toronto