

Acknowledgments

This collection of essays is one of the products of a three-year collaborative research project. Supported by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, faculty members of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) in Kyoto joined with scholars from other institutions—primarily but not exclusively North American universities—during the academic and fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, to examine the theme “Historiography and Japanese Consciousness of Values and Norms” in a number of symposia and workshops. Altogether more than seventy scholars made presentations or acted as discussants in six events over the course of the project. The present volume contains some of the work originally presented in the final year, and is the third publication to result from the project, following *Historiography and Japanese Consciousness of Values and Norms* (Kyoto: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2003), edited by Joshua A. Fogel and myself, and *History and Folklore Studies in Japan* (Kyoto: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, 2006), of which David Howell was the editor.

Earlier versions of the essays in this volume were presented and discussed at an international symposium at the end of October and beginning of November 2002. The theme of that conference was the title of this book, *Historical Consciousness, Historiography, and Modern Japanese Values*. Co-organized by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies and the University of Calgary, the event took place in Banff, Alberta, Canada. Sonja Arntzen of the University of Toronto, Pamela Asquith of the University of Alberta, Timothy Kern of the International Research Center for Japanese Studies, X. Jie Yang of the University of Calgary, and I coordinated the planning. Professor Yang successfully sought support from the Japan Foundation to bring Canadian scholars to Banff, and the JSPS grant covered participation by researchers from Japan, the U.S.A., and Canada.

The idea for this project on historiography and Japanese values was Ishii Shirō's. In 1999, when he was a professor at Nichibunken, he authored the proposal for funding, and he subsequently served as chairman of the committee that was responsible for planning and executing this Center's activities in the series of symposia and workshops. Toward the end of the first year of the project, Professor Ishii was appointed to a new position as an advisor to the prime minister of Japan on science and technology policy, and when he left Nichibunken I inherited his responsibilities for coordinating this inquiry. Without his vision and his energy, this book and the other two that I mentioned above would not have been possible, nor would have another work (at this moment still in progress, but very near completion, under the co-editorship of Professor Fogel and myself) entitled *Writing Histories in Japan: Texts and their Transformations from Ancient Times through the Meiji Era*, which is descended from a conference that Professor Ishii helped to co-organize with the Center for Japanese Studies at the University of Hawai'i in the fall of 2000.

Professor Suzuki Sadami of Nichibunken gave invaluable advice to the binational committee that was coordinating the Banff symposium. As Director of the Office of Research

Exchange at this Center in the academic years 2001 and 2002, he provided good counsel and support for Nichibunken faculty and staff involved in this event, and also to Professor Yang.

Honda Ayako deserves special mention. As the member of the staff of the Research Cooperation Division at Nichibunken with primary responsibility for the administrative work that undergirds invisibly the academic work visible in these pages, she helped us see our way through a few rough patches with constant good cheer. She served at Nichibunken from April 2000 through March 2003, before moving to a post at Kyoto University, and she did her job well.

X. Jie Yang quickly assented to the proposal that Tim Kern and I put to him early in 2001, that we explore the possibility of collaborating to put together an international conference in Canada, preferably in the scenic Rocky Mountains. He proved himself an ideal partner, winning the backing of his university, helping to enlarge the scale and the possibilities of the symposium by obtaining Japan Foundation funding, and shouldering most of the local administrative responsibilities. All this he did with grace and nearly incredible energy. His cheerful spirit and uncomplaining cooperative attitude made it a pleasure to work with him, and I am happy to be able to express Nichibunken's gratitude to him in print. I want to note once more, also, our appreciation of the assistance of Professors Arntzen, Asquith, and Kern.

Sincere thanks also are due once again to the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science and the Japan Foundation. This volume offers to readers some of the fruits of the endeavors that those estimable organizations made possible. The researchers who took part in the Banff symposium continue to carry with them today the intellectual and personal benefits of the JSPS and Japan Foundation support.

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