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Preface

This issue of Senri Ethnological Studies has resulted from the Twelfth International Symposium of the Division of Ethnology of the Taniguchi Foundation on the theme, 'Foragers in the Contemporary World: the Impact of Cash and Commoditisation.' The Symposium was held at the National Museum of Ethnology from the 20th-27th November 1988. All the participants are deeply grateful to the Taniguchi Foundation and its Executive Director, Mr Toyosaburo Taniguchi, for its generosity in making the Symposium possible and for meeting all expenses of the participants, both from abroad and within Japan.

The topic of the Symposium developed out of the work of the Australian Research Group at the Museum. In 1979 Professor Koyama was asked to build up the Museum's holdings of Australian material. In formulating his collection building policy Koyama took the bold step of deciding to focus only on material culture actually being produced today rather than seeking to purchase nineteenth century artefacts. Although he was not aware of it at the time, this decision was to enmesh him and his coworkers not simply in negotiations with contemporary Aboriginal art and craft people across Australia but also with a complex of bureaucratic structures and their employees, all involved in one way or another in the marketing of Aboriginal art and craft. It quickly became evident to him that the economic aspects of this state subsidised industry, as much as traditional Aboriginal practice, was essential to understanding what was produced and to documenting the collection for the future. The obviously anthropological nature of the economics involved led to a decision to expand the scope of the Symposium from a simple focus on material culture to include a look at petty commodity production and the impact of cash and commoditisation on foraging societies more generally in order to place the Australian experience in comparative perspective.

The success of the Symposium was the result of the work of many people. In particular we would like to thank the Director-General of the National Museum of Ethnology, Dr Tadao Umesao, Chairman of the Organising Committee and its members: Takuji Takegura, Komei Sasaki, Hisatsugu Sugimoto, Hiroyasu Tomoeda, Tomoaki Fujii and Hiroshi Wada. We would also like to thank the members of the Executive Committee: Shuzo Koyama, Kazuyoshi Nakayama, Yukio Hayashi, Masatoshi Kubo, Noriyuki Itogane all of the Museum and Eiko Yuasa, Executive Director of the Senri Foundation and Hidejiro Uji, its Business Manager. Sachiko Kubota and Tomoko Nawa were most helpful in the preparation of the papers for publication.

Professor Jiro Tanaka, Director of the Centre for African Area Studies, who was to be a participant in the Symposium was delayed by flight difficulties so that he was only able to arrive on the last day. We have also included a paper by Kazuyoshi Sugawara of Kyoto University on the San originally prepared for the
Sixth International Conference on Hunting and Gathering Societies held in Darwin from the 29th August to 2nd September 1988.

Canberra and Osaka, November 1990

NICOLAS PETERSON
TOSHIO MATSUYAMA