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著者(英)	Shohei Wada
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Preface

Last spring, upon our return from a field trip to Togo and Cameroon, we began the editing of the European language publication to which we had been looking forward for some time. It was decided by the publication committee that *Africa 2* would comprise the sixth volume of *Senri Ethnological Studies*.

As illustrated by our inclusion in *Africa 1* of a report on field research in Algeria, we do not think of African research as being narrowly limited to the area south of the Sahara. Furthermore, as to genre, we do not remain within the bounds of Ethnology; rather, we open the doors wide to all related disciplines, and hope to present the results of various types of research.

In Japan, academic achievements are for the most part recorded only in Japanese. To those of us, however, who hope for the international exchange of academic information, the practice of publishing research results in Japanese only is an inadequate one-way street. For this reason, *Senri Ethnological Studies* was established for the promotion of mutual interchange.

Japan does not yet have a long history of African research. The first actual field studies were begun in the 1960's, and until then we possessed practically no first-hand data. Although we can offer only the products of field work fostered over a period of at most twenty years, however, we believe that by publishing these results in European languages, we can make some contribution on an international level.

As always, due to our lack of experience with regard to publishing in European languages, we have encountered many unforeseen difficulties, but thanks to the support and encouragement on all sides, we are now at last able to present *Africa 2*. We would like especially to express our gratitude to Dr. K. Ruddle, a visiting scholar at our museum, for his invaluable cooperation in the production of this volume. We heartily thank also all the people who participated in the work of translating, brushing up and typing the articles presented here.

Finally, it should be mentioned that the principle contents of the articles by Sato and Terashima were presented as doctoral theses at Kyoto University, while the other six papers were contributed specifically for *Senri Ethnological Studies*.

Senri, Osaka
March 1980

SHOHEI WADA

