

## Preface

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## Preface

**ISHIMORI Shuzo**

Director-General, Hokkaido Museum

In June 1978, SUDO Ken'ichi and I, as researchers at the National Museum of Ethnology in Japan, first set foot on Satawal Island. We spent about three months there, conducting preliminary research on the traditional culture of Satawal. The islanders greeted us warmly and welcomed and supported our work. During this stay, we confirmed that this was one area of Micronesia where the traditional life style was better maintained than in other areas, and in particular, the traditional knowledge and sophisticated techniques of long distance navigation were still being passed down from generation to generation. As a result of the first research trip, a substantial cultural-anthropological research project was planned and, with the addition of another anthropologist, AKIMICHI Tomoya, who was also a researcher at the Museum, we conducted joint research in Satawal from June 1979 through January 1980. This was funded by a Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, as an Overseas Academic Research project under the title "Ethnological Research on Traditional Navigational Systems in the Central Caroline Islands" with ISHIMORI as the primary investigator. On both occasions, Sabino SAUCHOMAL of Satawal, worked with us as a research assistant.

Our fieldwork covered a wide range of topics, including the traditional folk concepts of the natural environment, the subsistence system, cosmology and social systems, as well as traditional navigational knowledge, canoe-building skills, fishing, number divination and folk medicine. The local culture had undergone considerable change because of modernization after World War II. Contributing factors included the mass conversion to Christianity, and the introduction of a monetary economy and school education. For example, Christianity denied the existence of traditionally worshiped supernatural beings or deities, so that various rituals that had played an important role as a moral control ceased to be practiced, and complex ritual procedures that had been practiced in former times in association with everyday events as well as natural phenomena were all being lost.

Yet, at the time when we conducted fieldwork, senior members of the community had extensive knowledge about how rituals were conducted before Christianity and about details of other traditional aspects, and we were able to learn the traditional system of knowledge through them. Before Christianity, much information was considered to be secret, or it was shared only among some individuals within a given clan. Many of the words and ideas documented in this

dictionary were also a part of this secret knowledge and would have completely disappeared in the process of modernization had the senior members of the Satawalese society been unwilling to help us. We would like to express our sincere thanks to each of the individuals who decided to pass on the knowledge they had inherited from their ancestors to young scholars visiting from Japan, in order that it be documented and not lost.

We are also grateful to all the members on Satawal Island for their hospitality, and are delighted to dedicate this dictionary to them. In particular, we would like to express our gratitude for the support provided by the three chiefs of the Island at that time, all now sadly deceased, the late Otonik, the late Luguto, and the late Remai, each of whom understood and appreciated the purpose of our research and helped to provide us with an ideal research environment. Without their understanding, it would not have been possible to complete our research successfully.

After our return to Japan, we began a research project specifically focusing on the compilation of a dictionary of the Satawalese language as an inter-university joint research project at the National Museum of Ethnology. SUGITA Hiroshi, a linguist specializing in Micronesian linguistics who was then at Tokyo Gakugei University, was invited to join the project specifically for this purpose. It was also decided that Sabino SAUCHOMAL, who had acted as the research assistant during our fieldwork on Satawal, be invited to Japan for this purpose. The invitation of Sabino became financially possible thanks to the generous efforts of three people who recognized this project as being worthwhile. Responding to strenuous appeals by ÔTSUKA Tôru, a journalist then affiliated with the Osaka Branch of the Japan Broadcasting Cooperation (NHK Osaka)<sup>1)</sup>, the late ORIME Masaaki, founder and then President of Kansai Journal Corporation<sup>2)</sup>, and the late SATOI Tatsusaburô, then the Director and Counselor of Kansai International Airport Building Co. Ltd. (currently New Kansai International Airport Company, Ltd.)<sup>3)</sup> the following companies and individuals (listed alphabetically) generously sponsored our project:<sup>4)</sup> Daiwa Bank Co. Ltd. (currently Resona Bank Co. Ltd.), Itochû Corporation, Japan Broadcasting Corporation, Kintetsu Corporation, Marubeni Corporation, Nippon Life Insurance Company, Nisshô Iwai Corporation (currently Sôjitz Corporation), Nittô Kôgyô Corporation, Ôsaka Gas Co. Ltd., Sakura Color Products Corporation, Shirayama Shokusan Co. Ltd., Sumitomo Bank Co. Ltd. (currently Mitsui Sumitomo Banking Corporation), Sumitomo Corporation, Suntory Limited, Yamatoya Textile Industry Co. Ltd.; ÔMICHÏ Koji, and SATOI Tatsusaburô.

The actual collection of the donated funds was taken care of by the Regional Development Division of the Ôsaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry<sup>5)</sup>. We would like to express our sincere thanks to each of these companies and individuals for their generous support, and in particular, the efforts of Mr. Ôtsuka,

the late Mr. Orime and Mr. Sato, and the Ōsaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry are greatly appreciated.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous assistance of KŌTOKU Tadami and KŌTOKU Noriko<sup>6)</sup>, who provided accommodation for Sabino during his stay in Japan.

Despite all the support we received from people with various backgrounds, a number of insurmountable problems developed that hindered the completion of the work, with the result that for many years it lay in limbo. The person who got the situation out of difficulty when the publication of a dictionary appeared almost impossible, was KIKUSAWA Ritsuko. Dr. Kikusawa, after joining the National Museum of Ethnology in April 2005, not only participated in this project as an Oceanic-language specialist, but became actively involved in the dictionary work as the coordinator of the project. The project started to move forward again, this time as a project supported by the Research Center for Cultural Resources of the Museum and, with her indefatigable assistance, the dictionary was finally brought to publication. Without her devoted effort and great patience, this dictionary would never have been published, and here I express my sincere thanks to her. In addition, we were fortunate this time to receive the assistance of Lawrence A. REID, an Emeritus Researcher of the University of Hawai‘i, who provided invaluable advice as a lexicographer and edited the manuscript. We also wish to acknowledge Richard LIGITEIWEI, the Satawalese Language Specialist in the Yap State Department of Education (Curriculum and Instruction), for providing us with helpful information regarding current issues related to the orthography system.

The whole process of dictionary compilation involved a substantial amount of computer-related work, and was only made possible by the able cooperation of Information Technology specialists, including KANEKUNI Seiji, NAGAMA Yukio, and TOMATANI Setsuko, and with the assistances of KURATA Makoto (Graduate School of Cultural Studies and Human Science, Kobe University) and TOKUHIRA Mayumi<sup>7)</sup>. We would also like to thank the National Museum of Ethnology for understanding the significance of this project and for their generous support.

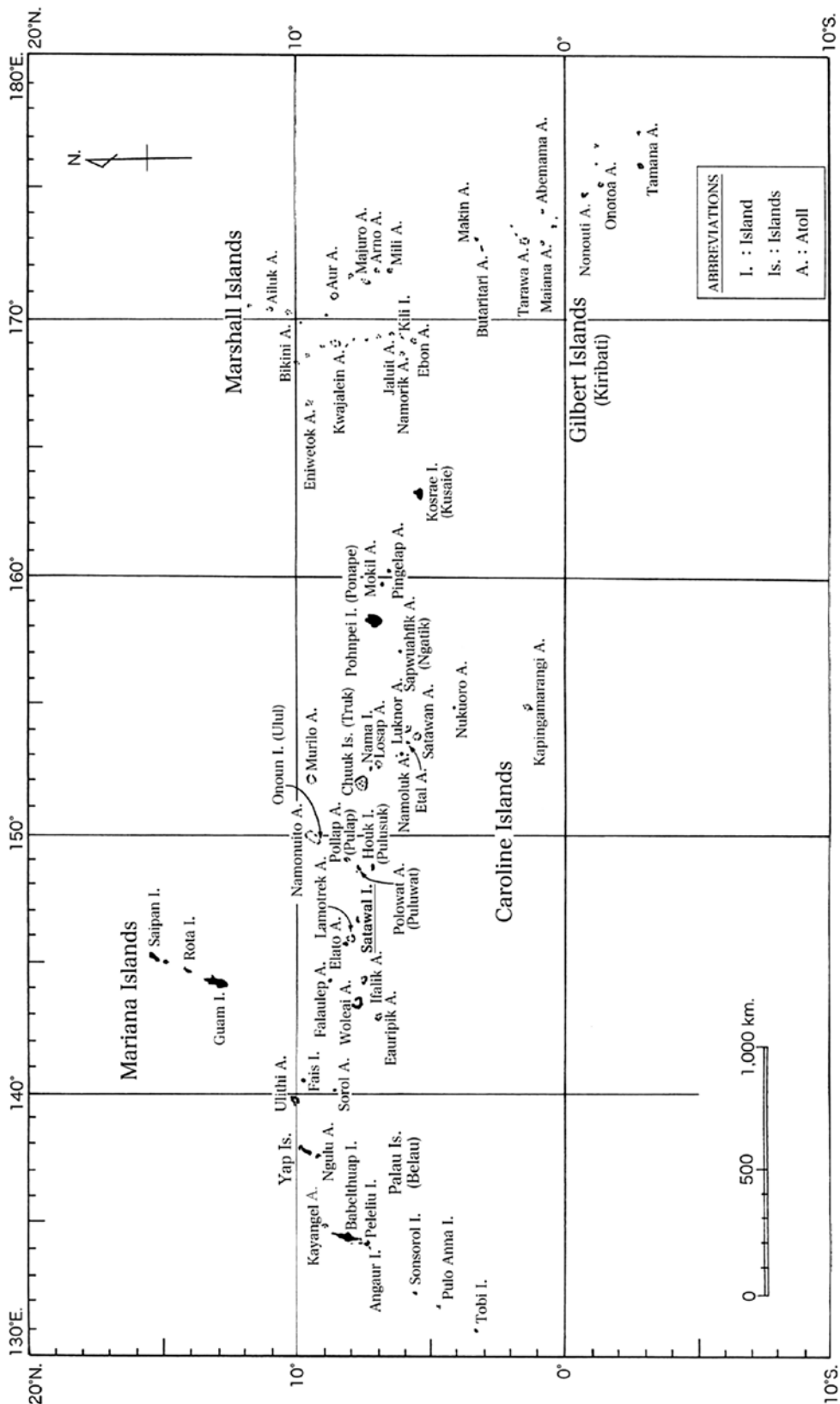
Last but not least, we would like to thank the late Dr. UMESAO Tadao<sup>8)</sup>, the founding Director-General of the National Museum of Ethnology, Japan, for his warm and never-ending support and encouragement, which were always with us from our very first plan to visit Satawal until the completion of this dictionary.

## Notes

- 1) 大塚融, NHK大阪放送局記者 (当時)
- 2) 故折目允亮, 関西ジャーナル社代表取締役 (当時)
- 3) 故里井達三良, 関西国際空港ビルディング株式会社 (現新関西国際空港株式会社) 取

締役相談役（当時）

- 4) (五十音順, 敬称略) 伊藤忠商事株式会社, 大阪ガス株式会社, 近畿日本鉄道株式会社, 株式会社サクラクレパス, サントリー株式会社, 白山殖産株式会社, 住友銀行 (現三井住友銀行), 住友商事株式会社, 大和銀行 (現りそな銀行), 日商岩井株式会社 (現双日株式会社), 日東工業株式会社, 日本生命保険相互会社, 日本放送協会, 丸紅株式会社, 大和屋繊維工業株式会社, 大道弘司, 里井達三良.
- 5) 大阪商工会議所地域振興部
- 6) 幸得忠巳・幸得則子
- 7) (敬称略, 五十音順) 包国征治, 倉田誠, 徳平真弓, 苜谷勢津子, 永間幸男.
- 8) 故梅棹忠夫



Map 1 Map of Micronesia and Satawal Island (based on Sudo 1984b: 204)