みんぱくリポジトリ
国立民族学博物館学術情報リポジトリ National Museum of Ethnolo

SES no.002; Preface

メタデータ	言語: English 出版者: 公開日: 2009-04-28 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: 梅棹, 忠夫 メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/10502/262

Preface

This volume of *Senri Ethnological Studies* (*SES*) represents the second of an anticipated series of volumes containing papers and articles that constitute either progress reports or final studies of research being conducted at the National Museum of Ethnology, in Japan. *SES* is designed as a forum for presenting current ethnological papers and as a means of disseminating them internationally. The first volume was a collection of papers devoted specifically to African studies, but this present volume has not been limited to either a specific topic of research or to a particular geographical area.

The purposes for which the National Museum of Ethnology was established and for which the *SES* is published have already been outlined in the preface of the first volume. A few words should, however, be added here because of the slight difference between the contents of the first and second volumes, as well as in the institutions to which they are directed.

The National Museum of Ethnology, a research institute supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture, was founded in June, 1974, as one of a group of large-scale, advanced, academic research institutes—which, in recent years, have increased in number—and was earmarked as one organization of the National Universities Joint Use Facilities. Financially and institutionally a Government organization, forming an integral part of the national university system, the staff members of the Museum have an academic rank of either professor, associate professor or research fellow. They are not curators, as is usually the case with the museum employees.

Upon the institution's foundation as a museum, actual construction of the building commenced, and was completed, except for the finishing touches, in the autumn of 1977. The Museum is located in a northern suburb of Osaka, on the grounds of Expo '70 Commemoration Park, commonly known as Expo Park. The Museum was opened to the public in November, 1977, following arrangement of exhibits for display. Thus the activities of the Museum were set in motion, serving the double purpose of academic research and public education.

The National Museum of Ethnology is to function as the center for Japan's studies in ethnology and cultural anthropology, and more than fifty staff members are now conducting research here. In the future, the Museum plans to have sixty-eight researchers, each with his own specialized field in a particular area in the world. Together, they will cover almost all existing cultures. As well as being the center of Japan's ethnological studies, the Museum aims to be an international research organization, and plans have already been made to invite foreign researchers to the Museum. The Museum has already organized a number of international symposia that each attracted very many foreign participants. As one of the most representative research organizations in Japan for ethnological studies, the Museum now has a constant

stream of overseas visitors.

Our separate publication, *Bulletin of the National Museum of Ethnology*, a quarterly journal started in the spring of 1976, contains articles written mostly in Japanese, with accompanying résumés in English or Spanish. Occasionally there are papers in English or Spanish. But the paucity of information available abroad on academic work being conducted in Japan led to the decision to publish the current *SES* series in addition to the *Bulletin*, with the object of providing easier access to our work for overseas researchers. All contributions are made in a language other than Japanese. "Senri" denotes the geographical location of the Museum.

It should be noted that the *SES* and the *Bulletin* are quite separate publications, and that the former is not a translation of the latter. It is entirely the decision of the individual staff member whether he contributes to the *SES* or to the *Bulletin*. The primary languages used in the *SES* are English, French and Spanish, but our policy does not preclude others.

Because this instituiton is financed by the Government of Japan, there are certain legal limitations on eligibility for contribution to the *SES*, and on the institutions to which it may be distributed. Only the staff members of the National Museum of Ethnology and researchers working with them may contribute articles, and the *SES* is sent free of charge to domestic and foreign research organizations deemed to be appropriate recipients. For general sale another edition of the *SES* is being prepared.

The *SES* does not aim at regular publication, but it is hoped that an average of four volumes will be published each year. In principle, each volume will be devoted to a specific area or topic, which will be indicated on the front cover. The theme of the first volume was Africa. A volume without a specific topic, such as the present volume, will be subtitled "Miscellanea". Except for the General and Assistant Editors, the editorial staff will be selected for each volume from the Museum staff, in order to form a project team for each publication.

Because Japanese, our own vernacular, bears no genealogical relationship to any European language, it is enormously difficult and demanding for us to engage in academic activities in English and other foreign languages. But in the mood of today's international academic exchange of ideas and information, we believe it is both desirable and necessary for us to report on our work in foreign languages. So ,in spite of the difficulties, we take pleasure in presenting reports on our research to overseas colleagues, in the languages of the West, that we believe are familiar to them. We only hope that these reports do not contain too many errors of convention, be they linguistic or social. And we alone are to blame for any remaining errors.

April 1978

TADAO UMESAO
Director-General