

PREFACE

THIS VOLUME STEMS FROM A CONFERENCE titled “Japan: Crossing the Boundaries Within” held at the University of California, Berkeley in March 2002. Current and former Berkeley students are responsible for a large part of both the conference and this book. The project also owes much to the support of other faculty and units at the university.

The idea for the conference stemmed from the convergence of my own research on the internal internationalization of Japanese domestic tourism and Kenji Tierney’s extensive work on Sumo, which was becoming dominated by “foreign” wrestlers. The experiences of Berkeley students conducting doctoral research in the 1980s and 1990s showed that the monolithic stereotype of the xenophobic Japanese was full of exceptions. Jeff Hester’s work with *Zainichi* Koreans in Osaka and John Nelson’s work on contemporary religions in Nagasaki and Kyoto were illustrative of these new trends. Yuko Okubo’s work among Osaka schoolteachers and immigrant families and Keiko Yamanaka’s work among immigrants showed considerable ambivalence towards minorities, but all contained accounts of some Japanese welcoming or even supporting the visible foreigners. John Ertl’s Master’s research in a small town in Tochigi Prefecture showed a very positive attitude towards foreigners, and undergraduate Aina Hunter reported on the very positive reception she and other African Americans had received in Japan.

Among Japanese social scientists, Takezawa brought to our attention the publicity about the positive relations between minority and majority residents of Kobe following the Hanshin earthquake of 1995, and the emergence of the concept of *tabunka kyôsei* (many cultures living together). Sociologist Komai Hiroshi’s activism towards immigrants became famous and was exemplary of a growing band of Japanese professionals working to form a “new Japan.” My own experiences in Japan since 1974 found marked changes in attitudes about both foreigners and immigrants and the possibilities of non-Japanese, even Korean, ancestry being discussed openly with humor and some pride. We wanted to write a book that would make clear to people unfamiliar with Japan that there are great changes taking place in many ways and levels and in many positive directions leading, we hope, to a nation more fully aware and proud of its cultural mosaic.

We approached our colleagues in order to provide funding for the conference and to underwrite the transportation, accommodation, and catering for participants. We would particularly like to thank Professor Andrew Barshay, Director of the Center for Japanese Studies, and Professor Bonnie Wade, Director of the Asian Studies Program, for their quick and generous offers to finance the conference. The Department of Anthropology, through chair Professor William Hanks, designated the event as one of a series celebrating the Department's Centennial (1901–2001) and gave us generous support. The conference finally took place with an opening welcome from Professor Barshay followed by four papers on the Friday, followed by a dinner, and on the Saturday another eleven papers (by twelve participants) with commentary throughout by Emeritus Professor George DeVos.

In the years since the conference, we again have to thank the Center for Japanese Studies at Berkeley for generously supporting further research included in this book. I should like to thank Professor Shinji Yamashita for his support and advice and Professor Matsubara Takatoshi, Director of the Research Institute on Korean Studies at Kyushu National University, Fukuoka, whose invitation to spend three months in Kyushu in the spring of 2005 allowed me to carry out intensive library research and pull together the last intellectual threads of the volume.

In 2003, graduate student John Ertl joined as co-editor and continued to provide editorial support while conducting his doctoral research in Japan. Graduate student Yuko Okubo helped me with many translation and bibliographic matters, as well as serving along with Mitzi Carter as my teaching assistant in 2004. During the 2003–2004 academic year, graduate student Maki Tanaka helped me examine some more works on Japanese immigration. I also thank University of California, Berkeley Inter-Library Services for their efforts in securing several texts that were hard to acquire.

In March 2004 John Ertl traveled with me in Osaka where, coincidentally, we were able to attend the opening day of a daring new temporary exhibition, “*Taminzoku Nihon—Zainichi Gaikokujin no Kurashi*” (“Multiethnic Japan—Life and History of Immigrants”), curated by Minpaku Professor, Shōji Hiroshi. During the spring of 2005 we returned to Minpaku to interview Professor Shōji about this path-breaking exhibition, its reception in the community, and its lingering influence. We also extend our gratitude to Minpaku graduate student Kotani Sachiko, who had been carrying out her doctoral dissertation research on the Korean immigrant community in the San Francisco Bay, for help and guidance while in Osaka.

I must end by expressing my gratitude to the participants and contributors themselves who have patiently stuck with us over the years, following our advice and our peregrinations. To my two co-editors, to generations of Berkeley students, as well as to my Berkeley colleagues who encour-

aged and underwrote our efforts, and to Jerry Eades and Marion Berg-hahn, I thank you.

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