

AN ILLUSTRATED  
COMPANION TO  
JAPANESE ARCHAEOLOGY

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Frontispiece images:  
Feature of a burial without head in a jar, Yayoi period (Figure 65)  
Dogū, Jōmon period (Plate 18)  
Decorative fittings, Kinreizuka mounded tomb, Kofun period (Plate 166)  
Pottery with human faces, Nara period (Plate 221)

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Japanese Arts and Cultures



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**Note:** The precise dating of Japanese archaeology continues to be debated. Dates given here indicate the maximum date ranges for each period. Further details are given in each chapter.



Dedicated to the memory of SAHARA Makoto (1932-2002)

## Introduction and acknowledgements

This volume has its origins in the largest overseas exhibition of Japanese archaeology organised to date, coordinated by the National Institutes for Cultural Heritage Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Dokuritsu Gyōsei Hōjin Bunkazai Kenkyūsho Nara Bunkazai Kenkyūsho), widely known in Japan and elsewhere simply as Nabunken, and the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkachō). *Die Zeit der Morgenröte: Japans Archäologie und Geschichte bis zu den ersten Kaisern* (The Dawn of Time: Japanese Archaeology and History to the Early Emperors) was held in Germany in 2004, at the Reiss-Engelhorn Museen in Mannheim and the Martin-Gropius-Bau in Berlin, followed by the *Shokō no Jidai* homecoming exhibition (*satogaeriten*) at the Nara National Museum in 2005. Over 1500 exhibits, the majority never seen overseas before, were borrowed from 55 museums and institutions in Japan. The project, many years in planning, required the cooperation of over one hundred Japanese specialists, who are acknowledged below. The exhibitions were accompanied by comprehensive publications in German and Japanese. This Illustrated Companion to Japanese Archaeology represents an English language version of this project.

The intention of the volume is to present a representative sample of the archaeology of the Japanese archipelago from its earliest occupation to early historic times, from the Paleolithic to the Asuka and Nara periods. The book is not a comprehensive survey of Japanese archaeology, but through brief introductory texts to each period and plentiful, specially commissioned photographs and illustrations, it provides a visual guide to Japan's archaeological record.

The publication of the book coincides with a renewed effort by Japanese archaeology to engage with the rest of the world. The 1st Edition appeared four years in advance of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, rescheduled for 2021, it represents the start of an 'archaeological Olympiad'. As the book goes to press, there are ongoing discussions about the inclusion of elements in the design of some of the planned Olympic facilities inspired by aspects of Japan's distinctive archaeology. In addition to sites such as the Heijō Palace site at the heart of the ancient capital of Nara, inscribed in 1998, more of Japan's most important archaeological sites are currently being considered for UNESCO World Heritage status. The Japanese Archaeological Association has recently launched a new online open-access peer reviewed English language journal, the Japanese Journal of Archaeology ([www.jjarchaeology.jp](http://www.jjarchaeology.jp)). The book also marked the occasion of the 8th World Archaeological Congress in Kyoto in later summer 2016, the first major meeting of archaeologists from around the world held on such a scale in Japan. It is the inaugural volume in a new series to be published by Archeopress, *Comparative Perspectives in Japanese Archaeology*.

The *Zeit der Morgenröte* project was inspired by Professor SAHARA Makoto, when he was Director of the National Museum of Japanese History (Kokuritsu Minzoku Rekishi Hakubutsukan), who sadly passed away before the exhibition opened and to whose memory we dedicate this volume. Through his long and influential career, Sahara was passionate about enhancing the public understanding of the past through archaeology, and had a lifelong interest in Germany, whose lieder he sang beautifully. TANAKA Migaku and TSUDE Hiroshi, along with Sahara among the most influential figures in post-war Japanese archaeology, lent their full support, and have all been great supporters of researchers from outside Japan who were interested in Japanese archaeology. An English-language edition of the research presented in the *Katalogband* and *Handbuch* of the exhibition was always part of the original vision for the project, but circumstances have meant that it has taken several more years to achieve.

The original *Zeit der Morgenröte* project involved many colleagues in Japan and Germany. The original initiative, ideas and conceptualization for the exhibition and associated programming, including publications and conferences, were developed by Werner Steinhaus. Steinhaus was a postgraduate researcher at Ōsaka University in the Department of Archaeology established by Professor TSUDE Hiroshi, during which time he met Simon Kaner, at the time studying at the Department of Archaeology at Kyoto University. In the early 2010s, Kaner and Steinhaus found themselves working together on one of the UNESCO World Heritage nominations mentioned above, the

sacred island of Okinoshima and the associated sites of the Munakata region. This led to Steinhaus taking up a Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellowship at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in Norwich, UK, where Kaner is Head of the Centre for Archaeology and Heritage. This volume is one of a number of outputs from this collaboration, which also includes the first Online Dictionary of Japanese Archaeology ([www.wakoku.edu](http://www.wakoku.edu)), compiled by Steinhaus.

The contents of the exhibition were selected by Werner Steinhaus, in cooperation with OKAMURA Michio, SAHARA Makoto and TSUDE Hiroshi, with the additional participation of FUKUNAGA Shinya and NEGITA Yoshio. Okamura spearheaded the original project on behalf of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, overseeing the compilation of the Japanese texts and concept for the catalogue, coordinating with MORITA Minoru and HARADA Masayuki at the Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunkachō). The scientific editing of the original Japanese texts was undertaken by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Nara Bunkazai Kenkyūsho), headed by OKAMURA Michio, with MORIMITSU Toshihiko, FUKASAWA Yoshiki and KOBAYASHI Ken'ichi, and Werner Steinhaus.

Steinhaus prepared the draft English language translations from the Japanese original texts, which were subsequently adapted and edited by Kaner, with the assistance of Natasha Hutcheson (Chapters 3, 4 and 5). The translation of technical and scientific terms is in accordance with those provided in the above mentioned Online Dictionary of Japanese Archaeology. The texts are based substantially on those originally prepared for the 2004 exhibitions, but some sections have been revised in the light of current thinking, in particular in regard to chronology. Object numbers appear in the volume only as required to identify image rights and relate to the original loans for the 2004 exhibition.

Specially commissioned photographs of the objects for the exhibition were taken by USHIJIMA Shigeru, INOUE Tadao, NAKAMURA Ichirō from the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and SUGIMOTO Kazuki, an independent cultural property photographer, assisted by KAMAKURA Aya and OKADA Ai from the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. Nakamura kindly provided updated digital versions. The chance to bring this unprecedented series of photographs to an English reading audience was one of the major motivating factors behind the present volume. Permissions to use other images were obtained by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. Images for the current volume were edited, processed and redrawn from the original versions by Werner Steinhaus.

The editors are grateful to the following for their support with bringing the present volume to publication: MATSUMURA Keiji, Director-General, and TAMADA Yoshihide of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties; SAKAI Hideya and SENDA Yoshihiro of Nara University; NOJIMA Hisashi of Hiroshima University for his contribution on iron production and for his advice on current thinking about the dating of the Yayoi period. We also thank David Davison and his colleagues at Archaeopress and Colin Edwards for his diligent design of the book.

This publication is jointly funded by the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, and represents the first formal collaboration between them, following the conclusion of an agreement of research cooperation signed between MIZUTORI Mami, Executive Director of the Sainsbury Institute and MATSUMURA Keiji, Director-General of the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties in 2015. The editors wish to thank these institutions for their encouragement and support with this project, and all the organizations and individuals involved both in the original exhibition project and in bringing this current publication to fruition.

We would like to thank the following for helping with the publication in many and various ways: Luke Edgington-Brown, Carolin Funck, GAKUHARI Erika, Natsue Hayward, HIRANO Akira, Liliana Janik, MIYAO Toru, NISHIOKA Keiko, Sam Nixon, Nicole Coolidge Rousmaniere and YOSHIDA Yasuyuki.

Werner Steinhaus and Simon Kaner  
Hiroshima and Norwich, August 2016

## Foreword to the second edition

The *Illustrated Companion to Japanese Archaeology* was first printed in time for the 8<sup>th</sup> World Archaeology Congress, held at Doshisha University in Kyoto in the summer of 2016, the first time such a major international archaeological meeting had taken place in Japan. The response to the *Illustrated Companion* was overwhelmingly positive and we are delighted that our colleagues at the Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (*Nabunken*) have undertaken this second printing, taking the opportunity to fix the various infelicities that crept into the first printing, including adjusting some of the images and correcting a number of typing errors.

We would like to acknowledge and offer our sincere thanks to several colleagues who have worked so hard to bring this project to a successful conclusion, especially NAKAMURA Ichirō, UENO Asahi, SERINO Kumiko, KITANO Tomoko, ITŌ Nanako, and YANO Wakako.

The Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties moved into its new building in September 2018, providing an impressive and appropriate home for this exceptional organization. Specialists at Nabunken, as well as undertaking important research on many aspects of Japanese archaeology, focused on the long-term excavation and analysis program of the Heijō Palace site, the Fujiwara Palace site and other sites central to early Japanese history in the Nara area, and are greatly involved in a variety of projects outside Japan. We hope that this volume will inspire new generations of Japanese archaeological specialists to reach out to their colleagues around the world, and will contribute to the greater international understanding of the achievements and global significance of Japanese archaeology.

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April 2020