

Editors' Introduction

The editor of the *Research Handbook of Contemporary Japanese Philosophy* (Bloomsbury, 2017), Yusa Michiko, demonstrates her astute historical awareness when she sets the general context for modern readers by referring to the recent “watershed for the field of Japanese Philosophy.” Indeed, since the publication of the *Japanese Philosophy: A Sourcebook* (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2011), there has been a tremendous increase in the number of scholarly associations dedicated to the study of the Japanese philosophy. More than a few international conferences and research workshops have been organized to solidify the ongoing cross-cultural study of Japanese philosophical texts. Not a few academic institutions have stepped up to support the effort. As a result, we are witnessing an unprecedented upsurge in publications aiming to shed light on various topics pertaining to the works of premodern and modern Japanese thinkers. We have no doubt that the *European Journal of Japanese Philosophy* (EJJP) as the academic organ of the European Network of Japanese Philosophy (ENOJP) has been one of the central forces constructing this “watershed.”

These efforts, of course, are far from exhausting the available resources of philosophical thinking. Rather they have succeeded in showing how many more corners of the tradition are still left to explore both as scholars and philosophers. As editors of this third volume of the EJJP, we would like to acknowledge the privilege of working with ENOJP members. Faced with the overwhelming body of philosophical texts yet to be examined, many scholars have long found themselves working alone and battling discouragement in pursuing their quest of new insights. We are reminded of an episode at the journal's outset. When we approached a number of major European academic publishers with the proposal of a new, multilingual journal on Japanese philosophy, we were told by one interested party to publish only in

English (purely for marketing reasons), and then to prepare three volumes prior to the publication of the first (in addition to paying advance subsidies of €4,000 per volume). In addition to the size of the bill, we were surprised at the initial demand for additional volumes, given the struggle that so many academic journals and scholarly collections face in carrying on after the initial momentum has slowed down and the immensity of the task has sunk in.

This third volume is a crucial moment for us to judge whether or not the seeds have fallen on rocky ground or sunk roots in good soil. The available excuses for delaying publication assault us on all sides, but what has made the continuance of the EJJP possible is the collegiality of ENOJP members and unfailing dedication of editorial board members who embody the spirit of collaboration and selflessness with which we began. Without them, multilingual articles and translations of the contributors would not have found their way to this journal. It is with not a little pride, then, that we will announce the publication of this third volume at the upcoming 4th ENOJP Conference to be held from 5 to 8 September at the official headquarter of our network in the University of Hildesheim in Germany. May the mutual dialogue and criticism it represents carry us into the future for many years to come!

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