

## Editor's Introduction

"Thomas Jefferson and His Age" is the main topic of this number of *The Japanese Journal of American Studies*. The two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Jefferson's birth provided the occasion for a timely reassessment of this American president's life and legacy, a reconsideration based on his conception of agrarian democracy and on his understanding of racial issues.

Thomas Jefferson was also the memorial topic chosen for one of the four regular sessions of the 1994 Annual Conference of the Japanese Association for American Studies held in Tokyo. Professor Torao Tomita, a pioneering Jefferson scholar in Japan, chaired the session. The papers by Professor Katsuro Nakano, on the political ideas of the time, and by Professor Tadashige Shimizu, on the moral sense, were presented there in Japanese. They are printed here for the first time in revised, English versions.

As a special feature of the Thomas Jefferson commemoration, Professor Tadashi Aruga, the founding father of this Journal, has written an historical overview of changing assessments of Jefferson in Japan from the early days of Yukichi Fukuzawa to the present. Professor Norio Akashi sounds out Jefferson's relevance in our days.

For the celebration of Jefferson's anniversary year, transpacific contributors were invited especially for this issue. Professor Emeritus Daniel Aaron of Harvard University, Dr. Wilcomb E. Washburn of the Smithsonian Institution, and Professor Clarence C. Mondale of the George Washington University, are all versed in Japan and the Japanese,

either as lecturers of American Studies seminars and symposia in Kyoto, Sapporo and Sendai, or as advisers and host professors for Japanese students and scholars of American Studies abroad.

Finally, this issue also focuses on the equally timely topic of feminism. Professor Cathy N. Davidson's paper on American Studies and Women's Studies is based on the presentation she gave as president of the American Studies Association, to the 1994 Annual Conference in Tokyo. Ms. Mari Yoshihara's paper on Anne Morrow Lindbergh and women aviators was selected from among the general submissions made by members of the Association.

The annual publication of the English-language *Japanese Journal for American Studies* is guaranteed, from this issue on, by the support of a Grant-in-Aid for Publication of Scientific Research Results, from the Ministry of Education, Science and Culture. The Ministry of Posts and Telecommunication has also granted our Journal permission to use the reduced postal rates for scholarly periodicals. General contributions will be encouraged for *bona fide* topics, but please respect the general rules for submissions printed separately in the Association's *American Studies News-Letter*.

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Editor