

Foreword

Katsutoshi Uchiyama

It is a great pleasure to see the first issue of JASCA in print. For a long time now the Classical Society of Japan had envisioned just such a project – a journal wholly dedicated to articles written in Western languages, to complement our regular journal carrying papers in Japanese. The latter, starting three years after the foundation of our Society in 1950 and published annually for nearly sixty years, has been a reflection of the steady growth of classical studies in this country. Following a fairly long ‘pre-history’ from the end of the nineteenth century, classical scholarship in this country has been actively developing, especially since the end of World War II. Nowadays our society boasts a membership of about five hundred, including philologists, scholars of ancient philosophy, history, and many other areas of classics.

It goes without saying that we began the study in this field by accepting the legitimate tradition of classics in the Western world and made an effort to put ourselves in step with scholarly progress in the West. Recently academic exchanges in this field have become particularly lively and we are blessed with many opportunities to invite distinguished scholars from abroad, as well as send our students and researchers to study directly in Europe and the US. A rising number of Japanese scholars are taking an active part in these exchanges with ever more promising results. In view of such development, the time is ripe to present more actively the results of our research, breaking the linguistic barrier of Japanese. We hope to present the current state of classical studies in Japan and participate more actively in the global exchange of ideas in our discipline.

This is, however, still a journal originating in a Far Eastern country. Our relationship with the Greek and Roman world is clearly different from the tradition in the Western countries, given the numerous historical, geographical and cultural differences. We study ‘Western classics’ from a Japanese point of view, an unavoidable condition imposed on us, whether we are conscious of it or not. At the same time, one hopes that this specificity will allow us to look at the classical world from an interesting perspective, one that may open up new avenues of research. In this respect JASCA will inevitably have its own character among the classical journals.

JASCA is, as things stand now, planned to be a triennial publication. We would like to acknowledge here continuous support and generous help from our foreign friends, especially Professor Elisabeth C. Craik. Lastly, we express our gratitude to Professor Oliver Taplin for kindly allowing us to publish his Kyoto lecture in the first issue of our journal.