



Editors' Note

This year, we welcome two new editorial board members to the journal. Akira Goto is a professor of anthropology at Nanzan University and is the director of the Nanzan Anthropological Institute. He is the chief editor of the journal *Bushitsu bunka* 物質文化 [Material culture] and has research interests in ethnoarchaeology, maritime culture, mythology, and folk beliefs. Keith Howard, Professor of Music at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, is an ethnomusicologist who primarily concentrates on Korea but has a number of other regional interests. He is also the editor of the SOAS Musicology Series (Ashgate). We are honored to have these scholars join the board. At the same time, we wish to thank Laurel Kendall and Coralynn Davis for their invaluable service. They both joined the board at the beginning of this journal's life as *Asian Ethnology* in 2008 and have made significant contributions. Although they now leave the editorial board, we wish them all the best in their future endeavors and hope they will continue supporting the journal.

In this, the first issue of the new year, we include eight articles spanning a wide range of geographic, cultural, and ethnolinguistic regions of Asia. The volume is therefore somewhat larger than our normal issues, due to the fact that a backlog of articles developed as a result of our previous two special issues. After some deliberation, we concluded it only fair to publish everything in our queue as a token of gratitude to our authors for their patience in waiting for their articles to appear in print. It is our sincere hope that the wait was worthwhile.

In this issue, we also include a couple of film reviews along with our normal diverse range of book reviews. We would like to make film reviews (and possibly exhibition reviews) a more permanent part of our offerings, but we can only do so if distributors and reviewers are willing to work with us to keep the films reeling, so to speak. We thus urge our readers and patrons to continue to submit materials to the journal that you deem worthy of review and generally beneficial

to our regular reading audience. We do not normally accept unsolicited reviews, but we are always receptive to suggestions, and we are always willing to accept review copies of your work, should you wish to send them to our editorial offices in Nagoya. We thank you all for your continued patronage and support. Lastly, the year did not begin with only mirth and merriment, for we live in trying times.

The past few months witnessed a number of horrific events, such as missing planes, bomb blasts, murders, and assassinations. One that rocked the Western world in particular, even while school children were being buried in Peshawar as a result of a terrorist attack on a school, was the calculated assassination of members of the *Charlie Hebdo* team of cartoonists and satirists in Paris. One of the editors of this journal (Korom) watched the events unfold from West Bengal, India, where the attacks reverberated within the small French expatriate community as well as among journalists and artists. He coincidentally came across a cartoon hanging in a friend's office located within a prominent art gallery in Kolkata. The well-known French playwright Jacques Rampal, who began his career as a cartoonist in the 1970s, drew the image that was informally displayed in that gallery office.

Rampal attended the Calcutta Book Fair in 2012 when France was the featured country at the annual fair. Brought by the Alliance française du Bengale, Rampal came to the City of Joy for the first time to participate in a number of sponsored cultural events. During his visit he drew his impression of India by focusing on the stereotypical image of the holy man. The cartoon speaks for itself in critiquing both religion and consumption in its own terse and wry way by combining human and canine.

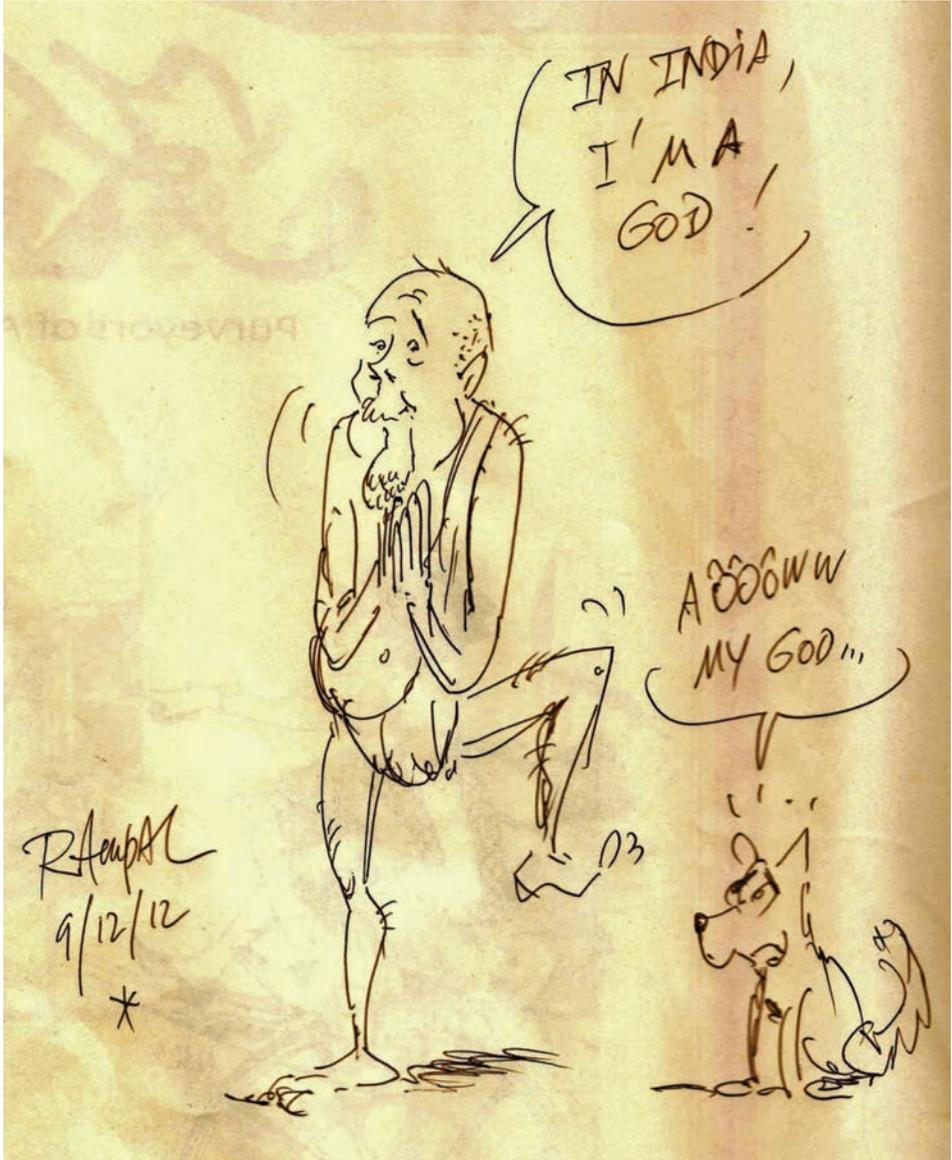
In the spirit of freedom of speech and showing camaraderie with writers and artists the world over, we thought it would be fitting to include the unpublished cartoon here for the benefit of our readers. It is also a tribute to the best-known Indian cartoonist and satirist R. K. Laxman, who passed away on 26 January 2015 at the ripe old age of ninety-three, just a few weeks after the tragic incident in Paris. We would like to thank Pratiti Basu Sarkar of CIMA Gallery for kindly allowing us to reproduce Rampal's gifted sketch from her personal collection.

While we do not wish to overemphasize global politics or religious communalism, we do acknowledge the right to express one's opinion freely and openly in the spirit of engaged dialogue, so we hope our readers appreciate the humor in the illustration following this introduction. At a time when India is also going through a tumultuous period over the issue of religion and censorship, we simply want to repeat the French tripartite motto *liberté, égalité, fraternité*.

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Untitled sketch by Jacques Rampal. Photo courtesy of Pratiti Basu Sarkar (2015).