

25th Anniversary of the Journal of Japanese Law: A Thank You to Harald Baum

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With its 50th issue, the Journal of Japanese Law (ZJapanR / J.Japan.L.) marks its 25th year of existence. This anniversary provides an occasion to reminisce. Moreover, it presents the opportunity to thank the one person without whom this story of success would not have been possible: Harald BAUM. It was his idea in 1996 to develop the “Mitteilungen der Deutsch-Japanischen Juristenvereinigung” – the newsletter of the German-Japanese Association of Jurists (DJJV) – into a legal journal. Subsequently, this journal has become a publication that is (outside of Japan) unique in its academic focus on the full range of Japanese law topics. It was also Harald BAUM who progressively oversaw this project for a quarter of a century as managing editor, bringing visionary leadership, great skill and tireless effort.

With his retirement in May 2020 as Head of the Centre of Expertise on Japan at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative and International Private Law – a Centre he founded himself – he now passes on the role of managing editor of the Journal to Ruth EFFINOWICZ, who takes up this position with this issue. This provides a welcome occasion to recognize his service and efforts for the ZJapanR / J.Japan.L.

Though only a newsletter of the association, the “Mitteilungen” had already made available to members of the DJJV articles, translations of court cases and manuscripts of lectures on Japanese law. Always dedicated to aesthetics, Harald BAUM developed together with the late Robert DAROLL the distinctive outer appearance of the journal, a feature that still ensures its recognition today. In the early years, the printing shop used at that time had difficulties providing copies of the same dimensions for each issue (Harald BAUM called those with especially short spines “dwarves”).

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Some of the steps towards greater professionalism are reflected in small changes made to the cover over the years. Harald BAUM accepted an increasing number of contributions in English, which was reflected by the introduction of an English title of the journal – first printed in smaller fonts on Issue 15. Since 2004, or more precisely Issue 17, the English name has been presented alongside its German counterpart. In the same issue, the Max Planck Institute, with its world-wide reputation, was introduced as institutional co-editor of the journal. This was also marked by a change in the cover design. Since 2006, the journal has been published by Carl Heymanns Verlag, which has long been dedicated to the promotion of research on Japanese law. This move away from self-publishing allowed libraries and non-members to purchase the journal globally. Here again, this change could be observed in the cover, which has subsequently enjoyed a period of stability (up to this issue). Today, the Journal's striking red layout can be encountered around the globe. For example, those who have happened to visit the library of the Peace Palace in The Hague may recall that the journal radiantly greets the visitors immediately upon entrance.

To date, the journal is the central German-language forum for exchange on Japanese law. At the same time, the number of German and English contributions has now become more or less equal, with the occasional addition of a text in French or Italian. This linguistic expansion has its roots in Harald BAUM's aspiration from the outset to develop the journal into an international academic publication. In addition, he has aimed for a globalization of the bilateral academic exchange between Japan and Germany – just as he has striven for this in his publications and various (co-)organized symposia on Japanese law.¹ For this purpose, he has assembled an impressive and ever-growing network of international experts on Japanese law that encompasses, in addition to individuals from Japan and Germany, experts from several other European countries, the USA, Singapore and last but not least

1 Some of these symposia have been published in book form, e.g. H. BAUM (ed.), *Japan: Economic Success and Legal System* (1996); J. BASEDOW/H. BAUM/Y. NISHITANI (eds.), *Japanese and European Private International Law in Comparative Perspective* (2008) and M. TADAKI [只木誠]/H. BAUM [パウム・ハラルド] (eds.), *債権法改正に関する比較法的検討 / Schuldrechtsmodernisierung in Japan – eine vergleichende Analyse* (2014). Other symposia are documented in the journal itself, such as “Sanktionen im Recht: Unterschiede und Parallelen im japanisch-deutschen Rechtsvergleich” in *ZJapanR/J.Japan.L.* 7 (1999) 7–137, “The Multiple Worlds of Japanese Law: Disjunctions and Conjunctions” in *ZJapanR/J.Japan.L.* 12 (2001) 7–67, and “Reforming Company and Financial Market Regulation in Japan and Germany” in *ZJapanR/J.Japan.L.* 16 (2003) 5–222. Lately, additional symposia have been published as *ZJAPANR SONDERHEFT / J.JAPAN.L. SPECIAL ISSUE*, such as those referred to in note 3.

Australia. In the latter location, he initiated a strategic partnership between the DJJV and the Australian Network for Japanese Law (ANJeL). Consequently, it was soon the case that leading experts from four continents formed the advisory board of the journal.²

With regards to the journal's content, Harald BAUM has from the beginning been successful in including the full range of Japanese law. He has recruited various renowned authors, scholars and practitioners who have contributed articles, lecture manuscripts and shorter texts. Different fields of Japanese law have been examined through different lenses – topics of theoretical and fundamental research are treated alongside specific questions of legal practice. At the same time, Harald BAUM has always endeavored to offer a publication forum to young scholars – an effort from which the other members of the editorial committee have all profited at some point. For example, Marc DERNAUER recounts fondly how happy he was as a student when in 1998 his first academic paper was accepted for publication by the ZJAPANR / J.JAPAN.L. He had developed the article out of a thesis paper (*Seminararbeit*) written for a course on comparative criminal law supervised by the late Klaus TIEDEMANN at the University of Freiburg. The openness and kindness with which Harald BAUM treated submissions – even by students – strongly incentivized him to continue pursuing his interest in Japanese law, something countless others have similarly experienced over the years.

Another objective of Harald BAUM was the comprehensive documentation of Japanese law in the journal, which was achieved, for example, by including various translations of new or reformed laws and reports on current case law, especially as part of the overview of private law decisions by the Supreme Court as published annually since 1998. Another important source of information has been the array of book reviews – many of which have been written by Harald BAUM himself – as well as the list of new books and reports on events and professional activities. An important milestone that contributed to the ever-increasing international visibility of the journal was the launch of its website in 2015, where journal issues can be accessed.

With the increasing quality and academic standards of the journal, the workload for the editorial team in Hamburg intensified over time. On top of that has come the publication of the ZJAPANR SONDERHEFTE / J.JAPAN.L. SPECIAL ISSUES that focus on specific matters. These special issues have

2 Today the advisory board is constituted by (in alphabetical order): Kent ANDERSON (Perth), Giorgio F. COLOMBO (Nagoya), Béatrice JALUZOT (Lyon), Souichirou KOZUKA (Tōkyō), Yuko NISHITANI (Kyōto), Luke R. NOTTAGE (Sydney), Hiroshi ODA (London), Yasuhiro OKUDA (Tōkyō), Dan W. PUCHNIAK (Singapore), Matthias K. SCHEER (Hamburg), Eric SEIZELET (Paris), Dimitri VANOVERBEKE (Leuven) and Mark D. WEST (Ann Arbor).

published, for instance, the proceedings at recent noteworthy conferences, such as the two symposia held in Germany and Japan on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the ZJAPANR / J.JAPAN.L.³ Harald BAUM has shouldered this significant burden over the years with an impressive degree of consistency and in the process built an effective team. Special mention should be extended to the English copy editors⁴ as well as the final editing and layout editors⁵ of the Max Planck Institute and also the research assistants at the Centre of Expertise on Japan.⁶ For many of the latter, their experience at the Centre has been a stepping stone to a further career related to Japanese law. This is true for three members of the editorial committee, who still remember warmly their time as assistants and who are grateful for the exemplary supervision and support they received on their doctoral theses – even for those that took longer than expected – and for the help and encouragement that took on a myriad of forms. In addition to the team at the Max Planck Institute, others have been loyal supporters, such as Matthias K. SCHEER, who contributes invaluable to the publication process and who initiated the original “Mitteilungen”. Nevertheless, even after new members joined the editorial committee from 2008 on, the main task and responsibility for the 600-plus pages per year lay with Harald BAUM. When bestowed with numerous prizes and honours – such as the JaDe-Preis in 2010 and in 2019 the Eugen and Ilse Seibold Prize of the DFG and also the Japanese Foreign Minister’s Commendation – it has rightly been the case that, in addition to his outstanding publications on Japanese law, his dedication to the ZJAPANR / J.JAPAN.L. has always been recognized as having made a lasting contribution to academic exchange with Japan.

Just as small changes to the cover have indicated various evolutions over the years, the cover of this issue announces yet another development. The responsibility for the journal has now passed from Harald BAUM to Ruth EFFINOWICZ. The objective remains to accompany developments in Japanese law in their full range. At the same time, the editorial committee aims to

3 H. BAUM / M. BÄLZ / M. DERNAUER (eds.), *Self-Regulation in Private Law in Japan and Germany*, ZJapanR / J.Japan.L. Special Issue 10 (2018); M. DERNAUER / H. BAUM / M. BÄLZ (eds.), *Information Duties – Japanese and German Private Law*, ZJapanR / J.Japan.L. Special Issue 11 (2018).

4 Special thanks are owed to Michael FRIEDMAN.

5 Long-standing and loyal service has been provided by Gundula DAU and Janina JENTZ.

6 Over the years, the role of research assistant at the Centre of Expertise on Japan – which simultaneously made such individual an editorial assistant of the journal – has been filled by: Dörte LIEBRECHT, Olaf KLIESOW, Moritz BÄLZ, Ursula EISELE, Marc DERNAUER, Eva SCHWITTEK, Gabriele KOZIOL, Julius W. WEITZDÖRFER, Torsten SPIEGEL, Anna Katharina SUZUKI-KLASSEN and Julian HINZ.

increase access and availability even further while preserving and enhancing methodological and thematic diversity. A first small step that visibly marks this change (apart from the cover) is the revision of the style guide. It now encourages the use of Japanese script more often.

Fortunately, readers need not worry, despite the change in leadership. We, the other members of the editorial committee, are highly pleased that Harald BAUM will remain together with us as a member of this editorial body. Today, however, we would like to deeply thank him on behalf of the whole editorial team for his contribution so far.