

Editorial Note

This is the twenty fifth volume of collected papers of the Mediterranean Studies Group at Hitotsubashi University. Up to the twelfth volume, the series was called *Studies in the Mediterranean World. Past and Present* and many of the articles were written in Japanese. From the thirteenth volume, the title of the series was changed to *Mediterranean World* and articles are written in European languages. Volumes are published every two or three years.

The Mediterranean Studies Group was first organized at Hitotsubashi University in 1973 to carry out interdisciplinary research on the Mediterranean world. At that time, few scholars in Japan studied the Mediterranean area. Since its founding, the Mediterranean Studies Group has held seminars, offered special lectures by both Japanese and non-Japanese scholars, and organized field surveys and international workshops in Mediterranean countries.

This volume is dedicated to the colleagues of our Studies Group, the late Prof. Eizo Matsuki and the late Prof. Maria Pia Pedani, who passed away on 5 June, 2018 and 1 March, 2019 respectively. Prof. Matsuki had been a member of the Mediterranean Studies Group since its founding in 1973. Prof. Pedani had been in intimate connection with our Studies Group as a member since 2000. The Group would like to thank these two eminent scholars for their many years of dedicated service and contributions. We will always remember them and pray their souls may rest in peace.

Three foreign colleagues have contributed papers to this volume; they are collaborators with our Studies Group and participated in the international workshop, “The Mediterranean as a Plaza II: Japan, the Mediterranean and the World”, held in 31 October and 1 November, 2019 in Nisantash University in Istanbul, Turkey. This workshop could not have been possible without the generous help of Nisantasi University, especially Associate Professor Göknur AKÇADAĞ. To them we express our heartfelt thanks.

Tokyo, March, 2021

The Mediterranean Studies Group
Hitotsubashi University