How seriously should we take this research? This is a difficult question to answer. There doubtless exists a widespread Western prejudice against the idea of reincarnation, and I believe anthropologists should attempt to combat ethnocentric resistance to evidence for such phenomena. At the same time, however, we need to resist New Age tendencies to believe whatever contradicts conventional wisdom! Stevenson's eight books and dozens of papers represent "psychical research" at its most cautious. It is easy to point out the basis of this research in wishful thinking, but similar personal desires motivate *all* kinds of scientific investigations (Polanyi 1962). We are not obliged to pursue every possible line of inquiry, but neither can we safely disregard or "dispose of" the varieties of beliefs and practices that Stevenson and his coworkers have so carefully documented.

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Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers in Japan. *Takeru Akazawa and C. Melvin Aikens,* eds. Tokyo: University of Tokyo Press, 1986, xiii + 221 pp. $62.50, cloth

This is a very enlightening book; it is an excellent introduction to the exciting, sophisticated paleoanthropological research being done in and on Japan. The editors and authors are to be congratulated for making this material available to a broad audience by publishing it in English. While seemingly a somewhat disparate group of papers, the book does have a common, overarching theme: the evolution of Japanese adaptations and populations in early Holocene times. The papers deal, at varying levels of specificity, with the archaeology and physical anthropology of the remarkable Jomon culture and the succeeding Yayoi period, when rice agriculture was adopted. Ultimately, the overall subject of the volume is the process of evolutionary change. While naturally dealt with in separate, specialized chapters, the archaeological and biological analyses form an integrated study of Stone Age adaptation in the Japanese Archipelago. As an archaeologist of Western Europe (and certainly not a biological anthropologist), I am not qualified to criticize specific aspects of the papers, but I will summarize some of the main conclusions (which, incidentally, are very capably outlined by the editors in their lucid concluding chapter).

The first paper, "Affluent Collectors at the Edges of Eurasia and North America: Some Comparisons and Observations on the Evolution of Society

among North-Temperate Coastal Hunter-Gatherers," by C.M. Aikens, K.M. Ames, and D. Sanger, does what its title advertises, albeit on a rather superficial level for such a significant, data-dense set of comparisons. The comparisons, which are appropriate, are among the Jomon, American Northwest Coast, Maine Archaic, and Baltic Ertebølle systems. Other examples could be added. This chapter adds to the growing (but not unchallenged) body of theory on complex coastal collector societies, of which the Jomon was undoubtedly the earliest.

The next two chapters are exemplary, exhaustive analytical contributions to the study of human subsistence based on the analysis of Jomon shellmiddens: "Prehistoric Hunting Pressure and Paleobiomass: An Environmental Reconstruction and Archaeozoological Analysis of a Jomon Shellmound Area," by H. Koike, and "Volumetry and Nutritional Analysis of a Jomon Shell-Midden," by K. Suzuki. In this and numerous other impressive publications (notably in *Journal of Archaeological Science*), Koike has quantitatively analyzed the roles of shellfish and sika deer in Jomon subsistence. Her work suggests that substantial pressure developed on both resources through time in the Jomon sequence around Tokyo Bay. (Her results are remarkably similar to conclusions reached by the La Riera Paleoecological Project for a roughly similar time period in Cantabrian Spain.) Suzuki develops elaborate methods for measuring shellmidden volume, composition, and nutritional value. He concludes that molluscs were relatively unimportant in Jomon times as sources of calories, but that they were very significant sources of protein in the overall diet.

T. Akazawa's fascinating chapter, "Regional Variation in Procurement Systems," places Jomon artifact assemblages in environmental context and looks at the regionally differential adoption of "Yayoi" agriculture. The conclusion is strikingly reminiscent of recent formulations by Zvelebil, Rowley-Conwy, and others concerning the mosaic nature of the "spread" of agriculture in Western Europe: rich, coastal habitats with relative sedentism are late to adopt agriculture. Such environments have relatively high populations, and yet, in Japan (and probably Europe), it was in the areas of relatively low population density that agriculture caught on earlier (*faute de mieux*). Akazawa realizes the importance of conflicting subsistence scheduling in determining the pace and location of agricultural adoptions. This is a powerful paper and, like several in the book, makes a substantial contribution to general paleoanthropological theory and method.

The physical anthropological chapters analyze a variety of metric and nonmetric traits on large Jomon and post-Jomon prehistoric and historic skeletal samples, using a wide assortment of multivariate statistical techniques. The first, "Geographic Variations in Modern Japanese Somatometric Data: A Secular Change Hypothesis," by M. Kouchi, shows that similarities and differences in cranial shape in Japan have several possible causes. Cranial shape is not simply the result of migrations to Japan from the Asian mainland. The second, "Contributions of Prehistoric Far East Populations to the Population of Modern

Japan: A Q-Mode Path Analysis Based on Cranial Measurements," by Y. Mizoguchi, reviews the various "substitution," "hybridization," and "transformation" theories of the modern Japanese population, coming down in favor of the last on the basis of numerous multivariate analyses. Much change has occurred in the Japanese population since Jomon times. This change has been the result of contributions from the ancestral population, immigrant peoples, *and* environmental factors.

The third biological paper, by Y. Dodo, is simply titled "Metrical and Non-Metrical Analyses of Jomon Crania from Eastern Japan." The conclusion is that the Jomon skeletal remains are very similar to those of the modern Ainu—much more so than to modern Japanese, who are classic Mongoloids. The Jomon-Ainu represent a Proto- or Pre-Mongoloid population in place in the archipelago before the differentiation of the Mongoloids into today's variants. This is basically the same conclusion as is reached by Nancy Ossenberg in "Isolate Conservatism and Hybridization in the Population History of Japan: The Evidence of Nonmetric Cranial Traits." The Jomon-Ainu were/are an isolated early Mongoloid population. Depending on the regions studied, varying amounts of more recent Mongoloid genetic input have been added throughout the populations of the Japanese Islands, with the Ainu of Hokkaido being the least affected. But the gene flow does not translate into a massive, rapid migration—rather it was a long, complex process.

Finally, teeth are analyzed by N. Inoue, G. Ito, and T. Kamegai in "Dental Pathology of Hunter-Gatherers and Early Farmers in Prehistoric Japan." The results of their massive analyses are that the causes of change in tooth morphology are many and complicated, involving genetic components and dietary components. Again, the immigrants are not seen as having arrived en masse, but rather little-by-little over some time. With time, and differentially according to region, dietary changes attendant upon the adoption of agriculture led to further dental change.

We are, at the end of this book, far from the earlier theories of fast, massive overrunning of most of the Japanese Islands by the "Yayoi" invasion, although migrations of recent continental Mongoloids cannot be denied. What is more interesting, and what is temptingly dealt with by several of the authors, is the problem of the differential rates of agriculture adoption by the "Jomon people," who were certainly among the most sophisticated hunter-gatherers the prehistoric world ever saw. This is a stimulating if technical book, much to be recommended despite its steep price. It is well printed, edited, and illustrated. A cheaper paperback edition would be welcome.

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