

## Preface

The work in hand is to show that the dawn of Japan is not shrouded in mist but that bronze mirrors from the third century depict the deeds of the first emperor in colorful detail, portray Japan's early gods and warriors, and tell its myths.

We might not have seen this, were it not that ours was a joint effort of a Japanese scholar of antiquity and a European scholar of archaic warriors, so that we could look at these works of art with two very different pairs of eyes, understand them with minds steeped in different cultures, and fathom them in the light of complementary traditions of research: Japanese, American, and German. The writing is Speidel's, as is the research in Western languages. Fukushima dealt with the scholarly literature in Japanese language and shared in the interpretations.

We were also lucky to work at a time when Japanese archaeology blossomed as never before. Many museums and archaeological authorities let us see their treasures and gave us information about them with pictures and analytical insights of the highest quality.

Glad for the help given us along the way, we thank all those who heartened us with their wisdom and kindness, above all Akatsuka Jirō, John R. Bentley, Robert S. Ellwood, Shin Hidaka, J. Edward Kidder, H. Paul Varley and Yasumura Shunji. We are grateful to honored Idus Newby for turning our phrases, wife Gisela for thoughtful discussion that helped shape the book, and Nancy Hulbirt as well as Billie Ikeda for improving the maps and drawings.

