Editor’s Preface to Special Issue on “Making the Pacific, Making Japanese-U.S. Relations: Science and Technology as Historical Agents in the Twentieth Century”

After hearing Teasel Muir-Harmony discuss the foreign policy implications of the space race and the need for international cooperation among peoples in the Pacific World, I invited her and Martin Collins, both from the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, to organize this special issue for PHR. In a variety of conversations across continents and after a lively meeting of the Society for the History of Technology (SHOT) held at the National University of Singapore, the issue started to take form. Since Martin Collins has prepared a nicely detailed introduction, I will spare readers a summary and use this preface only to express my gratitude to the guest editors and authors for making this special issue a reality.

This is quite an accomplishment considering that when we began discussions of the special issue we had no idea that it would enter production at the same time that the curatorial staff of the National Air and Space Museum would be busy working on the epic task of the Apollo 11 Mission’s 50th anniversary and that in this process Muir-Harmony would also complete Apollo to the Moon: A History in 50 Objects for National Geographic. We thank the authors and our guest editors for preparing this special issue on technology in the Pacific World.

The Pacific World—from Seattle, to the Hanford Site, to Silicon Valley, to Tokyo, to Shanghai, and many places in between—has been the center of so much of the technological innovation that has transformed the world we live in today that we felt it was time that such an important aspect of the global history of the Pacific World began to find a home in this journal. We hope to see more technology history within our pages as scholars increasingly...
begin to explore the impact of technology on society, culture, politics, and more. This special issue is, we hope, just the beginning.

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