Dear H-Japan subscribers,

I am happy to announce the publication of *Yamamba: In Search of the Japanese Mountain Witch* co-edited by myself and Linda C. Ehrlich. Both paperback and ebook are available now from Stone Bridge Press.

Please see the summary and table of contents below.

Alluring, nurturing, dangerous, and vulnerable, the *yamamba*, or Japanese mountain witch, has intrigued audiences for centuries. What is it about the fusion of mountains with the solitary old woman that produces such an enigmatic figure? And why does she still call to us in this modern, scientific era?

*Yamamba: In Search of the Japanese Mountain Witch* breaks boundaries. An exciting blend of scholarly and creative writing, the collection represents the innovative and surprising ways artists and scholars from North America and Japan have encountered the *yamamba*.

CONTENTS

EDITORS’ PREFACE

Beyond Place, Before Time—Why We Seek the Yamamba

*Rebecca Copeland and Linda C. Ehrlich*

INTRODUCTION

Locating the Yamamba

*Noriko Reider*

INTERVIEW

Yamamba on the Noh Stage: With Noh Actors Uzawa Hisa and Uzawa Hikaru

*Ann Sherif*
POETRY
Yamamba’s Mountains
*Linda C. Ehrlich, Japanese translation by Ohmori Kayo*

SHORT STORY
Blue Ridge Yamamba
*Rebecca Copeland*

COMMENTARY
A Yamamba Shrinebox
*Laura Miller*

SHORT STORY
An Encounter in Aokigahara
*David Holloway*

SHORT STORY
The Smile of a Mountain Witch (*Yamamba no bishō*)
*Ōba Minako, translated by Noriko Mizuta assisted by Mariko Ochi*

POETRY
Yamamba’s Laughter and Other Poems: An Introduction
*Noriko Mizuta, translated by Rebecca Copeland and Marianne Tarcov*

INTERVIEW
Dancing the Yamamba: With Yasuko Yokoshi

Rebecca Copeland

About the editors:

**Rebecca Copeland** is a professor of Japanese literature at Washington University in St. Louis, a writer of fiction and literary criticism, and a translator of Japanese literature. *The Kimono Tattoo*, her debut work, takes readers on a journey into Kyoto’s intricate world of kimono design, and into a mystery that interweaves family dynamics, loss, and reconciliation.

**Linda C. Ehrlich** is visiting faculty at Duke University. She has published extensively about world cinema and traditional theater. Her recent publication, *The Films of Kore-eda Hirokazu: An Elemental Cinema* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is the first book in English on this influential Japanese director. She has published poetry in *International Poetry Review*, *The Bitter Oleander*, *Southern Poetry Review*, *Literary Arts Hawaii*, *Pinesong*, and other literary journals.