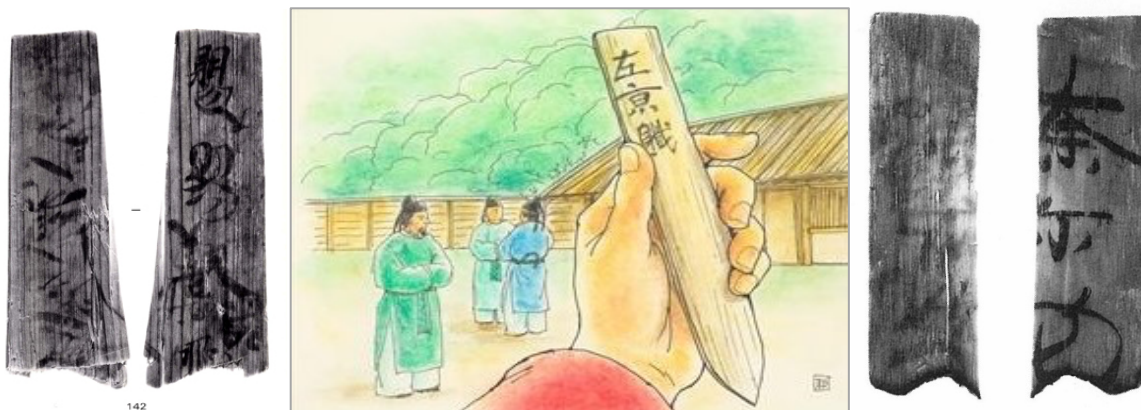


Japan Studies Invited Lecture

“Learning to Read and Write in Early Japan: Perspectives from Mokkan”



Dr. Marjorie Burge, Assistant Professor
Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations
University of Colorado Boulder

Bureaucrats in mid-seventh century Japan were faced with not only having to learn to write the Chinese script, but also to read Classical Chinese and to familiarize themselves with the Chinese classics, while also devising methods for transcribing the vernacular Japanese language using that same script. This talk explores the process of literacy acquisition in early Japan through the corpus of excavated wooden slips known as mokkan. Dr. Burge will consider the ways in which scribes in seventh and eighth century Japan approached honing calligraphic, interpretative, and compositional skills in a variety of written registers.

Dr. Marjorie Burge is Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research focuses on the early written cultures of the southern Korean peninsula and the Japanese archipelago. She is currently working on her first book manuscript, titled *Unearthing the Written Cultures of Early Korea and Japan*.

April 20, 2023
4:30pm~ 6:00pm
Room 331 SSB

University of Missouri St. Louis

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