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Editorial

From its beginnings in 2007, the International Wood Culture Society has supported research and publication in a broad spectrum of topics on wood culture. Initially, these efforts took public form in annual international and more frequently regional and local conferences at which scholars presented papers. These conferences demonstrated that there was a substantial amount of important ongoing research in wood culture drawing upon several academic disciplines – including the natural and physical sciences, history, art and art history, historic preservation of wood structures and artifacts, traditional wood working, architecture, musical instruments, archeology, anthropology, and cultural history, as well as a multitude of methodological approaches to the study of wood.

The World Wood Day Foundation, created soon after the 2013 conference held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, broadened the reach and public presence of the IWCS, especially through the organization's expanded internet presentation and presence. The establishment of an annual research grant program in wood culture enabled scholars to further their research in wood culture. This competition brought forth a wealth of superb applications, and many grantees have since written articles that will be published in this initial volume of the *International Journal of Wood Culture*. As readers will see from this and subsequent issues of this volume, the authors come from around the World and their disciplines are diverse. I believe the Journal will quickly take an important place in the IWCS mission to promote knowledge about and respect for wood in its many forms.

Editing the Journal has been my pleasure and honor. Starting a journal is a complicated and demanding task. I could not have managed it without the advice and support of the Editorial Board, and in particular, Pieter Baas, who has been my wise and generous guide. Charlotte Chia Hua Lee, Operations and Research Fellow of IWCS, has brilliantly organized and supervised the operations of the Journal with the gracefully firm hand so important in this endeavor. The staff at the venerable Koninklijke Brill has provided essential aid in the transformation of the idea of a journal into the reality of the publication. Working with Stefan Einarson and his staff has been a pleasure and an education I certainly needed. I was fortunate enough to be presented with manuscripts by a very able and professional group of scholars. They have been both

patient in the gestation of the Journal and resilient in requests to modify their work when asked. So too I was fortunate to find excellent peer reviewers for the first volume. They responded quickly to my request for help, took their jobs seriously, and returned commentary, queries and suggestions quickly. What a blessing that was. Finally, and above all, I thank Mike Hou, Director of IWCS and WWDF, for his continuing support in all ways.

Thanks to all this support we now can proudly present the first installment of the *International Journal of Wood Culture*. You are all invited and encouraged to contribute new and innovative papers to fill future volumes, and promote this periodical among your personal and institutional networks.

Harvey Green

Editor-in-Chief