

Preface

In 2004 “Encyclopedia of Science of Forms” was published, which was edited by the Society for Science on Form, Japan, and printed by Asakura Shoten Co. Ltd. Soon after its publication (2005) this encyclopedia acquired a Prize of Publication Culture, which is sponsored by the Mainichi Newspaper Company.

Since many of contributors of this encyclopedia are members of the Society, it is looked upon as a presentation of recent activities of the Society. This fact was a strong motivation for some of society members to propose a new project, i.e. a translation of this encyclopedia into English. After some discussions the present editor (R. Takaki) was asked to take care of this project.

This encyclopedia is composed of the five chapters including 361 articles, as listed below (numbers of articles in these chapters are shown in parentheses).

1. Forms in biology and medicine (118),
2. Forms in physics and chemistry (89),
3. Forms in astronomy and geology (30),
4. Forms in mathematics (54),
5. Forms in technology (70).



Encyclopedia of Science of Forms (2004).

Since it was anticipated that complete translation of all these articles would be a very hard task, the present editor proposed to select some articles from each chapters, which treat key concepts of the Science of Forms, and to publish their English versions as special issues of *FORMA*, the research journal published by the Society for Science on Form, Japan. To begin with, the special issue “Key Concepts of Science of Forms—Biological and Medical Fields” is published in 2012.

The articles in this issue are classified into two categories, Forum and Review. The former is a rather faithful translation of the encyclopedia article, while the latter is an expanded version to form a review based on the encyclopedia article. One of the articles in this issue (by S. Kai) is not a translation from the encyclopedia but a newly written report; the present editor agreed with it, because it contains attractive research results. Special issues from the other chapters are expected to follow this issue after next year. When this project is completed in future, the whole figure of the Science of Forms will appear as a clearly visualized panorama.

Finally, the present editor would like to thank all contributors of this issue for translations of their articles into English. These works would not have been simple, because changes of manuscript styles were required from those of encyclopedia articles to those of journal articles. The present editor also thanks to the stuffs of the editorial board of *FORMA* and to the publishing company, Scipress, for their continuous supports.

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