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1 | THE 15TH ASADA AWARD (OCTOBER 28, 2020)

The recipient of the 15th Asada Award, which is presented by the Discussion Group of X-ray analysis, Japan, in memory of the late Professor Ei-ichi Asada (1924-2005) to promising young scientists in X-ray analysis fields in Japan, is Shintaro Ichikawa (Fukuoka University, Fukuoka), “Accurate provenance estimation of small amount of ancient pottery sample by X-ray fluorescence spectrometry”). The ceremony was held during the 56th Annual Conference on X-Ray Chemical Analysis, which took place virtually.

2 | THE 9TH X-RAY REFLECTIVITY SCHOOL IN JAPAN (NOVEMBER 26, 2020)

Demand for learning analytical techniques for surfaces and interfaces appears to be on the increase. In in the

central Tokyo, Japan, on November 26, the 9th tutorial course on the analysis of thin films and multilayers by X-ray reflectivity was held with special care against the COVID-19 pandemic. As the new edition of Japanese textbook on the introduction to X-ray reflectivity was published in 2018, the 6 authors gave lectures as part of the course. Further information is available at <http://xray-neutron-buried-interface.jp/> (in Japanese only).

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NEWS ARTICLE**Kenji Sakurai, News Editor****Correspondence**

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Many spring conferences and academic events go to virtual (January 21, 2021)

Nearly one year ago, due to rapid spread of the COVID-19 disease, almost all academic conferences to be held in spring term were cancelled, except the April Meeting of the American Physical Society (APS), which only chose virtual format, almost for the first time as a fairly large scale meeting. This year, fortunately, many conferences will not be cancelled. In the USA, both the American Chemical Society (ACS) and the Materials Research Society (MRS) will have virtual meetings for the spring 2021. Almost the same trends happened in other countries as well. In Japan, the Japan Applied Physics Society (JASP), the Physical Society of Japan, the Chemical Society of Japan (CSJ), the Japan Society for

Analytical Chemistry (JSAC), the Japan Institute of Metals and Materials (JIM), the Japanese Society for Synchrotron Radiation Research (JSSRR), and many other societies chose the online meeting for the spring events. On the other hand, conventional face-to-face style must be still attractive to get further intellectual stimulus and deeper understanding of the latest hot topics. Let's see what happens in the late 2021.

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Book, “Analytical Studies on Metallurgy in Pre-Columbian North of Peru” (Roberto Cesareo et al., *CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform*, 2020)

Professor Roberto Cesareo (Universita' di Sassari, Italy) and his colleagues have published an interesting book on analytical research done in various ancient Peruvian archaeological sites, by using X-ray technique including EDXRF, transmission of monochromatic X-rays, X-ray radiography and X-ray micro-tomography, as well as optical microscopy and field emission scanning electron microscopy. One of interesting points during the research is detailed chemical composition of precious alloys in the

items produced in different civilization such as Cupisnique, Chavín, Kuntur Wasi, Vicús, Frías, and Moche. The book consists of 166 pages, with many beautiful full-color photos. For further information of the book, see the following page, <https://www.amazon.com/dp/1518619045>

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Denver X-ray conference award (August 6, 2021)

During the 70th Annual Denver X-Ray Conference, which was held as a virtual event due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, the following awards were presented. The 2021 Jenkins Award was presented to Mary Ann Zaitz, Retired, IBM–System and Technology Group, USA. The 2021 Barrett Award was presented to James Kaduk, Poly Crystallography, Inc., USA. The 2021 Birks Award was presented to Lee Grodzins, Professor of Physics, Emeritus, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. For further information, visit the Web page, <http://www.dxcicdd.com/>

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