Preface

The *Wordbook* and its Original Manuscript

The original manuscript that led to the *Okinawan-English Wordbook* was produced by the late Dr. Mitsugu Sakihara as a full dictionary, complete with extensive examples of word use in alternate forms, in phrases, and in sentences. That manuscript, compiled over some 20 years, runs to well over 1300 pages, and includes a host of cultural, folkloric, and historical material in addition to the dictionary entries themselves. Mrs. Jean Sakihara, Dr. Sakihara's widow, has kindly given the current editors latitude to bring the manuscript into published form, eventually to comprise two independent volumes, of which this *Wordbook* is the first. There will follow in due course the second book, the dictionary proper, based on Dr. Sakihara's full manuscript.

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Last, the editors would like to recognize the readers and users of this *Wordbook*, without whose interest, of course, there would be no need for it at all. For the "little" languages of the world to continue to survive and enrich the global cultural milieu, the interest of heritage speakers and new learners in addition to that of native speakers and professional linguists is essential.