

## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the eleventh volume of the *Japan Studies Review* (JSR), an annual peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the joint efforts of the Institute for Asian Studies at Florida International University and the Southern Japan Seminar. JSR continues to be both an outlet for publications related to Southern Japan Seminar events and a journal that encourages submissions from a wide range of scholars in the field.

Appearing in this issue are five articles dealing with a variety of topics on Japan, including Commodore Matthew Perry and Christianity in Japan, analysis of the disaster management of the 1995 Kobe earthquake, the award winning book, *Snow Country*, the debate over the Kurile islands between Russia and Japan, and a look at the establishment of modern Japanese language.

The first article, "The Japanese Fear of Christianity and European Nationalism in the Diplomacy of Commodore Matthew C. Perry" by William J. Farge, looks closely at the changing Japanese view of Christians and Christianity at the time of Perry's arrival in Japan. This article is a product of the Southern Japan Seminar held in Atlanta in fall of 2004.

Following this, "Learning from Kobe: Complexity and Urgency in the Holistic Management Model" by Marilyn M. Helms, Ray Jones, and Margaret B. Takeda, studies the aftermath of the Kobe earthquake of 1995 and critiques the use (and lack) of management techniques and suggests future improvements for the Japanese post-disaster management system.

The third article, "Symbiotic Conflict in *Snow Country*" by Masaki Mori, analyzes the significance of *Snow Country*, one of the most prominent works by 1969 Nobel-laureate for literature Kawabata Yasunari. The article details the particularly unusual literary style of the book and its innovative storytelling techniques and characters.

The fourth article, "Line in the Water: The Southern Kuriles and the Russian-Japanese Relationship" by Thomas E. Rotnem, details the strained relations between Russia and Japan as both sides battle for control over the Kurile islands. Although the islands are quite small, they represent much more than their physical worth: they are symbols of the power of both sides.

The final article, "The *Genbun'itchi* Society and the Drive to 'Nationalize' the Japanese Language" by Paul Clark, focuses on the

*Genbun'itchi* Society in existence from 1900-1910 that helped reform and define contemporary Japanese language and standardize it for the modern era. The article also describes the socio-historical background for the establishment of the Society.

Also appearing in this issue are four essays. The first essay, "Esoteric Buddhism in the Works of Juan Valera" by Juan Torres-Pou, was originally from a conference in spring of 2006 co-sponsored by the Institute for Asian Studies (IAS) at Florida International University (FIU). The next two essays, "Modern Girls and New Women in Japanese Cinema" by Maureen Turim and "Japan through Others' Lenses: *Hiroshima Mon Amour* (1959) and *Lost in Translation* (2003)" by Frank P. Tomasulo, share the theme of Japanese cinema and are both based on a conference at FIU sponsored by IAS in fall of 2004. The final essay, "Immaculate Confession" by Michael Alvarez details the author Mishima Yukio and his motivation for writing *Confessions of a Mask*, one of his best known works.

Additionally, the volume contains eight book reviews of recent publications on Japanese studies. Ellis S. Krauss and T.J. Pempel's edited volume on U.S.-Japan relations is reviewed by Thomas E. Rotnem of Southern Polytechnic State University; Hamaguchi Eshun and Kaneko Satoru's edited work on Tora-san, the Japanese television and print hero, is reviewed by Kinko Ito of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock; Ayako Ono's examination of *japonisme* is reviewed by Linda Gertner Zatlín of Morehouse College; James L. Huffman's biography of Edward H. House is reviewed by Daniel A. Metraux of Mary Baldwin College; Bruce L. Batten's exploration of the meaning of frontiers and boundaries regarding Japan is reviewed by Yuki Takatori of Georgia State University; and Cristina Rocha's research on Zen in Brazil is reviewed by Ronan A. Pereira of University of Brasilia/Victoria University of Wellington. Also, I reviewed a work by Duncan Ryūken Williams on the history of Sōtō Zen Buddhism (originally appeared in the *Journal of Buddhist Ethics* 12 [2005]: 84-87). Finally, Marie Højlund Roesgaard's book on *juku*, the Japanese cram school, is reviewed by Steven E. Gump.

Please note: Japanese names are cited with surname first except for citations of works published in English.

Steven Heine, Editor

**Re: Submissions, Subscriptions and Comments**

Submissions for publication, either articles, essays, or book reviews, should be made in both hard copy and electronic formats, preferably Word for Windows on a disk or CD (please inquire about other formats). The editor and members of the editorial board will referee all submissions.

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All comments and feedback on the publications appearing in *Japan Studies Review* are welcome.

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