

EDITORS' INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the twenty-fifth volume of the *Japan Studies Review* (JSR), an annual peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the Asian Studies Program at Florida International University. JSR remains an outlet for the Southern Japan Seminar and encourages submissions from a wide range of scholars in the field. The 2021 issue features interdisciplinary scholarly works in traditional and contemporary Japanese studies.

This volume contains four articles, starting with a textual and philological analysis by Steven Heine based on his original translations of Zen Buddhist poems written mainly in early medieval Japan in *kanbun* (Sino-Japanese) style. This article is titled, "Selections of Zen Buddhist Poetry in *Kanbun* Reflecting Early Medieval Cross-Cultural and Cross-Sectarian Trends." The following article, "Embodied Survival and Demythologization in Kirino Natsuo's *Tokyo Jima*" by Juliana Buriticá Alzate, examines embodied, gendered experiences relating to survival from a feminist perspective, debunking myths in the novel as it disengages from the essentialized, naturalized, and idealized versions of womanhood. The third article, "Making Movies for the Chinese: Japanese Directors at Manying" by Yuxin Ma, surveys the Manying cinema industry of 1937–1945 from the perspective of Japanese directors producing national policy films for Manchukuo with the competing objective of serving Japanese imperialism and entertaining the local Chinese viewers. The last article, "Ishikawa Tatsuzō and Shimazaki Tōson: Two Writers/Travelers to South America in the Eye of Imperial Discourse" by Matías Chiappe Ippolito, compares divergent viewpoints regarding South America from two twentieth-century Japanese writers' travels to Brazil and Argentina and their respective literary works in light of Japan's emerging imperial discourse.

This issue also has two essays. Kinko Ito and Paul A. Crutcher, in "Swallowtail Butler Café: Cosplay, Otakus, and Cool Japan in Contemporary Japan," provide sociological observations about the popular themed Swallowtail Butler Café in Tokyo through content analysis of online media resources gathered during the Covid-19 pandemic. Daniel Métraux, in "Jack London's Positive Portrayals of the Japanese in His Early Fiction Defy His Reputation as a Racist," offers insight on Jack London's appreciation for Japanese culture with commentary from two of his stories to argue against race hatred attributed to the author at the turn of the twentieth century. There are four book reviews with varying topics. Mari Yoshihara's *Dearest Lenny: Letters from Japan and the Making of the World Maestro* is reviewed by Wayne E. Arnold; Yuki Matsuda's *Poetics of Popular Culture: The Hidden Multimodality* is reviewed by Kinko Ito; Meredith Oda's *The Gateway to the Pacific: Japanese Americans and the Remaking of San Francisco* is reviewed by Daniel A. Métraux; and finally, Melissa Anne-Marie Curley's *Pure Land, Real World: Modern Buddhism, Japanese Leftists, and the Utopian Imagination* and Justin R. Ritzinger's *Anarchy in the Pure Land: Reinventing the Cult of Maitreya in Modern Chinese Buddhism* are reviewed in tandem by Kedao Tong.

Re: Submissions, Subscriptions, and Comments

Submissions for publication, whether articles, essays, translations, or book reviews, should be made in electronic formats, preferably Word for Windows via email attachment (please inquire about other formats). The editor and members of the editorial board will referee all submissions.

Annual subscriptions are \$45.00 (US). Please send a check or money order payable to *Florida International University* to:

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