

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the ninth volume of the *Japan Studies Review* (JSR), an annual peer-reviewed journal sponsored by the joint efforts of the Southern Japan Seminar and the Institute for Asian Studies at Florida International University, with partial funding from the Japan Foundation. 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 four articles on a variety of topics related to the Japanese literature form of *haikai*, social and political turmoil during the Meiji Restoration period (1869-1912), and the implications of learning karaoke in a group-oriented society.

The first article, "Depopularizing the Popular: *Tentori Haikai* and the Bashō Revival" by Cheryl Crowley, focuses on the Bashō Revival movement in the middle of the eighteenth century, when Bashō poets, (commoners and low-ranking *samurai*) meant to redesign the popular comic form *haikai* into a prestigious genre of literature.

Following this, "From Fukuzawa to Blaut: On the Origins of Japanese Eurocentrism" by Daniel K.T. Woo, studies the influence of the notion of Eurocentrism, or Western superiority, on the philosophy of the Japanese scholar Fukuzawa Yukichi, who sought independence from governmental interference as well as from old customs and practices of the Meiji Restoration.

The third article, "National Morality, the State, and 'Dangerous Thought': Approaching the Moral Ideal in Late Meiji Japan" by Richard Reitan, studies the tension near the end of the Meiji era between a state-sponsored intellectual movement concerned to identify and legitimize national identity with ideas of loyalty and filiality and an anti-state movement that emphasized anarchy, socialism, and individualism.

The final article, "Karaoke Learning in Japan: Individual Expression in a Group Context" by Hideo Watanabe, analyzes the individualistic role of karaoke learning in a socially dependent society, and shows some interesting and surprising results through fieldwork studies.

Also appearing in this issue are five essays. The featured essay by Kinko Ito, "A One-Week Retreat at a Zen Monastery in Japan: An Ethnographic Participant-Observation," provides a personal account of a *dai*

sesshin, or one-week retreat, held at a Zen monastery in Japan. The four student essays were selected from a conference contest held in conjunction with a Southern Japan Seminar meeting in November 2003, and will be introduced by guest editor Inger Brodey of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at the beginning of that section.

Additionally, the volume contains three book reviews of recent publications on Japanese studies. Charlotte Ikels' edited volume on contemporary practices of filial piety in light of social, political, and economic changes in mainland China, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan is reviewed by Leslie Williams of Clemson University; William Johnston's work on the Abe Sada murder case is reviewed by Jan Bardsley of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and James Heisig's study on the philosophy of Nishida, Tanabe, and Nishitani of the Kyoto School is reviewed by Gereon Kopf of Luther College.

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

Annual Subscriptions are now \$15.00 (US). Please send a check or money order payable to *Florida International University*.

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

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