

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the seventh volume of the *Japan Studies Review*, sponsored by the joint efforts of the Southern Japan Seminar and funding from the Japan Foundation and Florida International University.

This issue contains five articles that capture a variety of interests, with respect to Japanese life. Topics include Japanese postwar film narratives, feminine Tanka poetry, social politics of the *bakuhan* system of 16th century Japan, the legacy of Aum Shinrikyo and *Anime*'s historical inversion in *Princess Mononoke*.

The first essay, "The Fifty-Year War: *Rashomon*, *After Life*, and Japanese Film Narratives of Remembering," by Mike Sugimoto philosophically evaluates films representing postwar Japan and analyzes the narrative structure of memory on both interpretative and historical levels.

The second essay, "The Tanka Poetry of Yosano Akiko: Transformation of Tradition Through the Female Voice," by Harriette D. Grissom embraces the Romantic poetry of Akiko, who inspired Japanese feminists to confront the masculine political and literary society of Japan.

The third essay, "Civil Servant or Obedient Servant? Ideal(ized) Officials in 16th Century Japan," by Ronald K. Frank discusses the "early modern state" or *bakuhan* system of Tokugawa Japan and its developments during the "Warring States," period of *Sengoku*.

The fourth essay, "The Farce of the 'Great Russian Salvation Tour:' The Legacy of Aum Shinrikyo in Mother Russia," by Daniel A. Metraux relinquishes Russia's support of the Aum Shinrikyo from Japan and interestingly discusses their rise and fall within both nations.

The final essay by John Tucker entitled, "*Anime* and Historical Inversion in Miyazaki Hayao's *Princess Mononoke*," investigates the genre film from a historical perspective and indicates the importance of the work to the overall significance of Japanese popular culture during the late-twentieth century.

Additionally, this volume contains six reviews of recent Japanese publications. Shibata and Kaneda's work on the multinational auto-mobile manufacturer Toyota, reviewed by Kinko Ito of University of Arkansas at Little Rock; a publication from NHK International on Japanese economy and business reviewed by Kiyoshi Kawahito of Middle Tennessee State University; Ian Reader's work on the Aum Shinrikyo reviewed by Daniel A. Metraux of Mary Baldwin College; Tipton and Clark's publication on Japanese modern culture reviewed by Scott O'Bryan of University of Alabama; Richard M. Jaffe's work on clerical marriage in modern Japanese Buddhism reviewed by Dr. Steven Heine of Florida International University and Bix and Keene's works on Japanese emperors Hirohito and Mutsuhito reviewed by John Tucker of East Carolina University.

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) on an IBM or Macintosh formatted disk. The editor and members of the editorial board will referee all submissions.

Annual Subscriptions are \$10.00 (US). Please send a check or money order payable to *Florida International University*.

C/O Steven Heine, Professor of Religious Studies and History
Director of the Institute for Asian Studies
Florida International University
University Park Campus, DM 300 B
Miami, FL 33199

Professor Heine's office number is 305-348-1914. Faxes should be sent to 305-348-6586 and emails to asian@fiu.edu.

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