

EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the tenth 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, 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 dealing with a variety of topics on Japan, including the Tokugawa era poet/theorist Kagami Shikō, the increase in the use of subtitles in Japanese television, the local importance of lacquerware in the Tsugaru region, and the significance of the popularity of Korean television programs in Japan.

The first article, "The Changing Views of the *Zhuangzi* in Kagami Shikō's *Haikai* Theory" by Peipei Qiu, looks closely at the use of Daoist sources in the works of a productive yet controversial Shōmon School theorist, Kagami Shikō (1665-1731), tracing his changing interpretations of the *Zhuangzi*, and how *haikai* gradually moves away from Daoist ideas by replacing those principles with Confucian values.

Following this, "Japanese People Watching Subtitled Japanese-Language TV Shows: Function or Aesthetic?" by Yuki Watanabe, studies the boom in subtitling on Japanese television programs, its history, details and causes, in addition to future implications of this phenomenon. The article also examines why the subtitles both benefit and hinder Japanese viewers.

The third article, "Meaning and Representation of Traditional Craft: The Case for a Local Japanese Lacquerware" by Anthony Rausch, analyzes the significance of Tsugaru *nuri*, lacquerware from Aomori Prefecture in northern Japan, and its importance to the identity of the area. Through a series of surveys and other research methods, the article shows how the lacquerware is perceived by locals and outsiders alike.

The final article, "Middle-Aged Japanese Women's Love Affair with *Winter Sonata* and Its Social Implications" by Kinko Ito, focuses on the recent popularity of Korean television shows, especially *Winter Sonata*, and how and why Japanese women embrace them, as well as what they mean to Japanese society as a whole.

Also appearing in this issue are three essays, including a student essay. In a featured essay by multiple authors, “Pedagogy and Experience: Bringing Japan into the Classroom,” six participants in a year-long program known as the Faculty and Curriculum Development Seminar on Japan reflect on their experiences traveling and learning about the country. My essay, “The Development of a Japanese Studies Program at Florida International University” provides advice for other institutions in creating a similar program. The essay by Natali Garcia-Diaz, an alumna of the FIU Asian Studies program, “Foreign Workers in Japan: A Look at Japanese Cultural Perspectives Regarding Nikkeijin,” details the lives of Nikkeijin, Japanese heritage immigrants from Brazil who return to Japan.

Additionally, the volume contains six book reviews of recent publications on Japanese studies. Harald Fuess’ work on divorce in Japan is reviewed by Bernice J. deGannes Scott of Spelman College; Emily S. Rosenberg’s examination of Pearl Harbor in American memory is reviewed by John Hickman of Berry College; and John Nathan’s exploration of Japanese identity after World War II is reviewed by Don R. McCreary of the University of Georgia. Also, a work by Lu Yan about the Chinese perspective of Japan is reviewed by Yuki Takatori of Georgia State University. Finally, Martha Chaiklin’s book on the Dutch influence on Japan in the Tokugawa era is reviewed by Laura Nenzi of Florida International University.

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

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

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