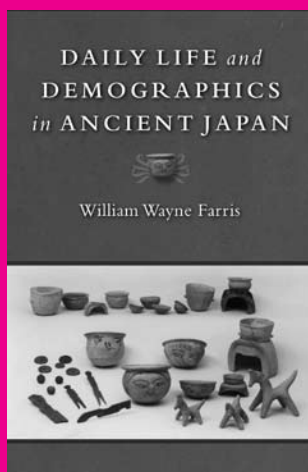




Center for Japanese Studies  
University of Michigan

Winter 2009

## Now Available from Center for Japanese Studies Publications



*Daily Life and Demographics  
in Ancient Japan*

by William Wayne Farris



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DENSHO

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Center for Japanese Studies  
University of Michigan

Winter 2009



### From the Director



As we start off 2009, we're trying a few new things at the Center for Japanese Studies. We want to make CJS more responsive to its communities, more conducive to nurturing synergies, quicker to explore new problems, and better at sharing what we do. Many proposals are still being considered as we participate in the International Institute's ongoing strategic planning, but I think I can share a few things that are likely to be part of our future.

- **New multidisciplinary workshops and seminars.** We'll soon announce a competition through which faculty and Toyota Visiting Professors can propose workshops and seminars at the cutting edge of Japanese Studies. We'll encourage proposals that cross disciplinary and regional boundaries. We hope that involving former TVPs in planning events will extend the intellectual ties developed during their stay in Ann Arbor.
- **Workshops on library and museum resources.** U-M holds a wealth of Japan-related research materials at the Hatcher Library, the Clements Library, the Museum of Art (which is just about to re-open after a major expansion), and other facilities on campus. We'll hold a series of workshops to familiarize our communities on this campus and beyond with all of the things that we have. In November, Ms. Eiko Sakaguchi of the Prange Collection generated tremendous interest when she came to Ann Arbor to offer a workshop on searching Prange's microfiche collection of Occupation-period newspapers and

journals, which is held in our Asia Library. We'll continue to plan other such events designed to enhance the accessibility of our holdings.

- **Focused research partnerships and study groups.** CJS will sponsor faculty and graduate students to form research clusters on specialized topics. One such group, the Premodern Japan Study Group—led by Professors Hitomi Tonomura and Kevin Carr, and including not only U-M faculty and students but also independent scholars and faculty from MSU—has already begun to meet in order to pour over Kamakura-period documents. We anticipate CJS becoming an umbrella for further small-group efforts.
- **Junior Faculty Initiative.** As I observed in the last newsletter, we currently have a large and strong group of junior faculty on campus. We've started an initiative to make sure that the needs of junior faculty are met within CJS and to encourage scholarly communication between junior and senior faculty. In response to suggestions from junior faculty, we'll soon start a series of "work-in-progress" workshops, where scholars can get feedback on articles or chapters that they're in the process of developing.

More new things are on the way, and I will share them as I can. The CJS Executive Committee, the CJS staff, and I are committed to serving you better. If you're reading this note you're a part of one of our communities, either in Ann Arbor or elsewhere, and we look forward to hearing from you. I will be at AAS, where U-M's Asia Centers will once again host a cocktail hour. The exact time and venue has not yet been decided, but please look for us and stop by.

Ken K. Ito, *Director*

### From the Executive Editor

Winter 2009 is a season of Japanese film studies. *A Page of Madness* (*Kurutta ichipeiji*), Kinugasa Teinosuke's 1926 film, is celebrated as one of the masterpieces of silent cinema. It was an independently produced, experimental, avant-garde work from Japan whose brilliant use of cinematic technique was equal to if not superior to that of contemporary European cinema. Those studying Japan, focusing on the central involvement of such writers as Yokomitsu Riichi and the Nobel Prize winner Kawabata Yasunari, have seen it as a pillar of the close relationship in the Taishō era between film and artistic modernism, as well as a marker of the uniqueness of prewar Japanese film culture.

But is this film really what it seems to be? Using meticulous research on the film's production, distribution, exhibition, and reception, as well as close analysis of the film itself made available, Aaron Gerow, in *A Page of Madness: Cinema and Modernity in 1920s Japan*, draws a new picture of this complex work, one revealing a film divided between experiment and convention, modernism and melodrama, the image and the word, cinema and literature, conflicts that play

continued on page 11



Cover illustration for *A Page of Madness*. Left to right: Nakagawa Yoshie, Inoue Masao, Takamatsu Kyōsuke, and Takase Minoru. Still photograph courtesy of the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute.

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The new head of the Asia Library, Dr. Ji-dong Yang has been implementing different methods for managing the East Asian collections. Dr. Yang brings with him a strong emphasis on research materials and ways to obtain information through digital resources. As a result, the Asia Library's focus includes a greater emphasis on developing our collection in terms of both printed and digital materials.

In the absence of a Asia Library head for the past five years, I have been co-administrator of the Asia Library with Mei-Ying Lin. Now that the position has been filled, I am once again able to concentrate on my curatorial tasks. Therefore, I have been meeting with many faculty members, graduate students, researchers, and reaching out to Japan-related programs in order to gather information about the needs of U-M's academic fields. One example of this is our Gordon W. Prange Collection that had been quietly sleeping for a few years with little attention. However, in the fall of 2008, CJS and the library system made it possible to hold a workshop given by Eiko Sakaguchi, Curator of the original Gordon W. Prange Collection at the University of Maryland.

The "G.W. Prange Collection: Japan 1945-49: Its Resources and Search Tools" hands-on training workshop was a huge success. CJS and the Library system worked together to bring in an audience of faculty members, graduate students, researchers, and field librarians. Ms. Sakaguchi began the workshop with an introduction to the Collection and how to use it through connecting to the database. Later, the participants gained experience with the actual microforms' collection in the Asia Library. This type of training session is rare in our institution and was very well received.

This collaboration between CJS and the Library was a big success. Therefore, future events like this one can be expected. If you would like to know more about the Prange Collection, please visit the Asia Library's homepage (<http://www.lib.umich.edu/asia/>), or ask any member of the Asia Library staff.

As stated at the beginning of this message, our Asia Library is being dramatically changed toward a more electronic-oriented system and I am concentrating more on my tasks as the Japanese Curator. Therefore, I am moving quickly in order to catch up on a few matters. For example, digital resources like the *Yomiuri Shinbun/Asahi Shinbun* databases, *Kanpo* online and etc., are waiting in U-M's clearinghouses for the completion of the legal screening processes. Once this is completed, the information will be available on the Asia Library's homepage. So, please, keep checking the website.

Kenji Niki  
Curator of the Japanese Collection  
The Asia Library

## Was Koizumi Japan's Obama?

On November 4, the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election concluded with Barack Obama's decisive victory over John McCain. Many observers have strived to place Obama's election in historical context, but my own inclination has been to compare it to parliamentary elections in Japan. Of course, I confess to a professional tendency to compare everything to Japanese elections, but I believe that in this case, the analogy is warranted.

To begin with, there are some institutional differences between Japanese and American elections. For example, Japanese election law restricts campaigning to just twelve days and strictly curtails the number of print, radio, and TV advertisements. While this may sound like a welcome respite from the endless negative commercials we see in the U.S., limits on campaigning also diminish the viability of outsider candidates. Had Japanese law been applied to the U.S., we may well have seen an electoral matchup between Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani, who were the front-runners in the early stages of the electoral cycle. For better or for worse, a longer campaign period allows for substantive policy debates and time to observe how candidates respond to shifting political tides—factors that arguably helped Barack Obama win.

A more fundamental distinction between the two countries is in the structure of government. In presidential systems, the major parties' leaders compete directly for votes. As such, there is a premium on picking presidential nominees who appeal to a broad cross-section of the electorate. In parliamentary systems, on the other hand, the prime minister is selected indirectly by other parliamentarians. Accordingly, prime ministerial candidates have strong incentives to cater to the preferences of other legislators, not voters. The result, at least in Japan, has been a succession of party leaders who are proficient at political bargaining and infighting, not at communicating effectively with voters.

Despite these institutional disparities, we can still identify some similarities in Japanese and American politics, particularly in the profiles of Barack Obama and Junichiro Koizumi, the leader of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Prime Minister of Japan between 2001 and 2006. Like Obama, Koizumi rose to public prominence very quickly, received strong cross-party support from voters, and led his party to impressive victories in the legislature. Beyond these apparent parallels in career arcs, we can tease out three further factors that underlay their success, which in turn can inform our understanding of future political trends.

First, while Obama and Koizumi were both hailed as charismatic leaders who challenged the political status quo, their campaigns came from different directions. Obama was a relative newcomer to national politics, having only been elected to the Senate in 2004. His mantra for "change" was that of an outsider challenging the Washington establishment—a recurring theme in presidential campaigns. Koizumi, on the other hand, was a third generation politician who had been in the Japanese Diet since 1972 and had previously served as cabinet minister. Although he was not a household name, Koizumi's call for "change" was a promise by an insider to reform the LDP from within.



Kenneth McElwain

Nevertheless, there is an important parallel in how Obama and Koizumi shaped their election themes. Both candidates urged political change not only in the policies espoused by previous administrations, but also in the substantive nature of politics, itself. Obama staked his candidacy on moving political debates beyond divisive and intractable wedge issues—such as abortion or gay rights—to tackle substantive policy dilemmas. Similarly, Koizumi promised to wean the LDP off of pork barrel politics in favor of pragmatic discussions about how to fix the country's economy. These themes were particularly effective during the primaries, when both candidates competed against members of their own party, with whom they shared many policy priorities.

A second similarity between Obama and Koizumi is that neither was the heavy-weight "establishment" candidate. When the initial lineup for the Democratic primary solidified in mid-2007, the consensus front-runner was Hillary Clinton. Clinton was a popular senator from New York who had the overwhelming backing of other party elites, not to mention an ace in the hole in the form of Bill Clinton. Similarly, after Yoshiro Mori resigned as prime minister in 2001, most Japanese observers expected Ryutaro Hashimoto to lead the LDP. Hashimoto had been a popular prime minister in the late 1990s, and as the boss of the largest faction within the LDP, he retained strong institutional support from local and national party officials.

Electoral primaries in both countries, however, allowed "outsider" candidates to challenge the party establishment. While Obama didn't have the name recognition of Hillary Clinton, his early opposition to the Iraq War and his campaign's focus on winning smaller caucus states proved crucial in the long Democratic primary. Koizumi's success in the LDP's presidential election was an even bigger upset, as the

LDP hadn't even used a popular primary in over twenty years. The LDP reinstated primaries in 2001 as a public relations move to improve media exposure and win back voters who had been disaffected by Mori's tenure. Koizumi's coiffed hair and quirky personality was an instant hit among grassroots members, and with their strong backing, Koizumi successfully corralled the votes of LDP parliamentarians to secure his victory.

Third, Obama and Koizumi helped their parties win decisive majorities (in 2008 and 2005, respectively) by making inroads in new demographic subgroups. The public's enthusiasm about the elections—particularly among younger voters—was reflected in a 5-7% increase in voter turnout. At the same time, the LDP and the Democrats expanded their appeal beyond their regional bailiwicks. Despite being a largely rural party, the LDP won 37 out of 49 head-to-head matchups against the main opposition party in metropolitan areas. In 2003, it had only won 16 such contests. County-by-county analysis in the US similarly shows that Obama increased the Democrats' presidential vote share in most regions of the country, including solidly Republican states such as Utah and Virginia.

Given these parallels between Obama and Koizumi's electoral performances, can we infer any similarities in how they will govern after the election? One of Koizumi's greatest challenges was addressing conflicts within his own party over political reform. Koizumi's avowed goal was to weaken ties between the LDP and its core interest groups, particularly in construction, agriculture, and postal services, which depended on government largesse to survive. Because many LDP politicians received financial and electoral support from these groups, Koizumi faced strong internal pushback when he tried to decrease government aid. The watershed moment came in 2005, when Koizumi's proposal to privatize the postal system failed due to defection by key LDP factions. Koizumi took decisive action by dissolving parliament, calling for snap elections, and kicking out LDP parliamentarians who had

blocked his bill. Following his electoral victory in 2005, Koizumi quickly reinstated the privatization proposal, which passed with an overwhelming majority.

Koizumi's success highlights an obvious but crucial point about political strategy: a leader's ultimate weapon is his electoral coattails. In order to get postal privatization approved, Koizumi had to convince LDP politicians that the reflected glory of his popularity was more valuable than whatever support they may get from the postal lobby. His leverage was the support of political independents who would not regularly vote for an LDP candidate. In some of my previous work, I find that LDP candidates won 2-3% more votes in districts where Koizumi made a personal campaign appearance.

What is interesting about Koizumi's tenure is that none of his headlining policies fundamentally altered the structure or performance of the economy. Instead, he argued that his reforms—including postal privatization—were crucial to effective governance and the diminution of pork-barrel politics. In the current U.S. climate, Obama's most difficult task is to reform the financial system. This will include greater oversight of derivatives trading and bringing hedge funds under government regulation, among others. While there is broad bipartisan consensus in favor of these proposals at the moment, there are regional interests that may prompt Democratic dissension, such as from New York legislators who receive votes from the financial industry.

Given Obama's current popularity, he can probably ward off any comprehensive attacks on his legislative agenda. While many Japan observers (including myself) have doubts about the true extent of Koizumi's reforms, Japanese voters continue to empathize with his long-term initiatives to improve political transparency and accountability. I believe Obama has a similar opportunity to overhaul political competition in the United States, and there's a good chance that voters will be happy to go along for the ride.

Kenneth Mori McElwain  
Assistant Professor  
U-M Department of Political Science



## New Japanese Gallery at the Reimagined Museum of Art



Expanded and Renovated University of Michigan Museum of Art, Exterior Rendering (View from State Street)

For the past two and half years, the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) has been undergoing a landmark expansion and restoration. On March 28, 2009, UMMA will finally reopen to the public, unveiling breathtaking new facilities, including more than double the amount of exhibition space and triple the number of objects on view. The presence of Asian art in the Museum will greatly expand with five permanent galleries devoted to the arts of China, Korea, Japan, South and Southeast Asia, and Buddhism. All Asian galleries, including the new Japanese Gallery, will be located in the dramatic Frankel Family Wing.

The Japanese Gallery will feature many treasures from the UMMA collections that have been on view only infrequently



Seto Shinbei (active first half of 17th century), Tea caddy *Hitonine*. Edo period (1615–1868), circa 1600–1647. Stoneware with mottled brown glaze, ivory lid. Bequest of Margaret Watson Parker, 1954/1.532A&B

in past decades due to space limitations. In the section of the gallery devoted to courtly and religious art, *Hyakuman tō* (“One of one million pagodas”), a miniature wooden Buddhist pagoda originally stored in Nara’s Hōryūji, is a testament to the influence of Empress Regnant Kōken (718–770). Among works documenting the art of the samurai, a tea caddy *Hitonine* (meaning “sleeping alone”) selected and named by warlord and tea master to the Tokugawa Shogunate Kobori Enshū (1579–1647), will be on public display for the first time. A section of ceramics from UMMA’s rich collection of premodern and modern Japanese pottery includes works by designated Living National Treasures Arakawa Toyozō (Shino ware, 1894–1985) and Kaneshige Tōyō (Bizen ware, 1896–1967). Also, a stuning painting of a courtesan by Kitagawa Utamaro (1754–1806) will be specially exhibited for the opening.

In addition to the greatly expanded number of galleries devoted to collections and temporary exhibitions, the new Museum of Art will offer a variety of spaces designed to increase access to the collections and provide new educational spaces to the campus community. “Open storage” galleries offer visual access to hundreds of additional works of art, clustered by type behind glass doors. The Asian art conservation laboratory has also been relocated to a public area and will allow visitors to view the fascinating process of restoring fragile works of art on silk and paper.

For the campus community, a 220-seat auditorium, classrooms, and meeting spaces will enhance the Museum’s value as a central campus resource for teaching and programming. Specially equipped object and print study classrooms make it possible for groups to examine works of art close-up in a secure environment. Finally, a café and spaces for social interaction with extended hours will enliven the Museum late into the evening.

We hope that this dynamic new environment for art will be a magnet for exciting interdisciplinary research and learning, foster strong intellectual partnerships with the area centers, including the Center for Japanese Studies, and also prove to be a destination for contemplation, enjoyment, and social interaction around the visual arts.

**Natsu Oyobe**  
*Research Curator of Asian Art*  
*University of Michigan Museum of Art*



*Hyakuman tō* (One of one million pagodas). Nara period (710–794), 764–770. Carved wood with traces of gesso. Museum purchase made possible by the Margaret Watson Parker Art Collection Fund, 1969/2.21

## U P C O M I N G C J S E V E N T S

### 2009 Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl

The 16th annual Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl (MJQB) will be held on Saturday, March 14 in the Modern Languages Building on U-M’s Central Campus. This is the fifth year that it has been directed and hosted by CJS. Other key sponsors include the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan and the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit.

This year’s event is shaping up to be the largest to date with 99 teams from 27 K-12 schools expected to compete in the quiz bowl competition on Japanese language and culture. For more information about the MJQB, contact Jane Ozanich (jozanich@umich.edu).

### Conference: “Financial Bubbles, Banking Bailouts, and Automotive Survival: A U.S.-Japan Comparison”

The Center for Global Partnership and CJS are sponsoring a public conference on April 17th entitled, “Financial Bubbles, Banking Bailouts, and Automotive Survival: A U.S.-Japan Comparison.” U-M faculty organizers, Kenneth Mori McElwain (Assistant Professor, Political Science), Kiyoteru Tsutsui (Assistant Professor, Sociology), and Ken Ito (Professor, ALC; Director, CJS) are inviting experts – from Michigan and around the country – to share their insight on the Japanese Bubble of the 1990s, the American financial crisis today,

and their impact on the automobile industries in the two countries.

This one-day conference on U-M’s campus will be divided into two sessions: one to address the causes of and policy responses to problems in the financial sector and one to examine the impact of the financial crises on the automotive sector. The lead panelist will be Daniel Okimoto (Professor Emeritus in Political Science at Stanford University and Partner and Chairman of the Global Institute at Sterling Stamos Capital Management, L.P.).

For more information about this conference and how to register for it, contact Jane Ozanich (jozanich@umich.edu).

## P A S T C J S E V E N T S

### CJS Welcomes Katsuya Hirano

Katsuya Hirano, CJS’s Winter 2009 Toyota Visiting Professor, was welcomed to campus with a reception held on January 14 in the International Institute Gallery. An assistant professor of history at Cornell University, Professor Hirano is teaching a mini-course entitled, “Representing Trauma: History and Memory in Comfort Women Discourse.” His CJS noon lecture will take place on Thursday, March 19.

### 2009 Mochitsuki

CJS hosted its 5th annual *Mochitsuki* on Saturday, January 10 during one of Southeastern Michigan’s worst storms of winter. The blowing snow did not stop the more than 660 guests from coming to Ann Arbor to take part in the festivities. The event featured mochi-pounding and tasting, *kakizome* (New Year’s calligraphy messages), *kamishibai* (storytelling), origami, games, and manga-drawing. In addition to these activities, guests were treated to live music from Mochitsuki veterans, *Miyabi* and a new addition to the event this year, the *October Babies* (<http://octoberbabies.net/>).



Jonathan Zwicker (Assistant Professor, ALC) and Katsuya Hirano (Winter 2009 TVP)

CJS thanks the 30 community members and 40 U-M students that volunteered their time to help make the event run smoothly. We couldn’t do this event without you!



The *October Babies* drew a crowd during their set.

Kevin Gray Carr (History of Art) gave a presentation at Yamagata University in Japan in November 2008 on the *Shigi-san engi emaki* scrolls. Professor Carr is currently working on his book manuscript and has several pending articles. He is also a co-organizer of the Premodern Japan Study Group.

Masahito Jimbo (Family Medicine and Urology) presented a three-day workshop on effective clinical interviewing and physical examination for the residents of the Saiseiki Utsunomiya Hospital in Utsunomiya, Tochigi, Japan (June 2008). In June and September 2008, he gave two 5-day workshops consisting of lectures, hospital rounds, outpatient receiving, and case presentations for the faculty, residents, and students in the Saint Marianna University School of Medicine in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan. In June 2008, Dr. Jimbo gave an invited presentation on the management of chronic cough at the Kawasaki Tama Municipal Hospital in Kawasaki, Kanagawa, Japan. Later, in September, he returned to the same hospital to present on the role of family physicians in the management of depression. Along with his other scholarly publications, Dr. Jimbo writes a regular bimonthly column in *Views* and a regular monthly column in the *Weekly Jangle*.

Gayl Ness (Professor Emeritus, Sociology) attended a conference in Tokyo on “Low Fertility in East and Southeast Asia,” which was organized by Nihon University’s Population Research Institute. Low fertility is a problem for most more developed economies, but Japan faces one of the most severe aspects of this problem. The cause is roughly similar between Japan and southern Europe. Improvements in women’s education and career openings, together with an unchanged traditional family structure where virtually all home-making is woman’s work in which men do not share, raises the costs of child raising. This leads women to marry later or not at all and to bear children later or not at all.

The problem is exacerbated by men’s working patterns. Excessive time away from the home means that about half of all Japanese marriages are sexless. If this were not enough, recent tests show Japanese men to have extremely low sperm counts, much like those in Denmark, but well below those in Finland. Thus, if the government wishes to help the issue of fertility, it faces a daunting task of reducing child care costs, reducing male work time, and also finding a way to increase male sperm counts! The 28 papers will be published shortly by the Nihon University Population Research Institute (NUPRI) and in various journals.

Jennifer Robertson (Anthropology) spent most of fall semester in Japan visiting robotics laboratories and conducting research on humanoid robots, focusing on “roboethics” and human-humanoid interface. She received a CJS Faculty Research Grant as well as a National Endowment for the Humanities/Advanced Research in the Social Sciences on Japan Fellowship to conduct this research. From May-June 2009, Professor Robertson will be a Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Tel Aviv University, Israel. During her stay there, she will conduct a four-week graduate seminar on image-based ethnography. This past fall, she was featured in a Japanese language edition of *Newsweek* article entitled 最先端ロボットの中に神道の伝統もいきる: ジェニファー・ロバートソン (Saisentan robotto no naka ni shinto no dentō mo ikiru: Jienifua Robaatosen, “Shinto traditions are alive within the most advanced robots: Jennifer Robertson” (15 October, p. 55). Based on several interviews with Robert Calum, who wrote the piece in English; photographed by Jeffrey Sauger, this issue of the magazine contained a featured story on thirty-one foreigners from all over the world who “deeply understand” Japanese culture.

## New Books by CJS Faculty, Alumni & Friends

*An Age of Melodrama: Family, Gender, and Social Hierarchy in the Turn-of-the-Century Japanese Novel*

CJS Director Ken K. Ito’s new book, *An Age of Melodrama: Family, Gender, and Social Hierarchy in the Turn-of-the-Century Japanese Novel* (Stanford University Press, 2008), argues that Meiji fiction contained a strong strain of melodrama, the literary attempt to articulate moral certitude by enacting polarized and hyperbolic conflicts between good and evil.

The book examines, in particular, how the moral polarities of melodrama were employed to represent the Japanese family. Although melodramas everywhere tend to focus on families, the concern with families is particularly acute in Meiji novels because they were produced at a historical moment when the Japanese government worked to install a specific model of the family—the *ie*, or the “house,” a reconstructed version of the “traditional” multi-generational patriarchal family—as an arm of the state and a moral bulwark against the dislocations of modernity. As a moral literature engaged with the flux of modernity, melodrama could not but take up an institution that was seen by state-aligned ideologues as the moral center of the nation. Ito’s book examines how Meiji melodramatic novels located morality in a plethora of alternatives models of family—*fictive families*—which both reflected and responded to the exigencies of social dislocation in Meiji modernity.



The book examines how melodrama structures the portrayal of social problems in four immensely popular novels. *Hototogisu* (The Cuckoo, 1898-99) by Tokutomi Roka, wrestles with the conflicts between the *ie* and the *katei*, a newer model of family built upon Western notions of domesticity; *Konjiki yasha* (The Golden Demon, 1897-1903) by Ozaki Kōyō, struggles to free love from money in a capitalist economy; *Chikyōdai* (Sisters Suckled at the Same Breast, 1903) by Kikuchi Yūhō, addresses the contradictions of female social aspiration in an era that celebrated social mobility while severely limiting opportunities for women; and *Gubijinsō* (The Poppy, 1907) by Natsume Sōseki, dramatizes female resistance to marriage ties determined by men. These novels pressure the *ie in* different ways and seek solutions in distinct versions of the fictive family. Although these solutions reach for certitude, they inevitably end in ideological contradiction, principally because the complex social issues they address resist easy ideological closure.

The novels that Ito takes up are understudied works both in the United States and Japan, especially considering their vast cultural impact in their time. This may be because current paradigms for understanding Meiji fiction, built upon the now-canonized works written at the very end of the Meiji period, provide little purchase in the study of novels produced earlier in the era. Ito’s recruitment of the concept of melodrama provides critical leverage for seriously reading the important fiction of the turn of the century. His book—which was researched using grants from the Center for Japanese Studies—suggests that melodrama was one of Meiji culture’s central means for understanding itself.

*Cinema Babel: Translating Global Cinema*

Abé Mark Nornes (Professor, Screen Arts & Cultures, Asian Languages & Cultures) recently published *Cinema Babel: Translating Global Cinema* (University of Minnesota Press, 2007). An ambitious project, it is global in scope and covers over a hundred years of film and television history. The premise is that film was a globalized medium from the very beginning, but that none of this transnational traffic would have been possible without tens of thousands of interpreters, dubbers, and subtitlers toiling away, anonymously, in the background. The book expands the basic argument issued in an earlier, and somewhat notorious, essay entitled, “For an Abusive Subtitling.”

*Cinema Babel* represents the first attempt at a sustained historicization and theorization of film translation from the discipline of film studies. Indeed, while film studies scholars regularly deploy translation as a metaphor, actual translation practice has rarely come under scrutiny. Most research originates in other disciplines and is generally social-scientific, scrupulously apolitical, ahistorical, and too often theoretically dissatisfying. *Cinema Babel* begins by examining translators’ extra-filmic contributions to film culture. After the first chapter’s investigation of interpretation for co-productions and film festivals, the second analyzes the Japanese translation of a British book to illustrate the impact ideas can have on faraway film cultures. These first two chapters, along with the introduction, also establish the theoretical groundwork for the subsequent history of film translation. Curiously enough, the beginning of cinema starts at the middle of the book, and the last chapters uncover the uneven history of trans-



Abé Mark Nornes

lation, from early cinema to the present day. By looking carefully at the history of film translation and theorizing its practice,

Nornes argues for alternative modes of translation based on new notions of fidelity that are nascent in contemporary film culture. *Cinema Babel* also engages the debates over the transnational character of cinema. For all the attention given to “globalization,” there are very few attempts to write globally. Most books take a national or regional context and extrapolate a case study from that starting=end point. Their treatment of globalization is restricted to local and/or diasporic contexts and their interconnections. In film studies, these tendencies are dramatized in the somewhat schizophrenic split between the universalizing moves of introductory pedagogy and scholarship on Hollywood cinema on the one hand, and strong emphasis on the differences of national cinemas on the other; and skirting the interstices of these two paradigms are the studies in global film which restrict themselves to immigrant communities. Nornes’ focus on translation mediates these positions and attempts to think about film and television from a new vantage point. The book was the fruit of many years of research, some of which was supported by grants from the Center for Japanese Studies.

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**Brian Dowdle** (ALC, PhD) is in Japan on a Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship where he is conducting research at Nihon Daigaku.

**Joshua Eisenman** (CJS MA, 2006) is now working as a Quality Assurance Software Engineer at Computer Associated in Seattle, Washington.

**George W. Gish, Jr.** (CJS MA, 1967) has just begun his fifth year as Coordinator of the International Community Development Division of the Edogawa City College of Life Program in the eastern section of Tokyo which now has over 22,000 foreign residents. In recent years, Edogawa-ku has become known as the center for the growing number of high-tech computer specialists from India, as well as other groups of international persons with the largest numbers coming from China, Korea, and the Philippines. Most of the students in the international community program are Japanese with a wide variety of international experience, many having recently retired and looking for ways of serving the needs of the growing foreign population and developing a more inclusive and supportive community. In 2003, Gish became Professor Emeritus of Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo where he taught Japanese cultural history with a speciality in Japanese traditional music. His research and activities related to *biwa* music, which began under the tutelage of Dr. William Malm, are still continuing, if at a somewhat more relaxed pace.

**Simone C. Heron** (CJS MA/MBA) graduated in August 2008.

**Anne Hooghart** (CJS MA, 1995) and her husband **Andy Gillman** (ALC BA, 1989) are involved in an unusual experiment with their daughters, Kasey (3) and Cassidy (1). Though neither parent is a native speaker of Japanese, they are raising their children in Ypsilanti, Michigan so that Japanese is the primary language spoken at home, and is therefore their children's first language, and English (spoken at their daycare) their second. They make use of Japanese satellite TV, videos, books, and even Japanese-speaking babysitters, with the hope of ultimately saving the girls time in attaining proficiency in Japanese (or any other language they might choose when older).

**Toshie Imada** (Psychology, PhD) graduated in August 2008 and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota.

**Isao Kamata** (Economics, PhD) completed his PhD program in August 2008. The degree was granted this past December.

**Brooke M. Lathram** (CJA MA) graduated in August 2008.

**Jessica Morton** (CJS MA, 2002) was married to William Lee in Los Cabos, Mexico in July 2008. They currently live in Kirkland, Washington where Jessica continues to teach Japanese and coach tennis at a local high school.

**Zachary T. Wilkinson** (CJS MA) graduated in August 2008.

**Scholarship Awardee Undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship**  
**Michelle Y. Kim**, Art and Design

# ANNOUNCEMENTS:

## Educator and Student Outreach

Community Outreach at CJS is a concept that is flexible, responsive to change, and adheres to the basic principle of "reaching out" to various communities on different levels. This spring, CJS will also host and co-host two workshops for area K-12 educators. The first workshop, held on Saturday, February 14, introduced educators to the New Year family customs and traditions of Japan, China, and Korea. The March 7 workshop will utilize Japanese film as a medium for teaching Japanese culture in the social studies or Japanese language classroom.

## Student Opportunities

CJS also collaborates with area schools and organizations, and participates in a variety of student-oriented workshops and programs. On October 26, CJS coordinated Japanese storytelling, origami, and songs for *Japanese Cultural Journey*, a part of the Ann Arbor Art Center's exhibit, *Displaced Spirit*. This spring, CJS will participate in *World Languages' Week* at Hartland High School from March 2-6, and the International Speaker Brown Bag Lunch at Berkshire Middle School. If you are a current MA or PhD student in Japanese studies, and are interested in participating in either of these events, please contact [hclittle@umich.edu](mailto:hclittle@umich.edu). Events such as these are wonderful opportunities to extend your knowledge of Japan to motivated K-12 students!

## Asia Library Travel Grants

Grants up to \$700 are available to help defray the cost of travel, lodging, meals, and photo duplication for Japan scholars at other institutions who wish to utilize the collection at the University of Michigan Asia Library from July 1, 2008 until June 30, 2009. More information about the library is available at: <http://www.lib.umich.edu/asia/>, or by contacting the Library Assistant at 734.764.0406.

Interested scholars should submit a letter of application, a brief statement to the Center describing their research and their need to use the collection (not to exceed 250 words), a list of sources they would like to access (applicants must check availability of these sources in the Library's online catalog before submitting applications), a current curriculum vita, a budget, and proposed travel dates.

The Center accepts applications until May 31, 2009 by email at [umcjs@umich.edu](mailto:umcjs@umich.edu) or by mail at:

Asia Library Travel Grants  
Center for Japanese Studies  
Suite 4640, 1080 South University  
The University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106

## Articles Requested from CJS Alumni and Former Visitors

CJS would like to publish short articles written by our former students and visitors which focus on their experiences at CJS/U-M or feature a recently published book. Interested people should contact us at [umcjs@umich.edu](mailto:umcjs@umich.edu).





### February

**5 Noon Lecture\*:** "Socializing Politeness," **Matthew Burdelski**; Lecturer, East Asian Languages and Cultures; California State University, Long Beach.

**12 Noon Lecture\*:** "Culture of the Four Seasons: Secondary Nature, Social Difference, and Trans-Seasonality," **Haruo Shirane**; Shincho Professor, Japanese Literature and Culture; Columbia University.

**17 Special Lecture:** "Cross-Currents: The Cinemas of Japan, China, and Korea," **Tom Vick**; Film programmer, Freer and Sackler Galleries; The Smithsonian Institution; 4:30pm; Rackham Amphitheater (Co-sponsored by the U-M Center for Korean Studies and the Center for Chinese Studies.)

**19 Noon Lecture\*:** "Japanese Temples and Congregations in Early Shin Buddhism," **James Dobbins**; Fairchild Professor, Religion; Oberlin College.

### March

**2 Noon Lecture\*:** "Medicine on Trial: The Soma Incident, Private Confinement, and the Limits of Psychiatry in Modern Japan," **Susan Burns**; Associate Professor, History; The University of Chicago.

**12 Noon Lecture\*:** "Confronting Natural Disasters on the Echigo Plain," **Phillip Brown**; Associate Professor, History; The Ohio State University.

**14 K-12 Event:** 16th Annual **Michigan Japanese Quiz Bowl**; Modern Languages Building (Co-sponsored by the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan, the Consulate-General of Japan in Detroit, and the Japan Business Society of Detroit.)

**19 Noon Lecture\*:** "Rethinking the Political: Power and Popular Culture in Early Modern Japan," **Katsuya Hirano**; Winter 2009 Toyota Visiting Professor, CJS; Assistant Professor, History; Cornell University.

**21 Symposium:** "A New Era Dawns for Asian Capital Markets," Presented by the Asia Law Society. For more information, visit: <http://students.law.umich.edu/als/>.

### April

**5 Noon Lecture\*:** "Physician Communication Styles in Outpatient Care in Japan: A Qualitative Study," **B.T. Slingsby**; Freeman Research Fellow, University of Hawaii; Visiting Research Fellow, University of Tokyo; Adjunct Assistant Professor, Kyoto University.

**17 Conference:** "Financial Bubbles, Banking Bailouts, and Automotive Survival: A U.S.-Japan Comparison," For more information, see page 5. To register, contact Jane Ozanich ([jozanich@umich.edu](mailto:jozanich@umich.edu)).

*\*All noon lectures are free and open to the public. They run from 12 noon to 1pm in Room 1636 (SSWB) unless otherwise noted. The noon lectures are made possible in part by a Title VI grant from the U.S. Department of Education.*

*Please visit CJS's website for up-to-date information: <http://www.i.umich.edu/cjs/events/calendar.html>.*

### From the Executive Editor

continued from page 1

out in the story and structure of the film and its context. These different versions of *A Page of Madness* were developed at the time in varying interpretations of a film fundamentally about differing perceptions and conflicting worlds, and ironically realized the fact that the film existing today is not the one originally released. Including a detailed analysis of the film and translations of contemporary reviews and shooting notes for scenes missing from the current print, Gerow's book offers provocative insight into the fascinating film *A Page of Madness* was—and still is—and into the struggles over this work that tried to articulate the place of cinema in Japanese society and modernity. *A Page of Madness: Cinema and Modernity in 1920s Japan* is no. 64 in our Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies (2008, illustrations, ISBN 978-1-929280-51-3 [cloth], \$50.00; ISBN 978-1-929280-52-0 [paper], \$22.00).

Aaron Gerow is assistant professor of Japanese cinema at Yale University and has published widely in a variety of languages on early, wartime, and recent Japanese film and culture. He is the author of *Kitano Takeshi* (BFI, 2007) and a forthcoming book on Taisho film culture from the University of California Press.

For our second film title, Aaron Gerow teams up with Abé Mark Nornes as co-author of *Research Guide to Japanese Film Studies*. This guide provides a snapshot of all the archival and bibliographic resources available to students and scholars of Japanese cinema.

Among the nations of the world, Japan has enjoyed an impressively lively print culture related to cinema. The first film books and periodicals appeared shortly after the birth of cinema, proliferating wildly in the 1910s with only the slightest pause in the dark days of WWII. The numbers of publications match the enormous scale of film production, but with the lack of support for film studies in Japan, much of it remains as uncharted territory, with few maps to negotiate the maze of material.

This book is the first all-embracing guide ever published for approaching the complex archive for Japanese cinema. It lists all the libraries and film archives in the world with significant collections of film prints, still photographs, archival records, books, and periodicals. It provides a comprehensive, annotated bibliography of the core books and magazines for the field, and it supplies hints for how to find and access materials for any research project. Above and beyond that, Nornes and Gerow's *Research Guide to Japanese Film Studies* constitutes a comprehensive overview of the impressive dimensions and depth of the print culture surrounding Japanese film, and a guideline for future research in the field. This is an essential book for anyone seriously thinking about Japan and its cinema (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies no. 65, 2009, ISBN 978-1-929280-53-7 [cloth], \$60.00; ISBN 978-1-929280-54-4 [paper], \$25.00).

Abé Mark Nornes is Professor of Asian Cinema here at the University of Michigan, where he specializes in Japanese film and documentary. He is the author of *Cinema Babel: Translating Global Cinema*, a theoretical and historical look at the role of translation in film history. (See article on page 7.) He also wrote two books on nonfiction film in Japan: *Forest of Pressure: Ogawa Shinsuke and Postwar Japanese Documentary* and *Japanese Documentary Film: From the Meiji Era to Hiroshima* (all from the University of Minnesota Press).

**Bruce Willoughby**  
Executive Editor  
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