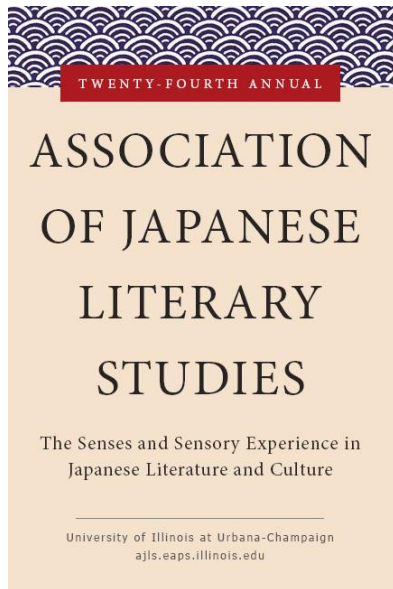


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PAJLS 17:
*The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature
and Culture.*

Ed. Robert Tierney and Elizabeth Oyler

PAJLS

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PAJLS PUBLICATION: All papers presented during the annual meeting can be included in the PAJLS. All contributors are allowed to revise their papers after their presentation. The proceedings of the annual meeting is published the following year.

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PREFACE

Robert Tierney and Elizabeth Oyler
Co-chairs, 24th AJLS Conference Organizing Committee.

The 24th Annual Meeting of AJLS was held on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign on October 9th to 10th, 2015. The theme of the meeting was “The Senses and Sensory Experience in Japanese Literature and Culture.” The meeting featured twelve panels with forty-five paper presenters. More than sixty proposals were submitted in response to the call for papers. To encourage participation by younger scholars, the organizing committee aimed to achieve a balance of graduate students and non-tenured faculty together with senior scholars. Panels dealt with all five senses in Japanese literature, film, and performing arts as well as the larger religious, aesthetic, philosophical, and historical issues related to human sensory experience. Intellectually stimulating and wide-ranging, they were almost evenly split between modern and premodern periods.

On Friday evening, participants took part in a demonstration of the Japanese art of incense organized by Kiyoko Morita, author of *The Book of Incense* and Masataka Hata, President, Shoyeido Incense Co. The event, titled “An Intangible Sense: The Art of Incense Demonstration,” was held at the Japan House on the University of Illinois campus and was followed by a reception. On the last night of the conference, Aaron Gerow, professor of Film and Media Studies and East Asian Languages and Literatures at Yale University, delivered a keynote lecture on *Kawabata and Cinema: The Ambivalence of Knowledge, Medium, and Influence*.

The logistics and organization, as well as substantial funding for this meeting, was provided by the university’s Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. We also received generous grants from the School of Literatures, Cultures, and Linguistics in the University of Illinois’ College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as well as the Japan Foundation, New York office. We are grateful for co-sponsorships from the Center for Translation Studies, the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, and the Program of Comparative and World Literatures. We would like to express our appreciation to Japan House for hosting Friday’s incense ceremony and reception.

Finally we would like to offer our deepest gratitude to Prof. Eiji Sekine for his assistance and encouragement at different stages of this project, to the staff of the CEAPS and Jonathan Thumas for assistance in the production of this proceedings volume.

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THE SENSES AND SENSORY EXPERIENCE IN JAPANESE LITERATURE AND CULTURE

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