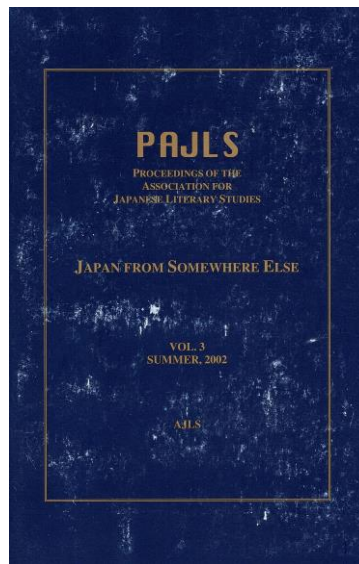


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*Proceedings of the Association for Japanese
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Including “About Guest Writers”



PAJLS 3:

Japan From Somewhere Else.

Eiji Sekine, Editor; Joyce L. Detzner, Production Editor.

ABOUT GUEST WRITERS



L to R: Philip Kan Gotanda, Kyoko Mori, Ruth L. Ozeki,
Mako Yoshikawa and Holly Uyemoto



Philip Kan Gotanda and Ruth L. Ozeki



Mako Yoshikawa and Holly Uyemoto



Yoko Tawada



L to R: Gotanda, Mori, Ozeki, and Yoshikawa



Hiromi Ito



Hosea Hirata and Charles Inouye



L to R: Gotanda, Mori, Ozeki, Yoshikawa, Uyemoto and Inouye



PHILIP KAN GOTANDA

Philip Kan Gotanda is one of the nation's leading playwrights. Over the last two decades his works have been presented at theaters across the country and have been a major influence in the broadening of our definition of theater in America.

He has worked with seminal culturally specific venues such as East West Players, Asian American Theatre Company, as well as larger mainstream institutions such as Boston's Huntington Theatre, Manhattan Theatre Club, Mark Taper Forum, New York Shakespeare Festival among others. Well known in American theater circles, Gotanda's work is also reaching an international audience. Last year his play *The Ballad of Yachiyo* opened at London's Gate Theatre in co-production with the National Royal Theatre to strong notices. Gotanda has just returned from London where he has been workshopping his play "floating weeds" at the Royal Court Theatre. Gotanda is presently developing works for San Jose Repertory (an adaptation of *Hedda Gabler*) and the American Conservatory Theatre (an adaptation of *Roshomon*). He is an Associate Artist at Seattle Repertory Theatre.

Gotanda is also a respected independent filmmaker, producing works seen in film festivals around the world. His recent feature film debut, *Life Tastes Good*, which he wrote and directed himself and co-executive produced with his business partner, attorney Dale Minami, was screened at the Sundance Film Festival and most recently at the Dublin Film Festival. It is being released by Outrider Pictures. Gotanda is presently developing his next film, which will feature an international Asian cast. On the screenwriting side, he is

adapting his play, *Yohen*, about an interracial marriage of an African American man and a Japanese woman, into a movie for Showtime and Danny Glover's company, Carrie Productions.

Over the last two decades, Mr. Gotanda has embodied the heart and spirit of an artist dedicated to the telling of his own particular world's stories, in his own particular way. In the process, he has created one of the largest and most varied bodies of Asian Pacific American-themed work. Gotanda has shown to us that an unwavering commitment to one's own unique voice only allows for the vision to deepen and grow. Mr. Gotanda holds a law degree from Hastings College of Law and studied pottery in Japan with the late Hiroshi Seto. He lives in San Francisco.



伊藤比呂美（撮影・英隆）
一九五五年九月一三日東京生。青山
学院大卒。公立中学教師、ワルシヤ
ワ日本入学校国語教師等々を経て現
在に至る。著書に「伊藤比呂美詩集」
「感情線のびた」「テリトリ―論」
「良いおっぱい悪いおっぱい」等。

HIROMI ITO

Born in 1955 in Tokyo. Poet, novelist, essayist. Graduated from Aoyama Gakuin University. In the late seventies she began publishing poetry and was instantly recognized as an astounding new voice in modern Japanese poetry. Her book of poems *Ao Ume* (blue plum) was published in 1982 by a poetry publishing house (Shichōsha). The book was reissued as a paperback (bunko) six years later by a major publishing company, Shūeisha. Her other published works include *On Territory* (1985), *I am Anjuhimeko* (1993), collection of essays such as *Tummy, Cheek, Bottom* (1987), and *Good Breasts, Bad Breasts* (1985; subsequently made into a film). Her novel *Family Art* (1993) was a finalist for the Mishima Yukio Prize. In 1998, her story "House Plant" was nominated for the Akutagawa Prize. In 1999,

her novel *La Niña* was again a finalist for the Akutagawa Prize. She now resides in California.



RUTH L. OZEKI

Ruth L. Ozeki graduated summa laude from Smith College, Massachusetts, with degrees in English Literature and Asian Studies. She then received a Japanese Ministry of Education Fellowship and went to Japan to do graduate work in classical Japanese literature. On her return to the United States, she began her film career as an art director for low-budget horror movies, before moving on to Japanese production work.

After several years of coordinating and directing documentary-style television programs, she started making her own films, which have received awards, festival recognition and international distribution. *Body of Correspondence* was produced in 1994. Her second independent film in 1995, *Halving The Bones*, was about her mother and was a way of commemorating her. *My Year Of Meat* is Ms. Ozeki's first novel.



KYOKO MORI

A poet, novelist, and nonfiction writer, Kyoko Mori was raised in Kobe, Japan, and, inspired by her mother and grandfather, began to write in both Japanese and English at an early age. She says, “These two people in my family gave me the idea that writing was something we did everyday or even every week with enjoyment.” At age 12, Ms. Mori was devastated when her mother committed suicide. She moved to the United States four years later to attend college, receiving her bachelor’s degree from Rockford College and a master’s and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin. Her first novel for young adults, *Shizuko’s Daughter* (1993), was followed by a collection of poetry, *Fallout* (1994). In Mori’s well-received memoir *The Dream of Water* (1995), she travels back to Kobe to make peace with her mother’s suicide and to visit the family she left behind. That same year she published her second young adult novel, *One Bird* (1995). *Polite Lies*, essays about her life as a Japanese American woman in the Midwest, was published in 1998. *Stone Field, True Arrow* (2000) marks her first book of adult fiction and relates the story of a middle-aged woman’s awakening after her father dies in Japan. Ms. Mori is currently a Briggs-Copeland lecturer in Creative Writing at Harvard University.

YOKO TAWADA

多和田 葉子



YOKO TAWADA

Yōko Tawada is one of the few writers in the world who write in two entirely different languages: in her case, Japanese and German. She grew up in Tokyo and attended Waseda University, where she studied Russian literature. In 1982 she arrived in Hamburg, Germany, as an intern at a book export company. In 1987, she published a bilingual collection of poems and stories, *Nur da wo du bist da ist nichts*. Supporting herself as a translator and tutor, she began to attend Hamburg University and wrote a Masters thesis in German literature. In 1991, her Japanese fiction, “Missing Heels” won the Gunzo New Writer’s Award. Two years after, she received the Akutagawa Prize for “The Bridegroom was a Dog.” In 1996, she was awarded the Adelbert von Chamisso Prize, given to foreign writers in recognition for their contribution to German culture. In 2000, she completed her Ph.D. degree in German literature from the University of Zürich. The same year, she won the Izumi Kyoka prize in Japan. Two books have been published in English: *The Bridegroom was a Dog* (Kodansha International, 1998) and *Where Europe Begins* (New Directions, 2002).



HOLLY UYEMOTO

Holly Uyemoto quit high school at age 15 to write her first work of fiction, *Rebel Without A Clue* (Crown 1989.) Uyemoto published her second book *Go* (Penguin Viking 1995) and returned to school, earning a bachelor's degree from Wellesley College in 2000. Her forthcoming post-collegiate novel is titled *Two Story House at Pacific and America* and she is currently at work on *Year of the Dogs*, the story of caring for a terminally ill uncle, born in 1934 (a Wood Dog year) and getting a dog, Shadow the Madow, who is now 2 years old. Uyemoto and the Madow live in Boston.



MAKO YOSHIKAWA

Mako Yoshikawa is the author of a novel, *One Hundred and One Ways* (Bantam, 1999; paperback in 2000). A national bestseller in the United States, the novel has been translated into six languages. Yoshikawa has a Masters in English Literature (Shakespeare) from Oxford University, and is completing her dissertation, "Telling Transgressions: Incest and Miscegenation in the 20th-Century Novel," at the University of Michigan. She has published an article on incest in *Sapphira and the Slave Girl in Willa Cather's Southern Connections* (the University of Virginia Press), and has an essay on Kathryn Harrison forthcoming in *Thicker than Water: Incest and the Literary Imagination* (the University of Florida Press).

Yoshikawa was a Bunting Fellow at

Harvard University in 1999-2000. She has taught literature and creative writing at Tufts and at Columbia, where she received her undergraduate degree.

Her second novel, *Once Removed*, will be published in 2003.

AJLS ANNUAL MEETING

The Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies was held at Purdue University on October 4-6, 2002, featuring the theme "Japanese Poeticity and Narrativity Revisited." Four guests from Japan provided us with thought-provoking lectures and a moving poetry reading performance (Professors Mizuta Noriko, Kojima Naoko, Yoshimasu Gôzô, and Ms. Marilya Yoshimasu). Twenty-nine AJLS members presented their papers discussing a variety of aspects of poetical and narrative characteristics in Japanese literature.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies is scheduled to be held at University of California, Los Angeles, November 21-23, 2003. This year's meeting will feature the theme of "Hermeneutical Strategies: Methods of Interpretation in the Study of Japanese Literature." All inquiries about the meeting should be sent to Professor Michael F. Marra, Conference Chair, UCLA, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, 290 Royce Hall 154003, Los Angeles, CA 90095-1540, USA; 310-794-8941 (Tel); 310-825-8808 (Fax); <http://www.humnet.ucla.edu/ealc/faculty/marra/conference/cfp.html> (Web site).

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AJLS's mailing address has changed to: AJLS, Purdue University, 640 Oval Drive, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2039, USA. Our web site is: <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/fl/AJLS>. Electronic copies of our current and past newsletters are available here, together with tables of contents of the proceedings we have published.

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BACK ISSUES

Back issues of the proceedings of the previous conferences are available. Each copy is \$10.00 for AJLS members and \$15.00 for non-members (shipping included). Orders should be sent to AJLS office. Visit our Web site for the tables of contents of our back issues: <http://www.sla.purdue.edu/fli/AJLS>.

- *Poetics of Japanese Literature*: vi + 207p, 1993. Includes keynote addresses by Kawamoto Kôji and Watanabe Kenji, and nine more essays on Japanese poetics and poeticity.
- *The Desire for Monogatari*, 1994 (out of print)
- *Japanese Theatricality and Performance*, 1995 (out of print)
- *Revisionism in Japanese Literary Studies*, PMAJLS, vol. 2: vi + 336p, 1996. Includes a keynote address by Earl Miner and a major address by Takahashi Tôru, and ten more essays, which discuss on theoretically charged readings in the current trend of Japanese literary studies.
- *Ga/ Zoku Dynamics in Japanese Literature*, 1997 (out of print)
- *The New Historicism and Japanese Literary Studies*, PMAJLS, vol. 4: xxiii + 432p, 1998. Includes keynote addresses by Karatani Kôjin and Komori Yôichi, and twenty-four more essays, which reexamine literary texts from new historicist and historicity conscious standpoints.
- *Love and Sexuality in Japanese Literature*, PMAJLS, vol.5: vi + 352 pp, 1999. Includes keynote addresses by Saeiki Junko and Inaga Shigemi and twenty-seven essays on the issues of Japanese literary love and sexuality
- *Issues of Canonicity and Canon Formation in Japanese Literary Studies*, PAJLS, vol. 1: vi + 532p, 2000. Includes keynote addresses by Kubota Jun, Takahashi Mutsuo, and Suzuki Sadami and thirty-one essays on the issue of Japanese literary canonicity.
- *Acts of Writing*, PAJLS, vol. 2: ix + 428p, 2001. Includes keynote addresses by Zdenka Avarcova and Ohsawa Yoshihiro and twenty-two essays examining the issue of writing.

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