AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

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Edited by Eiji Sekine

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TWENTY- FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

Rhetoric and Region:
The Local Determinants of Literary Expression

October 12-14, 2012 The Ohio State University

Call for Papers

The theme of the 2012 Association for Japanese Literary Studies is "Rhetoric and Region: The Local Determinants of Literary Expression." The theme of the conference will also be inclusive of a broad spectrum of papers and panels. It will provide a forum for those with an interest in individual writers and will also be inclusive of papers on a broad spectrum of genres—travel writing, poetry, diaries, memoirs, essays. In terms of the relation between linguistics, literature, and place, we anticipate panels both in classical and modern Japanese literature that concern nonstandard usage, the representation of dialects, and such theoretical issues as the unique nature of the utterance in time and space, or the idea of chronotopes in relation to Japanese literature. Film, too, is a fruitful subject for exploration at this conference.

We encourage papers from those in a variety of disciplines and hope that the conference will be as inclusive as possible.

Proposals may come either from indi-

viduals or from panels. Graduate students are especially welcome. Presentations may be delivered in either English or Japanese.

The deadline for panel, roundtable, and individual paper proposals is June 1, 2012.

Please address you proposal (including an abstract of 250 words) or queries to the program committee in care of stucky.7@osu.edu; Tel: 614-292-3345; and Fax: 614-292-7589. A link to the conference website is found at http://japan.osu.edu.

2011 Meeting Report

The annual conference of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies focused on "The Poetics of Aging: Confronting, Resisting, and Transcending Mortality in the Japanese Narrative Arts." Approximately 70 people attended the three-day conference at Tufts University, held November 4-6, 2011.

Nobel Laureate Ōe Kenzaburō gave the keynote address, "Late Style in the Ominous Radiance of Fukushima". Weighed down by the recent natural disasters in Japan, Ōe spoke movingly of the "sadness of things", and of how this enduring value of Japanese culture was being misunderstood and, even, in danger of being lost.

Over the following two days, twenty-five scholars, who had gathered from as far away as Tasmania and Italy, participated in four structured conversations: Age, Gender, and Genre (moderated by Hosea Hirata); Death (moderated by Charles Inouye); Men in Their Final Years (moderated by Susan Napier); and Women in Their Final Years (moderated by Karen Thornber).

More people applied than were able to become participants in the conference. But in order to accommodate as many presenters as possible, we made the decision to use our time together to talk about previously submitted papers rather than have each person read their work. This required that the members of each discussion post beforehand to a website, familiarize themselves with each other's drafts, and come prepared to interact with each other rather than simply repeat what they had written. For many of the participants, this new format proved challenging; but, in the end, the opportunity to think publically about each other's work moved the discussion forward and has led to improved articles.

Practically all participants submitted drafts for publication in the *Proceedings*, which is now being edited for publication by the end of the year.

We would like to express our gratitude for all those who participated in the conference and helped make our time together productive and enjoyable. We would also like to thank a number of organizations who supported the conference: the Office of the President Tufts University, the Office of the Dean

of Arts and Sciences Tufts University, the Center for Humanities Tufts University, the Japan Foundation, The Diversity Fund Tufts University, the Charles Smith Foundation Tufts Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures, the Northeast Asia Council, and the Harvard University.

Tufts AJLS Conference Committee Hosea Hirata, Charles Inouye, Susan Napier

AJLS Activities

Please join us or renew your membership regularly. Our publications solely depend on your membership dues.

We are renewing our membership database. Please resubmit your email address even if you are already a member.

Annual Meeting

An annual meeting is organized by an elected Conference Chair(s) and held at the host institution. A call for papers is announced in the spring issue of the AJLS Newsletter. A program of the meeting is published in the fall issue of the Newsletter.

PAJLS Publication

All papers presented during the annual meeting can be included in an officially registered serial titled <u>PAJLS</u> (Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies).

Membership

The annual fee is \$25.00 for regular, student, and institution members (\$35.00 for overseas members outside North America). Membership provides you with:

- Panel participation for our annual meeting (if your proposal is selected).
- Two newsletters
- One copy of our latest proceedings.

- One free copy of a back or additional current issue of the proceedings if you are a student member.

Inquiries and orders (with checks payable to AJLS) should be sent to the AJLS office. All annual meeting participants must become members in order to present.

Proceedings Back Issues

Our 2010 conference proceedings (PAJLS, vol. 12) and 2011 conference proceedings (PAJLS, vol. 13) will be published by the end of this year. Each back issue is \$10.00 for AJLS members and \$15.00 for non-members. Orders should be sent to the AJLS office. (Add \$15 for mailing if you order from outside the North American area.) Tables of contents of our back issues are posted on our web site at: www.cla.purdue.edu/fll/AJLS. The following back issues are available:

Japan from Somewhere Else, PAJLS 3, 2002.

Japanese Poeticity and Narrativity Revisited, PAJLS 4, 2003.

Hermeneutical Strategies: Methods of Interpretations in the Study of Japanese Literature, PAJLS 5, 2004.

Landscapes Imagined and Remembered PAJLS 6, 2005.

Reading Materials: The Production of Narratives, Genres, and Literary Identities, PAILS 7, 2006.

Travel in Japanese Representational Culture: Its Pat, Present, and Future, PAJLS 8, 2007.

Literature and Literary Theory, <u>PAJLS</u> 9, 2008.

Parody, PAJLS 10, 2009.

Rethinking Gender in the Postgender Era, PAJLS 11, 2010.

U of Chicago will host in 2013

The University of Chicago will host our 2013 meeting. We have two more hosts lined up: Western Washington University for 2014 and University of Illinois /Champaign-Urbana for 2015. We are looking for people who will be willing to chair our 2016 and later conferences.

If you are interested in hosting our meeting, please contact Professor Ann Sherif at: ann.sherif@oberlin.edu.

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PAPER/PANEL PROPOSAL FORM Rhetoric and Region DEADLINE: JUNE 1, 2012

Name (Moderator or Paneli	st):	
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Please attach your proposal to this form and send to stucky. 7@ osu. edu or mail to: Institute for Japanese Studies, The Ohio State University, 1712 Neil Ave., 306 Oxley Hall, Columbus, OH 43210, USA

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