

AJLS Newsletter

Association for Japanese Literary Studies

No. 21 (Spring, 2005)

Edited by Eiji Sekine

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<http://www.sla.purdue.edu/fil/AJLS> (Web site)

Reading Material:

The Production of Narratives, Genres and Literary Identities

October 7- 9, 2005

Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH

Call for Papers

The organizers of the AJLS conference for 2005 invite paper and panel proposals that explore the relationship between the content of literary texts (fictional narratives, history, poetry) and the materials by which texts are produced and disseminated. For guidance in formulating topics, we ask our colleagues to look at a number of influential studies that have investigated the manner in which technological advances have prompted changes in other dimensions of the reading/interpretive process. Walter Benjamin's "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction" (1936) speculates on the links between the technology of duplication and the formation of subjectivity. Though his primary concern is film and photography, his insights apply equally to literary texts. Maeda Ai, in his Kindai dokusha no seiritsu (1973) locates in the Meiji era shift to print culture the origins of a very new sort of reader. Peter Kornicki's The Book in Japan (1998) provides a detailed study of the evolution of the technology of texts through Japan's history, while Benedict Anderson's Imagined Communities (1983) outlines the way that the establishment of a shared

body of reading material produces a sense of national identity. Finally, Kôno Kensuke has examined publishing practices and their influence on modernity in Shomotsu no kindai (1992).

Topics that might be addressed include:

- modern Japanese narrative modes and the custom of newspaper serialization
- the impact of technology in the formation of readerships and communities of writers
- silent reading of modern texts compared with the communal consumption of picture scrolls (emaki)
- the relationship between professional "readers" (biwa hôshi, "yomi-uri" newspaper salesman, etc) and amateur listeners
- authorial intent and reader response in the age of anonymous manuscripts/authorial intent and reader response in the age of copyright
- the medium as message: the "literary effects" of handwritten manuscripts, reproducible woodblock texts, printed books
- the sacred materiality of religious texts
- reciting poetry (uta o yomu) vs. composing poetry (shi o kaku)
- the "one-yen book" (enpon) boom and national identity

- lending libraries and the production of community
- manuscript pedigrees and authoritative readings
- broadsheets (kawaraban) and their imagined communities
- kasutori publications and postwar liberalism
- graffiti as literary genre
- imperial poetry anthologies and the production of national poets
- publication practices and the formation of genres
- magazine culture and narrative

We welcome papers and panels on these and other related topics, though we will give priority to papers and panels that have a clear focus on literary texts (as opposed to papers that deal primarily with film or performance arts). We encourage submissions that reflect a wide range of perspectives and disciplinary methodologies.

Deadline for receipt of abstracts of no more than 250 words is **May 1, 2005**. For inquiries, contact the co-chairs:

Dennis Washburn
(dennis.washburn@dartmouth.edu)
James Dorsey
(james.dorsey@dartmouth.edu)

For details, see our conference web site: www.dartmouth.edu/~damell/AJLS_2005

2004 Meeting Report

The thirteenth annual conference, entitled "Landscapes Imagined and Remembered," was held at the University of Washington on October 22-24, 2004. The conference was made possible through the generous support of the Toshiba International Foundation, the Japan Program, the Walter Chapin Simpson Center for the Humanities, the Office of Research, the Dean's Office, and the Department of Asian Languages and Literature.

The conference, organized by Professors Paul Atkins, Davinder Bhowmik, and Ted Mack, had twenty-four presenters and three keynote speakers: Professors Matsuoka Shinpei (University of Tokyo), Nakahodo Masanori (University of the Ryukyus), and John Treat (Yale University).

All of the panels were extremely well attended, with an average audience of more than fifty individuals. We were honored to have representatives of the Seattle Consulate of Japan attend the Japanese-language keynote lectures.

We expect this conference will lead to an increased discourse on this valuable topic and to the overall vitality of Japanese literary studies, and offer many thanks to all who contributed to its success.

AJLS Activities

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 PAJLS (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.**

Josai International Univ. will host the 2006 Conference

Josai International University will host our next year's conference in the summer of 2006 in Tokyo, Japan.

We are looking for people who will be willing to chair our 2007 and later conferences. If you are interested in hosting an AJLS meeting, please contact Professor Ann Sherif at: ann.sherif@oberlin.edu or 440.775.8827.

New Proceedings and Back Issues

Recently, the new issue of our proceedings, edited by Professor Michael F. Marra, has been published. The table of contents of this new volume, "Hermeneutical Strategies: Methods of Interpretations in the Study of Japanese Literature," PAJLS, vol. 5 (xiii, 517 pp.), are posted on our web site at: www.sla.purdue.edu/fll/AJLS. This volume and the following back issues are available. Each copy is \$10.00 for AJLS members and \$15.00 for non-members. Orders should be sent to the AJLS office. (Add \$10 for mailing if you order from outside the North American area.)

Poetics of Japanese Literature: vi, 207pp, 1993.

Revisionism in Japanese Literary Studies, PMAJLS, vol. 2: vi, 336pp, 1996.

The New Historicism and Japanese Literary Studies, PMAJLS, vol. 4: xxiii, 432 pp, 1998.

Love and Sexuality in Japanese Literature, PMAJLS, vol.5: vi: 352 pp, 1999.

Issues of Canonicity and Canon Formation in Japanese Literary Studies, PAJLS, vol. 1: vi, 532 pp, 2000.

Acts of Writing, PAJLS, vol. 2: ix, 428 pp, 2001.

Japan from Somewhere Else, PAJLS, vol. 3: vi, 158 pp, 2002.

Japanese Poeticity and Narrativity Revisited, PAJLS, vol. 4: vi, 344 pp, 2003.

AJLS Membership Form

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If you are a student, indicate which free copy you would like:

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() New Historicism

() Love and Sexuality

() Canonicity

() Acts of Writing

() Japan from Somewhere Else

() Japanese Poeticity and Narrativity

() Hermeneutical Strategies

PAPER/PANEL PROPOSAL FORM

Reading Material: The Production of Narratives, Genres and Literary Identities

DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2005

Title:

Name: _____ **Status:** _____

Institution:

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ **Fax:** _____

E-mail: _____

Please send this form and your proposal electronically to the organizers or mail to: H.B. 6191 Bartlett Hall, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH 03755, U.S.A.

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