From the Executive Editor

One of our new publications, The Bluestockings of Japan: New Woman Essays and Fiction from Seitô, 1911-16, by Jan Bardsley (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies No. 60, 2007, xvi + 308 pp., 7 illustrations, ISBN 9781929280445 (cloth), $70.00, ISBN 9781929280452 (paper), $26.00), introduces English-language readers to a formative chapter in the history of Japanese feminism by presenting for the first time in English translation a collection of writings from Seitô (Bluestockings), the famed New Women’s journal of the 1910s. Launched in 1911 as a venue for women’s literary expression and replete with poetry, essays, plays, and stories, Seitô soon earned the disapproval of civic leaders, educators, and even prominent women’s rights advocates. Journalists joined these leaders in ridiculing the Bluestockings as self-indulgent, literature-loving, sake-drinking, cigarette-smoking tarts who taunted men. Yet many young women and men delighted in the Bluestockings’ rebellious stance and paid serious attention to their exploration of the “Woman Question,” their calls for women’s independence, or their critiques of romantic love and sexuality, motherhood, and the meaning of gender equality. Hundreds read the journal and many women felt inspired to contribute their own essays and stories.

The seventeen Seitô pieces collected in this book represent some of the journal’s most controversial writing four of these publications provoked either a strong reprimand or an outright ban on an entire issue by government censors. All consider topics important in debates on feminism to this day such as sexual harassment, abortion, romantic love and sexuality, motherhood, and the meaning of gender equality.

continued on page 9
End of the Long Hot Summer —

Anyone associated with QS in the decade or so from the late 1960s to the early 1970s would probably have known, without being told, what the title of the book-length translation of the fall term lecture of the fall term was going to be and who was going to give it. The title was invariably “The Long Hot Summer” and the speaker was Edward Seidensticker, professor of Japanese literature, who had just returned from a summer (if not longer) in Japan.

Each year’s “Long Hot Summer” lecture, delivered without notes to a standing-room-only crowd in the basement seminar room of Lane Hall, began as a weather report before moving on to a highly personal summary of the latest political, cultural, and sports news from Japan. Seidensticker, who had lived at least part of every year in Tokyo since 1949, was one of the few non-Japanese who knew Japan intimately. Since he was also a man of strong opinions and had a good sense of humor, his noon lecture was guaranteed to be provocative and entertaining as well as informative. Though the content of each year’s “Long Hot Summer” varied, Seidensticker regularly touched on favorite topics, including the deep cultural heritage in the Asahi Shinbun editors, the latest political scandals, and the literary regularity of the Yomiuri Giants’ baseball triumphs. Cultural topics ranged from the hottest Kabuki actors and Harajuku fashions to an endless parade of frog figurines, and numerous notes to a standing-room-only crowd in the basement seminar room of Lane Hall, began as a weather report before moving on to a highly personal summary of the latest political, cultural, and sports news from Japan. Seidensticker, who had lived at least part of every year in Tokyo since 1949, was one of the few non-Japanese who knew Japan intimately. Since he was also a man of strong opinions and had a good sense of humor, his noon lecture was guaranteed to be provocative and entertaining as well as informative. Though the content of each year’s “Long Hot Summer” varied, Seidensticker regularly touched on favorite topics, including the deep cultural heritage in the Asahi Shinbun editors, the latest political scandals, and the literary regularity of the Yomiuri Giants’ baseball triumphs. Cultural topics ranged from the hottest Kabuki actors and Harajuku fashions to an endless parade of frog figurines, and numerous notes to a standing-room-only crowd in the basement seminar room of Lane Hall, began as a weather report before moving on to a highly personal summary of the latest political, cultural, and sports news from Japan. Seidensticker, who had lived at least part of every year in Tokyo since 1949, was one of the few non-Japanese who knew Japan intimately. Since he was also a man of strong opinions and had a good sense of humor, his noon lecture was guaranteed to be provocative and entertaining as well as informative. Though the content of each year’s “Long Hot Summer” varied, Seidensticker regularly touched on favorite topics, including the deep cultural heritage in the Asahi Shinbun editors, the latest political scandals, and the literary regularity of the Yomiuri Giants’ baseball triumphs. Cultural topics ranged from the hottest Kabuki actors and Harajuku fashions to an endless parade of frog figurines, and numerous...
event. CJS appreciates contributions to this very successful event, and Kenji Niki for their contribution to JPT, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. and more than 60 volunteers from the university and community. The event simply could not happen with these volunteers, many who offer their time and help year after year. As expected, the featured activity of the Mochitsuki is, of course, the making of the mochi. In years past, CJS borrowed the traditional equipment to make this possible. This year, the Japan Publications Trading Co., Ltd. (JPT) generously donated an unusable and kiri to CJS for use at this event. The unusable and kiri arrived in October 2007 through the kind assistance of JPT’s Ryogo Watanabe and Shigemori Kon. CJS would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to JPT, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Kon, and Kenji Niki for their contribution to this very successful event. CJS appreciates all of you.

Finally, on a sad note, the 2008 Mochitsuki marked the last time CJS’s mochi “masters” would be lending their skills to the event. Since CJS’s first Mochitsuki, Iku and Yasuhiko Habara have graciously offered their experience and time overseeing the making of mochi. This spring, the Habara’s will return to Japan after many years spent in Ann Arbor; CJS will miss them dearly.

Seminar on Queer History
On January 18, 2008, over 40 people attended the seminar “New Perspectives on Japanese Queer History” held at the international studies lecture room. The seminar was convened by Mark McLelland, this year’s Toyota Visiting Professor. Dr. McLelland, a leading scholar in the study of Japan’s postwar sexual minorities, brought together a dynamic group of young scholars (Jeffrey Angles, Western Michigan University, Jilja Bullock, Emory University, Todd Henry, Colorado State University, and James Welker, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign) who have been investigating a range of archival materials previously little studied. One important resource highlighted in the event was the Gordon W. Prange collection of early postwar “pulp” magazines and newspapers available in microfiche at the Hatcher Graduate Library. “The Prange collection is an astonishingly rich source of data for understanding ordinary people’s thoughts and feelings about love, sex, and romance,” commented Dr. McLelland, “it is doubly important because it provides us with information not just about heterosexual love but also about love between women and between men in the early postwar years.”

This event was co-sponsored by the Center for Japanese Studies; the Department of Asian Languages & Cultures; the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies; the International Institute; the Lesbian-Gay Queer Research Initiative; and the Office of LGBTQ Affairs, Division of Student Affairs.

PAST EVENTS

CJS hosted its annual Mochitsuki on January 5, 2008 in the School of Social Work Building. Just under 600 people attended the event that was free and open to the public. Guest were entertained by koto and shakuhachi music performed again this year by the talented Miyabi. In addition, hundreds of people took the opportunity to try making mochi using an unused and kiri, make New Year’s calligraphy messages, listen to Japanese stories, fold origami figures, and play Japanese games. The Mochitsuki has become the single largest annual event that CJS presents each year. The success of the event is due to the enormous support and assistance given by more than 60 volunteers from the university and community. The event simply could not happen with these volunteers, many who offer their time and help year after year. As expected, the featured activity of the Mochitsuki is, of course, the making of the mochi. In years past, CJS borrowed the traditional equipment to make this possible. This year, the Japan Publications Trading Co., Ltd. (JPT) generously donated an unusable and kiri to CJS for use at this event. The unusable and kiri arrived in October 2007 through the kind assistance of JPT’s Ryogo Watanabe and Shigemori Kon. CJS would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to JPT, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Kon, and Kenji Niki for their contribution to this very successful event. CJS appreciates all of you.

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PAST EVENTS

4th Annual Mochitsuki
CJS hosted its annual Mochitsuki on January 5, 2008 in the School of Social Work Building. Just under 600 people attended the event that was free and open to the public. Guests were entertained by koto and shakuhachi music performed again this year by the talented Miyabi. In addition, hundreds of people took the opportunity to try making mochi using an unused and kiri, make New Year’s calligraphy messages, listen to Japanese stories, fold origami figures, and play Japanese games. The Mochitsuki has become the single largest annual event that CJS presents each year. The success of the event is due to the enormous support and assistance given by more than 60 volunteers from the university and community. The event simply could not happen with these volunteers, many who offer their time and help year after year. As expected, the featured activity of the Mochitsuki is, of course, the making of the mochi. In years past, CJS borrowed the traditional equipment to make this possible. This year, the Japan Publications Trading Co., Ltd. (JPT) generously donated an unusable and kiri to CJS for use at this event. The unusable and kiri arrived in October 2007 through the kind assistance of JPT’s Ryogo Watanabe and Shigemori Kon. CJS would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to JPT, Mr. Watanabe, Mr. Kon, and Kenji Niki for their contribution to this very successful event. CJS appreciates all of you.

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Faculty & Associate News

Kristine Mudhorn (Health Sciences & Administration, U-M Flint) became a Visiting Scientist at the Tokyo Metropolitan Institute of Gerontology (TMIG) in December, 2007. This is her third visit to TMIG where she is continuing her work on ICF, the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health.


Professor Robertson recently edited a special thematic issue of Critical Asian Studies (Volume 39, Issue 4) on anthropological ethics and fieldwork in Japan (http://informaworld.com) Nearly all of the contributors were her former PhD students: Ani-Elise Lewallen (”Bones of Contention: Negotiating Anthropological Ethics within Fields of Aina Refusal”), Bridget Love (”Fraught Fieldsites: Studying Community Decline and Heritage Food Revival in Rural Japan”), Elise Edwards (”An Ethics for Working Up?: Japanese Corporate Scandals and Retracing Lessons about Fieldwork”), and Tomomi Yamaguchi (”Impartial Observation and Partial Participation: Feminist Ethnography in Politically Charged Japan”.

Michael Martin (CJS MA, 2001) (Aerospace Engineering, PhD, 2007) recently relocated to Washington, DC, where he is continuing his scientific career as a National Research Council Post-Doctoral Associate at the Naval Research Laboratory.

Sherry Martin (Political Science, PhD) and Tomoko Okakaki (Political Science, PhD) are in residence at the Program on U.S.-Japan Relations at Harvard during the 2007-2008 academic year. Both are U-M graduates and former students of Professor John Campbell.

Tomomi Yamaguchi (Anthropology, PhD, 2003) finished her three-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago and became an assistant professor of anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Montana State University in August 2007. In addition, Professor Yamaguchi contributed to a special issue of Critical Asian Studies on the “Politics and Pitfalls of Japan Ethnography.” Jennifer Robertson (Professor, Anthropology) led the issue featuring other former U-M PhD graduates: Elise Edwards (Anthropology, PhD, 2003), Ani-Elise Lewallen (Anthropology, PhD, 2006) and Bridget Love (Anthropology, PhD, 2007).

Leah Zoller (CJS MA) will marry Brian Huneke on August 24, 2008. Both attended the University of Denver. Brian is a graphic designer in Ann Arbor.

The following students entered CJS’s MA program in fall 2007. Their undergraduate institutes are listed next to their names.

Erich M. Agana: University of California, Los Angeles
Lindsay A. Akashi: Washington University in St. Louis
Rachel M. Duplessis: Wayne State University
Jonathan L. Hog: University of Michigan
Maria S. Mejuto Gonzalez: Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain
Nikki A. Nabolov: University of Michigan
Aaron S. Nelson: Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Katherine E. Pawelski: Michigan State University
Christopher J. Schad: Swarthmore College
Szu Chieh Wang: National Chengchi University, Taiwan
Zachary T. Wilkinson: University of Michigan
Leah M. Zoller: University of Denver

The following students received their PhDs in August 2007.

Christopher A. Ames (Anthropology); Dissertation Title: “Mired in History: Victimhood, Memory, and Ambivalence in Okinawa Prefecture, Japan.”
Margaret Florence Gibbons (Political Science); Dissertation Title: “The Role of Litigation in Environmental Protest and Policy Change in Japan”
Bridget K. Love (Anthropology); Dissertation Title: “A Kingdom of Mountain Bounty: Village Revitalization and Rural Depopulation in Japan”
Kan Takeuchi (Economics); Dissertation Title: “Essays on Time Preference and Combinatorial Auctions”
ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CJS Welcomes a New Administrator
Toshiko Graves joined CJS in October 2007 as the Center’s new administrator. She manages the Center’s finances and human resources. Born and raised in Japan, Toshiko has fifteen years of experience in teaching, administration, translation, and banking, both in Japan and in the U.S. She can be reached at: trsk@umich.edu.

CJS Announces its New Outreach Coordinator
Heather Littlefield is the most recent addition to CJS’s staff with her start date in late January. Dosho readers may recognize Heather’s name as she is a 2007 CJS MA graduate. Her responsibilities at CJS involve overseeing outreach to the K-14 population as well as some community outreach projects. Heather can be reached at hlittle@umich.edu.

From the Executive Editor continued from page 1

Rebecca L. Copeland, Professor of Japanese Literature at Washington University in St. Louis, describes The Bluestockings of Japan as follows: “Jan Bardsley’s long-awaited study brilliantly captures the excitement, danger, and occasional disappointments the New Woman confronted in early twentieth-century Japan. Readers are given an intimate and incisive look into the New Woman’s social and political contexts, but more than that, through Bardsley’s graceful and at times gritty translations, we are allowed to hear her voice. No examination of women’s history in Japan would be complete without a chapter on Seiši. Similarly, no feminist library can be truly complete without Jan Bardsley’s The Bluestockings of Japan.” Sally A. Hastings, Associate Professor of History, Purdue University and Editor, U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal, writes: “Bardsley’s excellent translations of declarations, essays, and short stories from Seiši allow us to hear Japanese feminist voices from the early twentieth century loud and clear. We feel the energy of the young women activists as they explore their potential as writers, sexual beings, and thinkers. Glimmering information about a variety of memoirs, histories, and Japanese critical studies, she provides biographical sketches for each of the contributors whose work she translates. This book marks a major step forward in the English-language materials available on the history of Japanese women, and it will facilitate the inclusion of Japanese women’s experience into the international history of the women’s movement.”

The Bluestockings of Japan shows that as much as these writers longed to be New Women immersed in the world of art and philosophy, they were also real women who had to negotiate careers, motherhood, romantic relationships, and an unexpected notoriety. Their stories, essays, and poetry document that journey, highlighting the diversity among these New Women and displaying the vitality of feminist thinking in Japan in the 1910s.

Jan Bardsley is Associate Professor of Japanese Humanities in the Department of Asian Studies, and affiliated with the Curricula in American Studies and Women’s Studies, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where she was the 2001 recipient of the Carlyle Sitterson Teaching Award for Excellence in Freshman Writing. With its director, the Center is a director of the 2002 documentary film Women in Japan: Memories of the Past, Dreams for the Future, and is co-editor with Laura Miller of Bad Girls of Japan (2005). Our other publication is equally important to the English-reading audience.

Mishima on Stage: The Black Lizard and Other Masterpieces
Laurence Kominz, with a foreword by Donald Keene (Michigan Monograph Series in Japanese Studies Nos. 59, 2007, xii + 328 pp.; 27 illustrations, ISBN 9780472092042 (cloth), $70.00; ISBN 9789320920438 (paper), $26.00), presents nine remarkable plays to English readers for the first time. These plays, written between 1949 and 1962, demonstrate Mishima’s breadth and originality as a playwright. Four are new kabuki plays that combine classical language and lyrical, the dance, music, and spectacle of traditional kabuki, and iconoclastic notions of class and morality that are “pure Mishima.” Five are shingeki plays, including the tightly written one-act Seppusach, which fuses contemporary psychological realism with the structure of a tantric Buddhist meditation ritual, and The Black Lizard, a campy, romping, romantic, detective mystery full of trickery and disguise. One unifying theme shared among all the plays is the belief that deception and deceit are essential to human relationships. These character traits appear as hidden incestuous love that threatens to destroy an upper-middle-class family (The Lighthouse), as weapons of choice for the powerless mistress of a business magnate (the modern play Yoya), or as the means to facilitate wholesome but socially forbidden romantic liaisons (two kabuki comedies). Mishima on Stage makes the genius of Japan’s leading postwar playwright more accessible and apparent than ever before.

Laurence Kominz opens the volume with a biography of Mishima that describes the triumphs and bitter conflicts that Mishima experienced during his career as a professional playwright, and presents what Mishima himself wrote about the theatre and his place in it. Kominz demonstrates that Mishima took his theatrical writing, directing, and company leadership very seriously indeed. As enjoyable as play writing could be for Mishima, it was by no means merely a pastime or occa-

Executive Editor, CJS Publications Program

Bruce Willoughby

Center for Japanese Studies
University of Michigan

Winter 2008
February
7 Noon Lecture*: “Kissing is a Symbol of Democracy” U.S. Popular Culture and the Emergence of the ‘New Couple’ in Occupied Japan,” Mark McLellan; 2007-08 Toyota Visiting Professor, CJ S. Lecturer, Sociology, The University of Wollongong, Australia
16 Noon Lecture*: Volunteer Settlemen and the Spirit of Independence: Some More Evidence from Japan’s ‘Northern Frontier’,” Shinobu Kitayama; Professor, Department of Psychology; The University of Michigan
15 Dance Performance: NoisM®: NINA materializations, sacrifice: Athletic Director J o Kanamori; 8pm, Power Center; For more information, visit: http://www.umsl.org/. A CJ S-hosted post-performance reception will directly follow the performance. Vandenbrouck Room, Michigan League
21 Noon Lecture*: Mixed Messages: Classical Literature in 17th and 18th Century ‘Books for Women,’” Jamie Newhard; Assistant Professor, Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literatures; Washington University in St. Louis

March
6 Noon Lecture*: “The Virtual City: Akihabara, Anime, and Otakudom,” Susan Napier; Professor, German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures Department; Tufts University
11 Lecture: Visiting Shigaraki-yaki artists, Shizuo Tamura and Eizan Okuda discuss their work including a tea ceremony demonstration by tea master, Hiroko Nabeto; 7pm; Room 1636 (SSWB). Co-sponsored by CJ S, U-M’s School of Art & Design, and the Michigan-Shiga Sister State Program
13 Noon Lecture*: Remaking a Failed Revolution: The February 26 Incident in Theatre and Film Since 1960,” David Goodman; Professor, Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
15 Event: 15th Annual Michigan [Japanese Quiz Bowl]; Modern Languages Building 8am-2pm; For more information, contact J ane Ozanich (janecj@umich.edu). Co-sponsored by CJ S, the Japanese Teachers Association of Michigan, the Consulate General of Japan in Detroit, and the Japan Business Society of Detroit.
20 Noon Lecture*: “U.S.-Japan Relations in Transition: Security and Political Economy,” Ellis Krauss; Professor, School of International Relations and Pacific Studies; University of California, San Diego
20 Noon Lecture*: “Book Adventures: The Business and Culture of Publishing in Modern Japan,” Gari Kawana; Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages; University of Massachusetts, Boston

April
No events

May
19 Event: 4th Annual Ann Arbor Book Festival Street Fair, 10am-5pm; For more information, visit: http://baabookfair/festival.org.

*All noon lectures are free and open to the public; They run from 12noon 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 CJ S’s website for up-to-date information:
http://www.iiumich.edu/cjs/events/calendar.html.

From the Librarian
continued from page 2

world of print publications issued in Japan during the immediate post-World War II years, 1945-1949. The Collection compromises virtually everything published on all subjects during this period – books, pamphlets, newspapers, periodicals, news agency photographs, posters, maps and related archival materials...."

Originally the Prange Collection was put into microfilm by Norman Ross in New York. Later, this work was transferred to Ann Arbor’s ProQuest. During this time, professionals in the field of Japanese Studies were aware of the difficulty in using the Collection due to a lack of indexes or a printed manual. As a result, the University of Maryland spent a great deal of time creating the three volume index publication which resulted in a searchable resource for users. Recently, some digitized tools have been made available online at:

As always, my office is open.

Kenji Niki
Curator of the Japanese Collection
The Asia Library