

JSAA e-newsletter April 09

Contents:

1. 2009 Inoue Yasushi Award announcement
2. New book from Cambridge University Press
3. Kokugo kenkyuujo disestablishment
4. Recent publications section in the newsletter
5. Australia-Japan Peace Forum in Melbourne

1. 2009 Inoue Yasushi Award Announcement

The Inoue Yasushi award was established by the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation to encourage Australian researchers, scholars and PhD students who are studying Japanese culture and literature. It is awarded annually for the best refereed journal article or book chapter on Japanese literature to have been published during the previous year by a researcher based in Australia.

Dr. Ian McArthur, of Sydney University, was announced as the winner of this year's award for his article Narrating the Law in Japan Rakugo in the Meiji Law Reform Debate - which was published in 2008 in the electronic journal of contemporary Japanese studies. The award ceremony was held at the Japan Foundation on 20 March 2009.

McArthur's research uses examples of legal practice and court trial scenes in stenographic book (sokkibon) versions of tales by two professional narrators (rakugoka), Australian-born Henry Kairakutei Black, and his mentor San'yutei Encho, to demonstrate the extent of the debate over law reform in the 1890s. This examination of the context within which law reform took place in the Meiji era aims to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of the origins of current debates over law reform as Japan continues to harmonise its domestic laws with those of the rest of the world.

The article is accessible via the following URL.

www.japanesestudies.org.uk/articles/2008/McArthur.html

Inoue Yasushi (1907-1991) is one of Japan's most famous writers of historical fiction. Inoue's eldest daughter, Mrs Ikuyo Uraki, presented the award in a ceremony at the Sydney branch of the Japan Foundation. Mrs Uraki is executive director of the Inoue Yasushi Memorial Foundation.

Details of the award ceremony can be found here:

www.jpf.org.au/02_events/inoue/awardwinner09.html

2. New book from Cambridge University Press

Cambridge University Press has published this April "The Cambridge Companion to Modern Japanese Culture", edited by Prof. Yoshio Sugimoto (La Trobe University). The book has an international team of contributors including several

Australian scholars: Hugh Clarke (University of Sydney), Morris Low (University of Queensland), Ross Mouer (Monash University), Craig Norris (University of Tasmania) and Kaori Okano (La Trobe University).

Here is a link with more details on the book:

www.cambridge.org/aus/9780521706636

There is an offer of a special discount (20% off the retail price of the book) for JSAA members. They would be able to take advantage of it by contacting Chrsi Kirova at Cambridge University Press directly (either phone 03 8671 1442 or ckirova@cambridge.edu.au) or order using the discount flyers with an order form attached (soon available from JSAA website <http://www.jsaa.info/>).

3. Kokugo kenkyuujo

Kokken will be disestablished and its functions will be moved to a research centre. However, due to petitions from all walks of life as well efforts by concerned MPs from across different parties, and led by the Nihongo Kyoiku Gakkai president Prof Ozaki, the decision includes that the ³nihongo² (not ³kokugo²) research functions of Kokken will remain in the new research centre.

Prof Ozaki's report on this outcome calls for sending Cethank you faxes¹ to MPs who played key roles in this process and on behalf of JSAA, Assoc. Prof Chihiro Kinoshita Thomson has sent thank you faxes.

4. Recent publications section in the newsletter

Please send us information on recent publications in our field so we can let the members know what JSAA members are doing. Similarly, new appointments can be announced in the newsletter.

5. Australia-Japan Peace Forum in Melbourne

Japanese for Peace (JfP) will hold a forum on the themes of CEREconciliation, War Responsibility and Dialogue for Peace¹. The forum aims to facilitate a dialogue for peace among different cultures by learning about each other's history and memories of war and make a small, yet significant step towards reconciliation.

Speakers and performers:

Dr David Palmer (American Studies Department, Flinders University; keynote speaker on war responsibility and reconciliation)

Ms Ryoko Adachi (Author & editor of *Shadows of War & Echoes of War*)

Mr. Bill Flowers (ex-POW, Victorian President of the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Association)

Prof. Vera Mackie (School of Historical Studies, University of Melbourne);

Ms Anna Song (Friends of ³Comfort Women² in Australia=FCWA)

Maya & Hiroko (Music performers, Healing Soul)

When: May 23 (Saturday) 2 pm - 5 pm

Where: Melbourne City Conference Centre, Chapel Hall

333 Swanston Street, (Cnr. of Swanston and Lt Lonsdale Streets, Opposite the State Library)

Admission fee: \$5 (refreshment and beverages included)

Please bring your own cup for the environment.

The forum is supported and funded by Victoria Multicultural Commission.

Enquiries: info@jfp.org.au Website: www.jfp.org.au <<http://www.jfp.org.au>> <<http://www.jfp.org.au>>