TRADITIONAL JAPANESE LITERATURE

Recommended:

- Excerpts from Schirokauer, Conrad's *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*. Orlando, FL: Harcourt College Publishers, 1993. p. 32-34, 45-72. [photocopied packet]

Monday morning session: The Conventions of Courtly Love

The excerpts in this first section all center on the tradition of courtly love as it developed in literature of the Nara (710-784) and Heian (794-1185) periods. Early poetry collections such as the Man'yoshu *and* Kokinshu *witnessed the appearance of conventional narrative/motifs for portraying a (typically doomed) love affair at the imperial court. These conventions were refined during the Heian period, most notably with Murasaki Shikibu's endlessly inventive recasting of the tradition throughout her 52-chapter* The Tale of Genji. *Finally, Sei Shonagon's* Pillow Book *satirizes the tradition of courtly love in passages that have not lost their freshness—or bite—in the thousand years since she recorded them. (Don't miss the inept lover who stumbles about muttering the Heian equivalent of "Where are my socks?")*

- Excerpts from *Man'yoshu*: "Your basket…" (p. 33), "In the sea of Iwami…," (p. 34-5), "On the occasion of the temporary enshrinement of Princess Asuka" (p. 36-7), "After the death of his wife" (p. 37-40), Three poems by Lady Kasa (p. 41), "A dialogue on poverty" (p. 46-8), "Dialogue poems" (p. 52). In Keene, Donald, ed. *Anthology of Japanese Literature: From the Earliest Era to the Mid-nineteenth Century.* New York: Grove Press, 1955. [R, 7]

- Excerpts from *Kokinshu*: Selected poems of ARIWARA Narihira (poems 410-11, 476, 616, 622, 632, 644, 706-07, 747, and 884) and ONO no Komachi (poems 113, 552-54, 623, 656-57, 727, 782, 797, 822, 1030). In McCullough, Helen Craig, trans. *Kokin Wakashu: The First Imperial Anthology of Japanese Poetry.* Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1985. [R, 12]

- Excerpts from MURASAKI Shikibu: *The Tale of Genji* ("Twilight Beauty" Chapter 4). In Tyler, Royall, trans. *The Tale of Genji.* New York: Penguin, 2003. p. 53-80. [R, 15]

- Excerpts from SEI Shonagon: *The Pillow Book* (sections 1, 12, 14, 30-31, 45-48, 62-63, 101-02, 112-14). In Morris, Ivan, trans. *The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon.* New York: Columbia University Press, 1991. [R, 30]

Monday afternoon session: Buddhist Themes in Medieval and Edo Literature

Our second lecture focuses on Buddhist themes as they appear in the medieval era (1185-1600) and the Edo period (1600-1868). We will look at 4 themes: 1) reincarnation; 2) karmic retribution; 3) the impermanence of all things; and 4) salvation through devotion to the Buddha/Buddhist doctrine. Be also on the lookout for a subtheme of #3 (the uncertainty of the world) that led to the inclusion of startlingly secular passages in some of our texts!

Setsuwa Tales:

- Excerpts from *Japanese Tales*: (stories 65, 105, 107, 115-7, 133, 146-9). In Tyler, Royall trans. *Japanese Tales*. NY: Panthon. 1987. [R, 40]

Setsuwa Tales:

- Excerpts from *Tales of Times Now Past*: (stories 15, 22, 23, 31). In Ury, Marian trans. *Tales of Times Now Past: Sixty-Two Stories from a Medieval Japanese Collection*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979. [R, 50]

- Excerpts from *The Tale of the Heike*: (episodes 1.1, 1.6, 6.7, 9.12). In McCullough, Helen, trans. *Genji and Heike: Selections from the Tale of Genji and The Tale of Heike*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994. [R, 54]

- Excerpts from YOSHIDA Kenko: *Essays in Idleness* (sections 7, 25, 74, 82, 122, 137, 145, 149, 166, 189, 211). In McCullough, Helen Craig, trans. *Classical Japanese Prose*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1991. [R, 61]

- Excerpts from MATSUO Basho: *The Narrow Road to the Deep North*. In Yuasa Nobuyuki, trans. *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches.* Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1966. p. 117-123. [R, 65]

- CHIKAMATSU Monzaemon, *The Love Suicides at Sonezaki*. In Keene, Donald, ed. *Anthology of Japanese Literature: From the Earliest Era to the Mid-nineteenth Century*. New York, Grove Press, 1955. p. 391-409. [R, 69]

MODERN JAPANESE LITERATURE

Recommended:

- Chapters 4, 5 (p. 84-8), 7, 8, 11, 13, 14 (section 2) and 17 from Schirokauer, Conrad and Donald Clark's *Modern East Asia: A Brief History.* [Purchased Book]

Tuesday morning session: Psychological "Realism" in Modern Japanese Literature

The first modern lecture deals with 3 stages of psychological "realism," one of the prominent trends in literature from the Meiji period (1868-1912) to the present. In the texts of Meiji writer Higuchi Ichiyo, psychological "realism" appears as ***literary revision*** *of the "idealized" mental struggles portrayed in traditional literature. (Compare her prostitute heroine to that of Chikamatsu's* The Love Suicides at Sonezaki.*) Authors such as Shiga Naoya later reinvented psychological "realism" as a* ***literary style,*** *with their creation of the stream-of-consciousness "I-novel." Finally, literature after World War II initiated a new phase of psychological "realism" as* ***social critique****. Contemporary women authors, such as Takahashi Takako and Makino Eri, are notable for taking advantage of this latest incarnation of psychological "realism" to critically assess the institution of motherhood.*

- HIGUCHI Ichiyo, "Troubled Waters." In Danley, Robert L. *The Shade of Spring Leaves: The Life and Writings of Higuchi Ichiyo, A Woman of Letters in Meiji Japan.* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981. p.218-240. [R, 79]

- NATSUME Soseki, *Kokoro*. [Purchased book]

- SHIGA Naoya, "For Grandmother." In Sibley, William. *The Shiga Hero.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979. p. 129-137. [R, 91]

- DAZAI Osamu, "A Sound of Hammering." In *Japan Quarterly*. v.16, n.2, 1969. p.194-202. [R, 96]

- TAKAHASHI Takako, "Congruent Figures." In Lippit, Noriko Mizuta and Kyoko Iriye Selden. *Japanese Women Writers: Twentieth Century Short Fiction.* Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1991. p. 168-193. [R, 105]

- MAKINO Eri. "Sproing!" In Alfred Birnbaum, ed., *Monkey Brain Sushi: New Tastes in Japanese Fiction.* Tokyo: Kodansha, 1991. p. 29-48. [R, 118]

Tuesday afternoon session: Modern Japanese Fantasy

Our final section on Japan ends with a discussion of Japanese fantasy literature. We begin with texts that adapt familiar conventions from Western science fiction, such as Rampo's "Hell of Mirrors" and Tsutsui's "Standing Woman." We then continue with stories that derive their fantastic elements from early Japanese prototypes. For example, Kinoshita's "The Twilight Crane" references supernatural folklore, while Enchi's "A Bond of Two Lifetimes—Gleanings" delivers an unexpectedly feminist message through its rewriting of a Buddhist miracle tale.

- EDOGAWA Rampo, "The Hell of Mirrors." In Harris, James, trans. *Japanese Tales of Mystery and Imagination.* Rutland, VT.: Charles E. Tuttle Co., 1956. p.109-122. [R, 129]

- TSUTSUI Yasutaka, "Standing Woman." In Apostolou, John L. ed., *The Best Japanese Science Fiction Stories.* New York: Dembner Books, 1989. p.130-143. [R, 136]

- KODA Rohan, "Encounter with a Skull." In Mulhern, Chieko Irie Mulhern, trans. *Pagoda, Skull and Samurai: Three Stories.* Ithaca, NY: Cornell China-Japan Program, 1982. p. 90-118. [R, 143]

- KINOSHITA Junji, “The Twilight Crane.” In *Playbook: Five Plays for a New Theatre*. Norfolk, CT.: New Directions, 1956. p.131-159. [R, 157]

- AKUTAGAWA Ryunosuke, “The Spider's Thread.” In Kojima Takashi, trans. *Japanese Short Stories.* New York: Liverright, 1962. p. 187-192. [R, 173]

- ENCHI Fumiko, “A Bond for Two Lifetimes—Gleanings.” In Birnbaum, Phyllis, tras. *Rabbits, Crabs, Etc. Stories by Japanese Women*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1982. p.27-47. [R, 177]