

Chiune Sugihara and the Russian Orthodox Church

Taro Iwamura

This paper aims to introduce the whole life of Chiune Sugihara. In 1939, he was sent by the Japanese government to Kaunas, Lithuania, to open a consulate. In the summer of 1940, thousands of Polish Jews came to the Japanese consulate and begged Sugihara for transit visas to escape from Poland through the Soviet Union to Japan. Although the Japanese government did not agree to Sugihara's intentions, consul Sugihara did issue the visas to save Jews. So these visas are called "VI-SAS FOR LIFE." This is a well known historical story. However, few Japanese know that Sugihara was baptized into the Russian Orthodox Church, when he lived in Harbin. Consequently, special attention is paid to his Christian faith in this paper. Jewish Proverb states "If you save the life of one person, it is as if you saved the world entire."

Public Health Nurses 1890–1930

—Determined to Carry their Bags Part (1)

Keiko Sugiyama

This paper discusses the rise and fall of public health nurses in the United States. It will show the struggles of nurses to respond to the needs of the nation faced with the influx of immigrants. It also explains their difficulties to build a nation-wide network of nurses by advocating homecare as a crucial preventive medicine. Part one deals with its inception through the efforts of Henry Street (Nurses') Settlement in their attempt to establish nurses' autonomy and also it focuses on previously neglected African American nurses working there. Part Two will discuss the efforts of nurses to expand their network by establishing The Public Health Association. Although their work was highly praised, they encountered financial problems and had to challenge the bureaucracy of the medical authority. Their move to seek public funding met with the general distrust towards social medicine. The very idea of home care was obsolete by the end of 1930. Yet I will argue that the early nurses who introduced the idea of national health were the main architects of a social welfare state.

Current Americanism as Seen in the Fiscal Policies of U. S. President George W. Bush

Makoto Sakai

This report studies current Americanism – the peculiar American values and ways of thinking motivating the national society to develop – by analyzing both the characteristics and problems of the long-term economic and fiscal policies proposed by U. S. President George W. Bush in his first year in office.

His policies are quite conservative, despite his appeals for “compassionate conservative” before and after the presidential election in 2000. They are characterized by large tax reductions and increased defense spending, reminiscent of Reaganomics in the 1980s. While Bush’s plans may seem to be a resurgence of Reaganomics, they merely reflect a desire to demonstrate that he is a strong leader like former President Ronald Reagan. The top priority of Bush’s policies seems to be forging a “strong America,” mainly on the strength of a military build-up, which may fall short of leading the U. S. economy to well-balanced growth by the end of this decade.

Although President Bush’s proposals may be impressive to some people, they seem to be lacking a rational, logical background, resulting in a deficiency of long-term perspectives particularly of the sense of public costs in the long term. We can find such characteristics as seen in Bush’s proposals also in private economic practice, reflecting the widespread wisdom since the 1990s that the market-oriented economy, typical of the American market economy system, is supreme. Current

Americanism seems to be making not only economic but also political decisions devoid of the sense of long-term public interests.

Personal Status Law Reforms and Women's Movement in Tunisia

Kazuo Miyaji

In 1956, just after the independence of Tunisia, the Government of Bourguiba issued a new family law called "Personal Status Law", introducing new interpretations of Islamic law such as the prohibition of polygamy. This law, quite revolutionary in Muslim countries, was the symbol of Bourguiba's modernist and reformist ideology and the means to fight against traditional political forces based on Islamism. Bourguiba's personal power had been stabilized by mobilizing people by the ideology of Nationalism and Socialism, and then Developmentalism. After the decline of his power in 1980', there occurred various types of social movement. One of the focal point among Islamic and women movements had been the reform of Personal Status Law. Ben Ali in power since 1987 pursuing the authoritarian control has chosen to take the policy of "State Feminism", i. e. reforms of women's status, so as to show to the public that he was the good successor of modernist and reformist ideology of Bourguiba. Women movement had to confront with the difficulties because of such policy.

A Comparison of Treatment of Women within Public Pension System

Katsura Maruyama

The purpose of this study is to compare of women's pension systems, among nations especially with a special reference to contribution of homemaker and survivor's pension system.

The current pension system seems to assume that women rely on men for their income in retirement. Wives over state pension age receive a derived pension as a proportion of their husband's entitlement in U. K., U. S. A and Japan. Although such spouse pensions give benefit to married women by ensuring some personal income in their later life, they discriminate against dual-earner couples because married women entitled to a small pension in their own right receive no more than a lifelong homemaker life.

As the increasing of part-time workers, the treatment of part-time workers is important. In Japan, the access of part-time workers access to occupational pensions is difficult compared with other countries. And the trends of reform of survivor's pension system are aiming to equal treatment with men and women, and cut the benefits for budget reasons.

Students' Perceptions of English Writing Ability

—Analyses of Self-assessment of Essays

Akemi Nagasaka

Self-assessment of language learning has some merits such as making students aware of an individual learner's motivations, needs and objectives, and helping students understand autonomous learning. However, one of the problems is that self-evaluation is sometimes inaccurate. In order to help writers, teachers need to understand students' self-assessment of their writing.

This study examined 45 Japanese first-year university students' perceptions of their writing ability of English. The research questions of this study are : (1) Is the students' self-assessment of essays accurate ? ; (2) Does students' writing ability affect their self-assessment ? ; (3) How can findings from students' self-assessment be applied to writing instruction ?

The analyses revealed the following findings : (1) The students had more objectivity in assessing essays with more weaknesses than essays with less weaknesses ; (2) Good writers tended to under-evaluate, while poor writers tended to over-evaluate their own essays. Implications of this study to EFL writing instruction and suggestions to further research on self-assessment in writing are discussed.

A Comparative Study of Korean and Japanese Poetry on Hansen's Disease

Susumu Morita

Han Ha Un is one of the contemporary Korean poets whose concern is to express the life of people suffering from Hansen's disease in Korea. In this paper, I try to explore the poems written by him and compare them with those written by Japanese poets with a special reference to styles, expressions, and historical and social factors.

One remarkable difference can be observed as far as the volume of poetry on Hansen's disease is concerned. In Japan, a great many poems have been composed since the beginning of Showa Era. However, in Korea poems on Hansen's disease are scarce. Why does Japan have a large quantity of poems on Hansen's disease? I think two factors are involved. The first one is related to the literary style of Japanese poetry. Japan has a long history of Haiku and Tanka, which are the shortest verses in the world. Haiku consists of 17 syllables, and Tanka 31 syllables. Therefore, it is rather easy for Japanese to make short verses and people tend to compose short poems in our daily lives. The second factor is a rather social one. Japan has a history of more than 70 years of quarantine of Hansen's disease patients. The number of national quarantine hospitals for Hansen's disease patients is 13, and that of private ones is 2. People suffering from Hansen's disease have been completely isolated from Japanese society. Therefore, they tended to express their feelings of discrimination, oppression, and agony by means of words. To express their inner world and write poems was one step to self-realization and social

rehabilitation, which produced a great number of poems. In Korea, most Hansen's disease patients have lived with their families in rehabilitation village. Sorok Hospital is the only one where patients are quarantined. Further comparative study on the history of literary work on Hansen's disease should be done.