

Review

Ribenxue 日本学 (Japanology). Published by "Ribei yanjiu zhongxin" 日本研究中心 (Center for Japan Studies), Beijing University. Volume 7 (September 1996).

In fits and starts this important Chinese journal of Japan and Sino-Japanese studies has been coming out for the past few years, on average one volume each year, although two volumes appeared in each of 1995 and 1996. With 468 pages, volume 7 is the largest to appear thus far. It contains 22 articles on Japanese literature, history, society, politics, education, and culture; and Sino-Japanese comparative pieces on tastes in food and drink historically, trade, and education. One of the remarkable changes that this journal has undergone over time is the increasing percentage of space devoted to articles in the Japan field, as opposed to the Sino-Japanese field. What follows is a brief summary of the contents of volume 7.

The first article is a piece by Song Chengyou 宋成有 on the role of the state of Bohai 渤海 (Parhae) in the famous Japanese embassies to Tang China. Also, in the general historical field of diplomacy, there is the second part of an article by Lai Zhengxiong 赖正维 on relations between China and the Ryūkyū Kingdom during the reign of the Kangxi Emperor. This article, interestingly, has nothing to do with Japan; indeed, Japan is not mentioned even once in it.

Several essays are concerned with the Chinese students in Japan at the end of the Qing dynasty. Wang Xiaoqi examines this phenomenon by looking at the development among the students of a movement culminating in the 1911 Revolution. The main names here are no surprise--Qiu Jin 秋瑾, Chen Tianhua 陈天华, Zou Rong 邹容, Feng Ziyou 冯自由, and Sun Yat-sen among many others; Wang focuses on how a patriotic movement turned revolutionary. Shang Xiaoming 尚小明 looks at the same phenomenon but from another angle. He examines the role of overseas students in the Chinese educational reforms at the end of the Qing.

Three essays deal with the field of contemporary Japanese diplomacy. Mu Ren 牧仁 looks at changes in Japanese diplomatic strategies since the end of World War II. Kang Huimin 康慧敏 focuses on Japan's "oil diplomacy" in the Middle East. And, Liu Hong 刘宏 examines Japan's diplomatic and trade contacts in Latin America.

As in previous issues of *Ribenxue*, this one carries a number of articles translated from Japanese. This issue includes four such pieces: Hashizume Masando 桥诘和人 offers a new thesis on the founding of the ancient Japanese state; Yoshino Masaji 吉野政治 looks at the *Manyōshū* 万叶集; Morimoto Masao 森本正夫 deals with the contemporary problems facing students at private Japanese universities over the past two decades; Komatsu Izuru 小松出 focuses on Japanese industrial blocs and competition especially in the automobile industry; and Usui Shōko 臼井祥子 presents a general discussion of the state of Japanese studies in Europe, the United States, Canada, Central and South America, Australia, New Zealand, Southeast Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, and Africa.

Shen Ren'an 沈仁安, the distinguished scholar of ancient Japan and editor of this volume, also contributes an essay on the historical formation of the samurai class. This is a particularly rich article based on a wide variety of sources. Also on medieval Japanese history is an essay by Pan Jinsheng 潘金生 on the fourteenth-century Japanese monk and famed poet, Yoshida Kenkô 吉田兼好, author of *Tsurezuregusa* 徒然草 (Essays in Idleness). Yan Shaodang 严绍盪, the prolific and meticulous scholar of Japanese literature and intellectual history, has an essay on the place of Daoist thought in ancient Japanese culture.

In the field of modern literature, there is an article by Yu Rongsheng 于荣胜 on *The Temple of the Golden Pavilion* (*Kinkakuji* 金阁寺) and Mishima Yukio's 三岛由纪夫 aesthetics. Although many of Mishima's works have been translated into Chinese--though not nearly as many as Kawabata's writings--there has not as yet been much written critically about his work. This may mark an important start.

There is one pearl for Chinese Japanology in this issue of *Ribenxue*, Zhou Yiliang's 周一良 Chinese translation of Arai Hakuseki's 新井白石 autobiography, *Oritaku shiba no ki* 折たく柴の記. The Chinese translation is entitled *Zhe fen chai ji* 折焚柴记. In his mid-eighties now, Zhou is the dean of Japan studies in China; he was recently awarded the highly prestigious Yamagata Bantô 山片蟠桃 Prize from the city of Ôsaka for a lifetime of work on Japanese history and culture. Zhou's recent autobiography, *Bijing shi shusheng* 毕竟是书生 (A Student, After All), was soon thereafter published in Japanese translation by Fujiie Reinosuke 藤家禮之助 and others as *Tsumari wa shosei: Shû Ichiryô jiden* つまりは書生、周一良自伝 (A Student, After All: The Autobiography of Zhou Yiliang) (Tokyo: Tôkai University Press, 1995). It tells of the rises and falls in his fortune, from a wealthy childhood in North China through seven years spent in the United States at Harvard University (where he taught Japanese language during the war years--having as yet never been to Japan himself), through the Chinese revolution, his experiences during the Cultural Revolution as an advisor to Jiang Qing 江青, and finally back to teaching at Beijing University and now retirement.

Readers interested in obtaining copies of this issue of *Ribenxue* should write in Chinese or Japanese to the Center for Japanese Studies (*Riben yanjiu zhongxin*), Beijing University, 100871 Beijing-shi, Haidian-qu, Zhongguan-cun. The inside front cover lists a price of 15.80 *yuan* which is still less than two U.S. dollars, making this probably the best scholarly bargain available.