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Tokiko Y. Bazzell

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Shashi Panel Discussion

**April 2, 2005
AAS Chicago**

The North American *Shashi* (Japanese Company Histories) Interest Group held its first panel discussion program on April 2, 2005, at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Conference in Chicago. The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) and the Shibusawa Memorial Museum Resource Center cosponsored the program.

The Panel Discussion was entitled, "Treasure Troves for Research: Japanese Company Histories (*Shashi*)" and featured four panelists: Dr. Lonny Carlile, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dr. Saruri Guthrie Shimizu, Michigan State University, Ms. Maureen Donovan, Ohio State University, and Ms. Izumi Koide, Shibusawa Memorial Museum Resource Center. Mr. Eizaburo Okuizumi, University of Chicago, served as a discussant. After the panel discussion, Dr. Richard Smethurst, University of Pittsburg, made an announcement regarding *shashi* collections within the Mitsui Collection donated to the university library.

In spite of all the concurrent program schedule conflicts, the *Shashi* Panel Discussion attracted an audience of more than 30 people. Dr. Carlile presented the analysis of two *Shashi* editions published in two separate time periods. It made one realize how historical events can be shaped by the era in which they are written, and the importance of analyzing different editions of *shashi*. Dr. Shimizu, an American historian, described how *shashi* publications provided her with hard-to-find information on the Japanese companies that operated in North America. Dr. Shimizu illustrated her talk with many examples of information contained in *shashi*, which she utilized effectively for her research analysis in her books and articles. Ms. Maureen Donovan introduced many examples of *shashi* and *shashi*-like publications in cartoon format. As Ms. Donovan is a Japanese manga expert, it is no surprise that she is the one who spotted and called attention to this unique form of *shashi*. Lastly Ms. Izumi Koide presented the exciting project of the *shashi* database after her brief introduction of the Shibusawa Memorial Museum. She analyzed the present bibliographic environment of *shashi* and raised many issues related to the *shashi* publication's bibliographic control.

The *Shashi* Interest Group expresses its gratitude to two Japanese publishers, Yumani Shobo and Nihon Tosho Center, for allowing display of some of the *shashi* reprints in the room.

For more information including the text and PowerPoint slides of Ms Koide's presentation, please visit the web site <<http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/company/interest.htm> >.

Tokiko Y. Bazzell
Co-chair of the North American Japanese Company Histories (*Shashi*) Interest Group
University of Hawaii at Manoa