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Shashi Panel Discussion

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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 Pittsburgh, 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>.

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