Meetings and Conferences

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

AACS Library Panel

A discussion on "Post-Mao China As It Is Reflected in PRC Publications" was held by a library panel on November 1, 1986, in Pittsburgh at the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the American Association for Chinese Studies. The panel was chaired by Thomas C. Kuo of the University of Pittsburgh, with discussant Weiying Wan of the University of Michigan. The topics and the panelists were as follows:

"A Study of the wen-shih tzu-liao (Historical Accounts)," Pingfeng Chi, Center for Chinese Research Materials.
"Research and Publications on the History of Modern China in Post-Mao China," Richard Wang, University of Minnesota.

(Culcon Meeting)

The thirteenth Japan-U.S. Conference on Educational and Cultural Interchange (CULCON) took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Tokyo, on July 29-31, 1986. At the Japanese Studies Subcommittee meeting, Chalmers Johnson, University of California, who serves on the American Advisory Committee to CULCON, pointed out the adverse effect on Japanese studies in the United States of the recent situation in the yen-dollar exchange rate. He also reported that the number of books purchased from Japan had drastically decreased recently; also hard hit were Japanese language instruction and high-level research on Japan.

Present among the U.S. panelists on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee on Publications were Daniel J. Boorstin, the Librarian of Congress; Donald Keene and Edward Seidensticker, both of Columbia University; Frank Gibney of TBS Britannica; and M. Stone of USIS. It was pointed out that there exists an enormous imbalance between American works translated into Japanese and Japanese works translated into English; that more American translators and editors had to be trained for English translation from Japanese; that translators must be well-paid to raise the quality of translating; and that American public interest in Japan needs to be promoted. Dr. Boorstin stressed the importance of Japanese works translated into English for first-hand information, although an increasing number of books on Japan by Americans is being published. He mentioned that the Center for the Book of the Library of Congress would be willing to help the subcommittee in correcting the imbalance situation in translated work. Boorstin presented two practical suggestions: (1) Publish a series of books translated from the Japanese—for example, ancient and modern Japanese classics; (2) Create a book club specializing in books translated from the Japanese and in American books on Japan. These actions would promote public interest in Japan, secure a stable market (although it might be small), and might encourage
publishers to publish Japanese books in translation. These suggestions were enthusiastically received by the Japanese panelists.

At the book fair held at Maruzen Bookstore in Tokyo in conjunction with the CULCON meetings, there were on display a number of American books on Japan, on loan from the Library of Congress, some of which were a century old, as well as a colorful array of Japanese books translated from English on a variety of subjects. A book fair, centering on U.S.-Japan cultural interchange, is scheduled to be held in the United States in 1988.

(Yoshiko Yoshimura)

Symposium on the Occupation of Japan

The seventh biennial Symposium on the Occupation of Japan (by the Allied Powers, 1945-1952) was held at Virginia Beach, Virginia, on October 16-17, 1986. The symposium was sponsored by the General Douglas MacArthur Foundation, Norfolk, Virginia, and co-sponsored by the City of Norfolk and Old Dominion University, Norfolk.

The focus of this symposium was on the impact of the Korean War on the occupation policies and on occupied Japan. There were speeches delivered on such topics as SCAP vs. CINCUNC (Richard B. Finn, Harvard University), the Japanese response to the Korean War (Kondō Shigekatsu, National Institute for Defense Studies), the Case of John Foster Dulles (Ronald W. Pruessen, University of Toronto), U.S. Strategy for the Defense of Japan (Miki Hideo, National Defense Academy), an Overview (Suzuki Kengo, formerly with the Ministry of Finance, Japan), the Japan Communist Party and the SCAP Purge of Left-wing Elements (Steve Y. Rhee, Armstrong State College), the Impact of the War on the Toyota Motor Corporation (Fujita Kuniko, Michigan State University) and the Japanese Economy (Sherwood M. Fine, formerly with GHQ, SCAP), the Korean Minority in Japan (Lee Kwang-Kyu, Seoul National University), and other speeches.

The proceedings of previous symposia, entitled The Occupation of Japan, have appeared under the following subtitles: Impact of legal reform ($5.00), Education and social reform ($8.00), and The International context ($10.00). The proceedings of the last symposium (1984), with the subtitle, Arts and culture, is scheduled to be published in early 1987. Further information may be obtained from the MacArthur Memorial, MacArthur Square, Norfolk, VA 23510.

(Yoshiko Yoshimura)