



# Midwest Japan Seminar

Associate Professor Noboru Tomonari  
Department of Asian Languages & Literatures, Carleton College  
1 North College Street, Northfield, MN 55057  
ph. (507) 222-5955, fax (507) 7222-7538; e-mail: [ntomonar@carleton.edu](mailto:ntomonar@carleton.edu)

Saturday, 24 September, 2011, 2:00-6:00  
Mulva Library Presentation Room 1  
St. Norbert College

**Takeshi Kimoto, Department of Modern Languages, Literature, Linguistics,  
University of Oklahoma: “Romantic Colonialism: Yasuda Yojūrō and the Korean  
Peninsula as the “Japanese Bridge”**

In this essay, I will examine Japanese Romantic writer Yasuda Yojūro and his literary involvement in Japanese colonialism in Korea in his 1938 travelogues on Korea. By locating him in the historical contexts of the Sino-Japanese War and the colonial policies by the governor-general’s office, I will ask how Yasuda’s romantic irony was involved in and served for Japanese empire. I will first suggest how closely the notion of “world history” was tied with his motifs of irony, bridge and Romanticism in his imperial journey. I will then analyze his characteristic narrative and set of tropes in depicting Korea and the Korean people such as the “road of intercourse” and “*hantō*” or the peninsula. I will go on to thematize his encounter with Korean writers and intellectuals who were devoted to the so-called *Nihonshugi* or “Japanism” at the time. On the one hand, I will pay close attention to how Yasuda’s ambivalent rhetoric of romantic irony is at work in this narrative of imperial world history. On the other, I will juxtapose Yasuda’s rhetoric with the universalistic practice of a Korean intellectual, Hyun Yong Sup, who Yasuda met with in Keijō or Seoul. By analyzing this encounter from both sides of the colonizer and the colonized, I will demonstrate how romantic irony inscribed in empire hybridized the notions of “Japan,” the “Japanese” and the “national polity.”

**Garrett L. Washington, Department of History, Oberlin College: “Building Walls  
to Tear Down Barriers: Urban Space, Modern Architecture, and the First Japanese  
Protestant Churches”**

In 1863, when architect Koyama Hidenoshin (1829-1898) designed the first Christian church in two centuries to be built in Japan, a church for Japanese benefit and use was implausible. By the turn of the twentieth century, however, hundreds of churches fashioned by and for Japanese individuals had been erected throughout the country.

They were a far cry from Koyama's Ōura Tenshūdō and other churches built with the foreign community in mind. Beginning with a few Protestant churches in the national capital, the concept of a Japanese Christian religious gathering space gained momentum as some of imperial Japan's most prominent Protestant churches took shape. This paper examines the ways that the Japanese pastors of Meiji- and Taishō-era Tokyo's largest and most well known Protestant churches indigenized their churches. This Japanization did not occur through superficial stylistic ornamentation. Instead these pastors worked with preeminent Japanese architects such as Imperial University professor Tatsuno Kingo (1854-1919) to create churches that could attract and accommodate Japanese religious seekers. Specifically, they targeted the modern, well-educated, socially and civically minded urban Japanese residents of Tokyo's most promising neighborhoods. Using urban and architectural space, the pastors and architects of Reinanzaka, Banchō, Hongō, and Fujimichō churches crafted adaptive church buildings that were accessible, visible, appealing, and practical. With maps, photographs, and detailed descriptions, this chapter aims to bring these churches to life a bit and to demonstrate what the new Japanese Protestant church space had to offer Japanese attendees that other religious spaces in Japan did not.

**Hotel:** A block of twenty (20) rooms has been reserved for Saturday night, September 24th and five (5) rooms for Friday night, September 23rd at the **Kress Inn, 300 Grant Street, DePere, Wisconsin** (on the campus of St. Norbert College) at a special reduced rate of \$69.95. Please mention "Midwest Japan Seminar" and book by Friday, September 9th to get that rate. The telephone number is [920-403-5100](tel:920-403-5100). The Kress Inn also offers a free continental breakfast and complimentary rides to and from the Green Bay airport (GRB), which is served by Delta, United, American, Frontier, and Continental Airlines.

**Driving Directions:** Contact Wayne Patterson

**Paper, Lunch, and Dinner:** If you plan to attend and would like copies of the papers, contact Noboru Tomonari at [ntomonar@carleton.edu](mailto:ntomonar@carleton.edu). The deadline for requesting copies is 10 September 2011. **Papers will be sent electronically (PDF File). Please indicate if you plan to join the group for dinner on Saturday.** Pre-dinner reception from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the home of Marlene and Wayne Patterson, 3013 Autumn Leaves Circle, Green Bay. The dinner is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the Charles Frost Room at Titledown Brewery (200 Dousman Street, Green Bay, [920-437-2337](tel:920-437-2337)). **Maps and rides will be provided.** Lunch prior to the seminar can be purchased at Phil's in the Vandenhoevel Campus Center overlooking the Fox River.

**Local Contact:** Wayne Patterson, Department of History, Tel: 920-403-3096 (Office) or 920-496-0644 (Home), Email: [wayne.patterson@snc.edu](mailto:wayne.patterson@snc.edu). Ikuko Torimoto, Modern Languages and Literatures, Tel: 920-403-3966 (Office), Email: [ikuko.torimoto@snc.edu](mailto:ikuko.torimoto@snc.edu).

## ***UP-COMING MJS SESSIONS:***

- 2011 October 29      Macalester College, St. Paul, MN (Arjun Generatne)  
(in conjunction with Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs)  
Presenters: Jeffery Alexander, Department of History, University  
of Wisconsin-Parkside; Monika Dix, Department of Modern  
Languages, Saginaw Valley State University
- 2011 November 5      Earlham College, Earlham, IN (Gary DeCoker)  
Presenters: Tomoyuki Sasaki, Department of History, Eastern  
Michigan University; Scott Langton, Department of Classical &  
Modern Languages, Austin College
- 2012 February 18      Florida International University, Miami, FL (Steven Heine)  
Presenters: Susan Long, Department of Anthropology, John  
Carroll University; Sumiko Otsubo, Department of History,  
Metropolitan State University
- 2012 April 21      Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, Edwardsville, IL  
(Christienne Hinz)  
Presenters: Stanley Dubinsky, Department of Modern Languages,  
University of South Carolina; Roger Purdy, Department of History,  
John Carroll University

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