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The theme of this issue is biographies and memoirs, offering a feast of fascinating new books looking at a host of extraordinary Japan-related lives. Our first review is of *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits VII* which is another superb volume in the acclaimed Biographical Portraits series that profiles people who have contributed to enhancing Anglo-Japanese relations. This seventh volume in a series, which also includes publications such as *Britain and Japan 1859-1991: Themes and Personalities* and *Japan Experiences: Fifty Years, One Hundred Views Post-War Japan Through British Eyes, 1945-2000*, is again edited by Sir Hugh Cortazzi. It charts the achievements of 44 diverse individuals, the chronicles ranging from Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to the Nobel Prize winning playwright George Bernard Shaw.

Our second book, *Private Yokoi's War and Life on Guam, 1944-1972*, is a gripping tale of hardship and fortitude telling how Private Yokoi, who was sent to Guam in March 1944, refused to stand down after Japan's defeat in 1945. Instead of surrendering, he spent 27 years hiding in the island's jungle until his captured in January 1972.

In *My Work: 10 Years as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and Construction of Peace* (私の仕事 — 国連難民高等弁務官の十年と平和の構築) Fumiko Halloran looks at Sadako Ogata's Japanese language account of her turbulent decade as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Ogata faced immense challenges with a worldwide refugee problem of over 15 million people in countries ranging from Albania to Rwanda.

Next, Susan Meehan explores the soul-searching film portraying teenage angst *How to Become Myself* (あしたの私の作り方). It attempts to capture the elusive essence of what make us a distinctive individual in our formative adolescent years. It's a fictional biographical film that also resonates with adults making us recall our own teenage trials and tribulations. Hugh Purser reviews *A Life in Aikido: The Biography of Founder Morihei Ueshiba*, which is the official English language biography of Morihei Ueshiba, Aikido's founding father. It details his life, the formation of his religious teachings and his legacy. This issue rounds off with a look at *So Lovely A Country Will Never Perish: Wartime Diaries of Japanese Writers* by Donald Keene. As the title implies, this book looks at the diaries of some of Japan's best known, as well as not so well known, wartime writers and their attitudes towards the Pacific War and its traumatic aftermath.

Moving away from our theme, the final review looks at a photographic catalogue of buildings by modern Japanese architects together with descriptive commentaries. *Project Japan and Art Media, Edo to Now* also contains some essays on Japanese architecture.

Sean Curtin

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New reviews

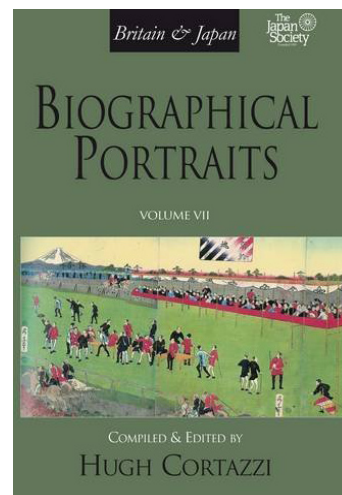
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We are grateful to our regular reviewers:

Sir Hugh Cortazzi	Mikihiro Maeda
William Farr	Susan Meehan
Fumiko Halloran	Ian Nish
Adam House	Ben-Ami Shillony



Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits VII Compiled & Edited by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Global Oriental and the Japan Society, 2010, 665 pages, £50.00
ISBN: 978-1906876265

Review by Sean Curtin

This is another superb volume in the Biographical Portraits series which profiles people who have contributed to

enhancing Anglo-Japanese relations. In this impressive publication, edited by Sir Hugh Cortazzi, the achievements of 44 diverse individuals are chronicled ranging from Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain to the Nobel Prize winning playwright George Bernard Shaw. There are also five additional essays focusing on Anglo-Japanese related topics which include Japanese garden designers (by Jill Raggett), architecture (by Anna Basham), football (by Derek Bleakley), an engaging memoir on what life was like for British diplomats in Tokyo during 1941 (by Douglas Busk) and a stimulating historical piece on horse racing (by Roger Buckley).

Any review of this absorbing book, which represents the research of almost 40 different writers, cannot possibly do justice to its 47 fact-packed, informative chapters. One can only hope at best to scratch the surface and illuminate a small fraction of the excellent articles presented in this substantive scholarly work. Each reader will find their own personal favourite essays, which are divided into 10 sections exploring the accomplishments of such well known personalities as the philosopher and writer Bertrand Russell, who was singularly unimpressed by Japan (page 261), to relatively obscure

figures such as the pioneering missionary Florence May Freeth, who spent 44 years in Kyushu (1896 to 1940), or the chemistry professor Edward Kinch, who promoted the development of agricultural chemistry in Japan and also helped internationalize Japanese food culture (page 365). I found each article contained some rewarding gems of information and was frequently amazed by the extraordinary life courses of some of those profiled. Another facet of this work is that one learns of the strong Japan connections held by a host of historical figures not normally associated with Japan. A good example of this is Peter Kornicki's profile of General Sir Ian Hamilton, most famously associated with the disastrous 1915 Dardanelles Expedition and the bloody Gallipoli landing (page 162), who it turns out was a key British military observer during the 1904-5 Russo-Japanese war.

The majority of readers will most likely be unfamiliar with many of the personalities profiled in this volume, such as the gifted Japanese print artist Mokuchu Urushibara (漆原木虫) or the early Meiji architects Wells Coates (pages 456-68), Thomas James Waters (pages 469-86) and Kingo Tatsuno (辰野金吾), who lived in England for two years (1880-2) and was widely travelled (pages 443-55). Nevertheless, these lesser known figures often made significant contributions to bilateral relations as well as leading extremely interesting lives. A typical Biographical Portrait of one of these less well known persons, which I personally enjoyed, was Dugald Barr's piece on the parliamentarian Sir Julian Ridsdale (1915 – 2004), who took a special interest in Japan during his long career as a lawmaker and who the speaker of the House of Commons, Bernard Weatherill, once referred to as (page 93) "the member for Tokyo." Ridsdale had studied Japanese at SOAS and was a military intelligence officer during the war specializing in Japan. I was especially fascinated by Ridsdale's childhood in which he frequently encountered a host of illustrious relatives including the former Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin and writer Rudyard Kipling.

Carmen Blacker was another subject with a fascinating childhood and gripping life course leading her from wartime Bletchley code-breaker to a greatly accomplished Japan scholar. Peter Kornicki brilliantly illuminates her youthful yearning and determination to learn Japanese, which led to her demand "at the precocious age of twelve, for a Japanese grammar [book] for her birthday (page 217)." Such informative and human profiles help us to better understand the person and put their achievements in context.

Nicolas Maclean provides a warm portrait of the distinguished academic Keith Ernest Thurley, charting his dynamic career while providing some interesting anecdotes and insights along the way. Maclean observes, "For Keith, research was not a matter of experts producing articles for other experts to read: there were no 'Forbidden Cities' for intellectuals. It was instead a process of education and re-education for both the researcher and the audience (page 244)." Such personal insights are one of the charms of this book.

Not all the profiles are as intimate as the ones on Blacker and Thurley, others are more analytical such as Anthony Best's piece of the Chamberlain brothers, Austen and Neville. I must confess that I found this chapter of particular interest as these two prominent politicians have a modern parallel in the Miliband brothers. There are also some intriguing similarities, elder brother Austen, like the contemporary David Miliband, had been foreign secretary and a rising star of his generation, yet it was Austen's younger brother, Neville, who was destined to be party leader and Prime Minister. This essay does not examine sibling rivalry but instead explores how Japanese diplomats viewed the two brothers. Austen was seen as being unsympathetic towards Tokyo, a shift which is charted up to his visionary 1933 pronouncement on the direction of Japanese foreign policy, "...an adventure the end of which may be far distant and the expenditure of which in blood and treasure may be far greater than her people now foresee (page 72)." Neville on the other hand is seen as being "pro-Japanese," especially during his time as Chancellor of the Exchequer, "Japanese observers in the 1930s felt that as long as Neville Chamberlain was in a powerful position there was always the possibility of a rapprochement being achieved (page 75)." However, Anthony Best believes Tokyo's diplomats got it wrong and there is no real evidence to substantiate this view.

Bernard F. Dukore looks at George Bernard Shaw's 1933 whirlwind tour of China and Japan where the great man of letters meets the renowned Chinese writer Lu Xun (鲁迅), Soong Ch'ing-ling (宋庆龄), the influential widow of the Republic of China's founding father Sun Yat-sen (孫中山), and Japan's Prime Minister Makoto Saito (齋藤 実). He only spent 10 days in Japan, but managed to visit Beppu, Kobe, Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka, the latter which he describes (page 254) as "a huge industrial hell." This portrait will be of particular interest to Shaw fans as it contains a previously unpublished article Shaw wrote after his trip to Japan. However, while he was undoubtedly a literary giant, his political analysis was less impressive, Shaw observed, "In the future Japan and all the other Powers will have to compete with Russia in promoting the welfare of their people. If you shut your eyes to this you may live to see a statue of Lenin and a bust of Marx in every Shinto temple (page 253)."

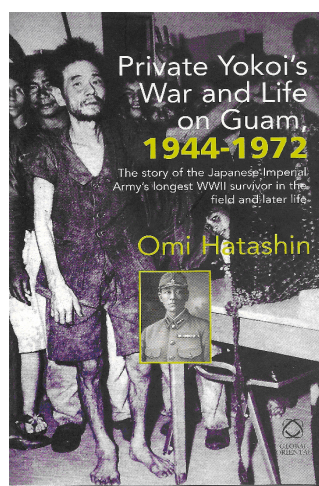


Editor, Sir Hugh Cortazzi

The rich reference material in this publication alone would warrant merit, but it forms just one part of a larger series of Japan Society supported volumes which record the lives and accomplishments of people who have contributed in a variety of ways to UK-Japan relations. This current publication also has a very handy index that lists all those people so far covered in the entire Biographical Portraits related series, where to find each one as well as a list of

the authors of the respective essays. Astonishingly, this new volume along with the previous Biographical Portraits books and associated publications brings the number of individuals chronicled to well over 350, making this a significant reference source. This is an impressive accomplishment, which is certain to grow in the years and decades to come, and all those associated with this project deserve our admiration.

Looking at this wide ranging book as a whole, it struck me that despite the great diversity of the subjects and the high number of profile writers, there were some additional unifying features besides the basic guideline of Anglo-Japanese relations which bind this work and the wider series. One such element that personally struck me was how, despite a considerable number of decades, Hugh Cortazzi would frequently appear somewhere in the latticework of the individual narratives. To illustrate this point, when Carmen Blacker arrives in Japan in October 1951 she bumps into a young Hugh in Tokyo (page 220), fast forward several decades to April 1982 and Julian Ridsdale has just arrived in Japan only to be told by "Ambassador Sir Hugh Cortazzi" that Argentina had invaded the Falklands (page 90). Sir Hugh is so interwoven in the fabric of Anglo-Japanese relations that it almost seems he has encountered nearly every significant figure spanning his adult lifetime. Such a unique perspective makes him the perfect editor for this new work as well as several of the earlier books in the series. He most certainly deserves special praise for the tremendous amount of effort he has put into producing this new book and propelling the valuable and substantive Biographical Portraits project forward.



Private Yokoi's War and Life on Guam, 1944-1972, The story of the Japanese Imperial Army's longest WWII survivor in the field and later life

by Omi Hatashin

Global Oriental, 2009, 237 pages including index and a black and white plate section, £90.00

ISBN 978-1-905246-69-4

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

This is an extraordinary story of hardship and fortitude. "His faith in the Japanese Emperor and his hope of the Japanese Empire's final victory were formidable, but they turned out to be utterly hollow. . . He did not completely lose his last traces of humanity even when he was reduced to the habits of a wild animal in order to survive in the Guam jungle. He humorously said back in Japan to young children that he was simply

good at 'hide and seek' (page 215)." After his return to Japan he insisted on putting up a memorial in Guam to the animals he had killed in order to survive.

Private Yokoi, a tailor by trade, was sent to Guam in March 1944. When American forces invaded the island and annihilated the Japanese defence forces. Yokoi and his section took to the jungle. They dismissed American calls to surrender and assertions about Japan's defeat as deceitful enemy propaganda. Eventually Yokoi and two other soldiers who had survived American attacks banded together, scavenged for food and lived rough in the jungle. Not surprisingly in the circumstances there was friction and Yokoi came to live largely on his own. However the three came together from time to time. In 1963 they climbed the main mountain on the island in the hope that they could somehow see a way to escape from the island, but they soon realised that this would be impossible. His two companions became sick and in 1964 died in their underground shelter. Yokoi managed to hang on despite stomach ulcers and malnutrition until January 1972 when his hide-out was discovered by the local inhabitants. He was taken to hospital in a traumatized state and was sent back to Japan where he was a sensational news story. He fairly quickly recovered and in November 1972 got married. In 1974 he stood unsuccessfully for the Upper House. He then took up pottery and managed to hold a one man show of his works at the Mitsukoshi in Tokyo. He died in 1997 aged 82.

His training as a tailor had enabled him to make his own clothes and a fishing net. He also managed to weave baskets which he used as traps. The fact that he was so fully occupied in finding food, building and looking after his hide-outs on an island where tropical storms were frequent probably saved his sanity during his many solitary years.

Anyone who has enjoyed the story of Robinson Crusoe will be fascinated by Yokoi's story. One of the most daunting aspects was how to make and preserve fires when they had no matches or flints and wood was often saturated by the rains. They also had no salt but managed to survive like the beasts in the jungle. Their diet of breadfruit, water potatoes, bananas and coconuts was supplemented by fresh water shrimps and occasional animals which they slaughtered. The mosquitoes tormented them and the flies soon contaminated their meat.

It is hard for us to understand the fact that Yokoi despite his sufferings and deprivation could not contemplate surrender even over a quarter of a century after the war had officially ended, after Japanese resistance had collapsed and after Japanese forces had totally disintegrated. He had been so effectively brainwashed that even in 1972 he feared that he might be tried by court martial and might bring disgrace on members of his family, a family in which his parents had been divorced and he had been brought up by an aunt.



**My Work: 10 Years as the
U.N. High Commissioner
for Refugees and
Construction of Peace**
(私の仕事—国連難民高
等弁務官の十年と平和の
構築)

by **Sadako Ogata**
(緒方貞子)

Soshisha, 2002, 285 pages,
1600 yen
ISBN: 978-4-7942-1170-5

Review By Fumiko Halloran

When Sadako Ogata began her work as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) early in the winter of 1991, she was immediately challenged with 15 million refugees all over the world. Barely one month into her new job, she was confronted with three crises; (1) the sudden flow of Kurds escaping from Iraq to Iran and Turkey, (2) the return of Ethiopians from Somalia and Somalis fleeing to Ethiopia; (3) and Albanians fleeing to Italy.

Having been a professor at Sophia University (上智大学) in Tokyo, and at the age of 64, Mrs. Ogata's life drastically changed. She moved to the UNHCR's headquarters in Geneva leaving behind her husband and two grown children in Tokyo. She was reappointed twice and served until the end of 2000, all the while maintaining a commuting marriage. She retired to universal acclaim but continued to be influential in the reconstruction of Afghanistan and building international networks to deal with refugees.

This book is a collection of her writing about her life as an official of an international organization and her interviews and speeches from 1991 to 2001. With a nice mixture of personal accounts of her life of challenge and straightforward speeches on refugee issues, this book illuminates the complexity of fluid, global scale of conflicts that affect millions of people. Readers may be struck by her quiet passion and organized mind in rescuing refugees whom she sees as individuals, not statistics.

Parts of her diary were printed in the Gaiko Forum magazine. One example: In May 1993, Ogata flew from Geneva to London, gave speeches at the London School of Economics and Oxford University, then flew to Bangladesh to meet with government officials and visit a refugee camp. She returned to Geneva and two days later began a tour of Canada and the United States. In Ottawa, she met with the Prime Minister and officials at the Foreign Ministry, the Employment and Immigration Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the Foreign Aid Agency. In the U.S., she gave the commencement speech and received an honorary degree at Amherst College; visited Washington to meet with Vice President Albert Gore, Defence Secretary Les Aspin, and Attorney General Janet Reno, was interviewed on television, and spent a day meeting with senators and congressmen. She went to New York to give a speech at

the Council on Foreign Relations, briefed the U.N. Secretary General and senior officials on the status of refugees, and returned to Geneva. She kept up this pace for ten years, half of the year on the road, visiting refugee camps.

She defined her role as protector and negotiator for refugees, as well as a fund raiser. She ran the office of UNHCR that had five hundred people at the headquarters in Geneva and 1500 working in countries with refugees. She paid particular attention to training the staff in the field to deal with unpredictable situations as they often lived with refugees under harsh conditions facing civil war, kidnapping, murder, and unfriendly mobs. She says she gave as much autonomy as possible to the local offices.

Mrs Ogata cites three decisions as the hardest. First was 1.8 million Kurds fleeing from the Iraqi Republican Guard in 1991 shortly after the Gulf War was declared over. Some 1.4 million crossed the border into Iran but 400,000 who headed for Turkey were barred by the Turkish government from entering the country. The demise of Kurdish refugees in the mountains was reported in media around the world. Multilateral coalition forces set up a safety zone for the refugees, who were usually defined as those who crossed national borders. In this case, the Kurds were displaced persons within their country. Ogata agreed to help the Kurds and work with the multilateral forces and U.N. security force.

Second, in 1992 the UNHCR began an air lift of cargo to Sarajevo, the capital of Bosnia Herzegovina. This was humanitarian aid during the hostilities, which broke UN rules allowing entry to a country only after a ceasefire. The UNHCR took over from the International Red Cross after its envoy was killed in an ambush. In addition to French and Canadian forces, the U.N. sent 1500 protective forces to open the airport. Ogata was in Sarajevo five days after the air lift began and the UNHCR was in charge of logistics for the three year operation.

Her most controversial decision was what to do about 1 million refugees created in 1994 Rwandan Genocide. The Hutu-dominated government massacred about 500,000 people, most of whom were ethnic Tutsis. A Tutsi group then succeeded in toppling the government and its armed supporters who fled on mass to Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and blended in with the civilian refugees there. As the UNHCR began its operations in the region, it became apparent that many armed Hutu soldiers were in the refugee camps. The UNHCR was not equipped to disarm them and no country stepped forward to take on the task. Ogata decided she had to save the civilian refugees, mostly women and children, without separating them from former combatants. The UNHCR helped both Tutsi and Hutu refugees, which led to criticism from both sides and some NGOs. In the end Ogata was declared "A Friend of Rwanda" by the new Tutsi-dominated government.

At the end of 2000, Mrs. Ogata presented her final report as she finished her term as UNHCR. According to her balance sheet "success" meant the return of refugees to their homes once security had been restored or, if that was not possible, settlement elsewhere. In Africa 1.7 million refugees returned

to their hometowns. In Asia, 400,000 Cambodians finally left camps to go home, ending two decades of operations in Indochina. In Central America, refugees from Guatemala returned home but some settled in Mexico. Refugees from Bosnia and Rwanda were in the process of returning to their homelands. But in 2000, the prospect for refugees returning to their homelands was dim in Afghanistan, the Caucasus region, especially Chechen, Sudan, and West Africa.

After retiring, Ogata witnessed from her apartment in New York City the terrorist attacks on the Trade Centre buildings on 11 September 2001. She was soon called back to public service by Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi to become Japan's special envoy on Afghan reconstruction. She had a special interest in Afghanistan as there had been 6.3 million refugees when she took over as UNHCR. After the Soviet military withdrawal from Afghanistan, many returned home but because of the subsequent prolonged civil war, there were still 2.5 million refugees when Ogata retired and thus she saw Afghan refugees as her unfinished work. As of 2006, according to the UNHCR website, there were still 2.1 million Afghan refugees in 72 countries, including 900,000 internally displaced people.

Ogata was the co-chair of International Conference on Reconstruction Assistance to Afghanistan, held in Tokyo in 2002 to which 61 countries and 21 international organisations sent their representatives. The conference received a commitment of US\$4.5 billion from the participants; Japan committed US\$500 million for various initiatives including mine removal, health, education, refugees, restoring radio and television stations, as well as sending economic consultants to the central government, etc.

Nicknamed "Field Marshall" by those who worked for her, Ogata served not only with UN peace keeping forces but also with the multilateral military forces and negotiated with the very governments that created refugees. Ever a pragmatist, she believed that rather than criticizing those who caused refugee problems, finding a common ground to protect the refugees was more productive. At the same time, as the co-chair of the Commission on Human Security, she pursued a broader concept of security by looking at non-military threats that create refugees.

Born in 1927, Sadako Ogata graduated from the University of the Sacred Heart in Tokyo (聖心女子大学), earned her Masters at Georgetown University and her doctorate at the University of California at Berkeley. She served as the envoy in the Japanese delegation at the United Nations and as mentioned earlier taught international politics at Sophia University before assuming the post of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Related review

You may also be interested in Sir Hugh Cortazzi's review of Sadako Ogata English language version of this book which was published as "The Turbulent Decade: Confronting the Refugee Crises of the 1990s" (see Japan Society Review Issue 1)



How to Become Myself
(あしたの私の作り方)
directed by Jun Ichikawa
(市川準)

97 min, Release Date April 2007

Review by Susan Meehan

This is a soul-searching film of teenage angst centering on Juri (Riko Narumi -成海璃子) and Hinako (Atsuko Maeda - 前田敦子). Both attend the same junior high school and have solid groups of friends. We are made aware that at home Juri is suffering with her parents' constant bickering and demands to get her into a good senior high school; despite these pressures she does her best to act the role of supporting, conciliatory daughter and exemplary student. We know less of Hinako's home life, but suffer with her when she falls out of favour at school. Having been the most popular at the start of the film, she is soon ostracized in a reversal of fortunes and roles as her position is usurped by Manami Kubota, formerly the bullied student. To Juri's chagrin, Manami also ends up winning a coveted place at the school which she fails to get into.

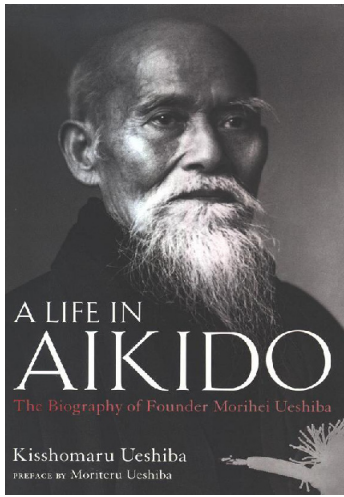
Juri and Hinako chat to each other on their final day of school, before going their own senior high school ways. They dwell on the existentialist theme of identity and who they are – Hinako in particular refers to her fall of grace and uncertainty as to whether the 'real' Hinako is the popular or bullied character.

Juri is well aware of the varying roles she has to fulfill, especially now that her parents are divorced – not only did she have to feign a certain indifference about the divorce, she has to continue being a model and understanding daughter to both mother and father, disguising her pain.

Two years on, Juri overhears classmates at her senior high school referring to Hinako and the fact that she has moved city. Guilty at not having kept in touch with her and curious about her well-being, she obtains Hinako's phone number. A member of her school's creative writing club, she is simultaneously agonizing with writer's block and ends up solving this through constantly texting Hinako guidelines– how best to behave at school in order to be popular and how to feed her boyfriend's interest.

Under the pretext of helping Hinako, Juri ends up basing a story on this mobile phone exchange which ends up garnering her teacher's praise. She feels remorse at having benefited in this way, but the most important thing is that both girls have fed on each other and grown as a result. They become aware that they are products of the totality of their roles, sometimes discordant, and are loved by family and friends for who they are as a whole.

In a moving valedictory speech to her school, Juri recognizes that various facets go to informing her personality. An adolescent film in many ways, it nevertheless resonates with an older audience who remember the teenage angst so well captured by the film and are relieved to have left this stage behind. The acting, showcasing superb young female talent, and the mood music are fantastic.



A Life in Aikido: The Biography of Founder Morihei Ueshiba

by Kisshomaru Ueshiba
(植芝 吉祥丸)

Kodansha International,
2008, 320 pages, £13.99
ISBN-13: 978-4770026170

Review by Hugh Purser

One would be forgiven for thinking that this book was designed for the connoisseur (of aikido [合気道], if not Japanese history and culture as well) rather than the casual reader. Maybe this is the intention: the official biography of Aikido's Founder (開祖), known to all as O Sensei (大先生 – the great teacher), written by his son for the community of aikidoka (合気道家 - aikido practitioners). But that would be a pity. There is much more here to satisfy broader interests, especially in the detailed accounts of life in Japan in the early part of the 20th century, the birth of the Omoto religion (大本教) and Japanese involvement in Mongolia and Manchuria. One is well into the second half of the book before the author writes “from this day in 1925, our Aikido took its first step forward.” By then, Ueshiba was already 42 years old, and he had just experienced enlightenment or what he called “a divine transformation.” In fact, the first chapter is given to describing his art as “kami-waza [神技] – an ability that seems heavenly rather than merely human.” For some, this could be a pretty intimidating concept.

Morihei Ueshiba's (植芝 盛平) martial arts abilities and exploits are legendary. But how did a 'new' martial art come about? And what were the influences on, and the characteristics of, the man who was responsible for it?

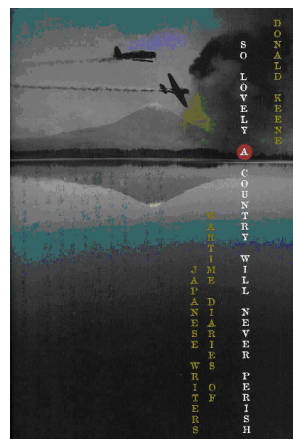
The picture that emerges is complex: a man of immense physical strength, dedicated to a severe discipline of physical and mental training in several martial arts; an entrepreneur, farmer, community leader and activist; at once both selfish in terms of seeking his own path, yet with the greater good in mind, with little interest in personal financial gain. One commentator wrote: “He was simply a person with a very high sense of responsibility and mission.” A man, too, influenced deeply by life changing events, such as the time in 1924 in Mongolia, when he was minutes away from a premature end at the hands of a firing squad; and his profound experiences in his companionship with Master Onisaburo (出口 王仁三郎), the founder of the Omoto religion. These latter events may explain why someone already heralded as the leading martial artist in Japan (at least in jujutsu [柔術] and aiki bujutsu [合気柔術]), would proceed to forge a new art which centered on “universal harmony, protection and divine love,” with a major role to play in everyday life. By 1926 Ueshiba was providing demonstrations to the great and good in Tokyo as a guest of Admiral Isamu Takeshita (竹下勇). The

audiences (and later, students) included military officers, members of the imperial household, financiers and leading business figures – patronage which we might only envy today, particularly in the West. This gave aikido a sound platform for its advancement in the years ahead. It is also noteworthy that even at this early stage, aikido rapidly became popular with women, and continues to be so.

The outbreak of war caused setbacks, especially in attendances and revenue, and it took until the early 50s for stability and growth to resume. In 1941 Ueshiba began the development of the dojo and shrine at Iwama (岩間町), still considered the spiritual home of aikido (the term itself coming into popular use at the same time).

New dojos opened across Japan, and then internationally, arriving in the UK in the mid-50s. Many well known senseis spread the art far and wide – with a fair degree of diversity, it should be said. This is because Ueshiba's aikido was continually evolving, and those who trained with him at specific periods of his life would have witnessed different elements of that evolution. Perhaps this was the Founder's most fundamental gift to modern (mostly part time) practitioners – that, within the framework of the core principles he laid down, we should seek to continuously evolve, in mind and body, and above all, apply his teachings in our everyday life.

This book is a fascinating read, although a future printing would benefit from additional notes as well as an index (the Japanese original dates from 1978, but it has only recently been translated and published in English). It is recommended to all with an interest in Japan: then go and find your nearest dojo, and experience the real thing!



So Lovely A Country Will Never Perish: Wartime Diaries of Japanese Writers

by Donald Keene

Columbia University Press, 2010,
216 pages including index,
£16.95

ISBN 978-0-231-15146-7

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Professor Donald Keene, who is the doyen of Japanologists and who has unparalleled knowledge of Japanese literature throughout the ages, gives a fascinating insight in this book into the way in which Japanese writers saw the Pacific War and its aftermath. One of Japan's many outstanding novelists of the twentieth century was Kafu Nagai (永井 荷風). His “chief literary activity during the war was writing the diary which he had begun in 1917. He took his diary with him (along with his bank books) wherever he went.” Almost every

page of his diary contained expressions of disgust with the military. Fortunately his well-known eccentricity saved him from the attentions of the police. But his diary is also very much a personal record. He particularly missed Lipton tea and other western products! Keene quotes how Kafū visited the famous writer Jun'ichirō Tanizaki (谷崎潤一郎) in the country on 14 August 1945, the eve of the Emperor's announcement that the war was being ended. He recorded that the food was good and the sake delicious. "Mrs Tanizaki became slightly tipsy, helping to make the conversation enjoyable (page 92)."

The most extensive diary was that of the novelist Jun Takami (高見順), who had been arrested as a Marxist in the early 1930s. He also managed to avoid incriminating himself because he was employed by the military on overseas missions. His most vivid impressions in China and Manchuria "were of witnessing the harshness of the Japanese military towards the Chinese (page 4)." Takami "desperately hoped for an end to the war even if it meant Japan's defeat."

Professor Kazuo Watanabe of Tokyo University wrote his diary in French in order to prevent the police from reading his comments on the war. Three days after the end of the war he wrote (page 17) in his diary: "At last I can write in my native language again."

Other Japanese writers such as Sei Itō (伊藤整), Futarō Yamada (山田風太郎), who was an admirer of Adolf Hitler, Sohō Tokutomi (徳富蘇峰) and the poets Mokichi Saitō (斎藤茂吉) and Kōtarō Takamura (高村光太郎) were in various degrees ardent supporters of the war. Even the Anglophile Ken'ichi Yoshida (吉田健一) wrote happily (page 19): "The sky of our thought has been cleared of England and America." Keene notes that "The reaction of most Japanese on learning of the attack on Pearl Harbor and the declaration of war with America and Britain was exultation; this was as true of the intellectuals as of the poorly educated (page 29)." Japanese poets gloried in the sacrifice of Japanese lives at the battle for Attu. This was termed *gyokusai* (玉碎) meaning that it was better to perish like a broken jewel than to remain whole like a worthless tile (page 34).

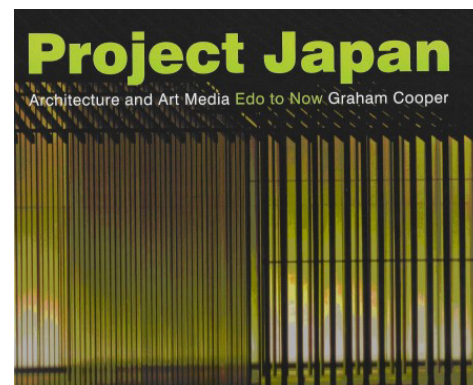
Many Japanese writers were happy to support the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere and took part with varying degrees of enthusiasm in the congresses which met to boost the concept. Among these was Ken'ichi Yoshida.

Keene points out that after Japan's defeat "Few writers were ready to admit that their impassioned support of the war had been a serious mistake of judgement (page 154)." The post-war occupation of Japan aroused mixed feelings. Jun Takami for instance felt "gratitude for the freedom it had brought, but anger over the discrepancy between the professed principles of the Americans and reality (page 137)." Japanese were understandably put out by the way in which Japanese girls played up to American soldiers, forgetting the Japanese use of comfort women in territories occupied by the Japanese military. American censorship which replaced Japanese censorship was often inept and insensitive. The ban on Kabuki was

particularly silly. It is also hard to credit now that Tanizaki's modern Japanese version of *The Tale of Genji* was not allowed to be printed until offending chapters (those relating how a prince, born of Genji's affair with the emperor's consort, had ascended the throne) had been deleted.

Many Japanese had been brainwashed at school and in the armed forces and it is understandable that so many at least initially supported the war. It is sad, however, that intellectuals such as Ken'ichi Yoshida, who ought to have been able to see through the propaganda, supported a war in which Japanese forces often behaved badly. It must have been apparent to any intelligent person by late 1944 that Japan could not win the war and that *gyokusai* hysteria would only lead to the destruction of Japan.

Donald Keene's book throws valuable light on Japanese attitudes to the war and its aftermath as well as on leading Japanese writers.



Project Japan and Art Media, Edo to Now by Graham Cooper

with essays contributed by Japanese architects
Fumihiko Maki, Kisho Kurokawa, Tadao Ando,
Kengo Kuma and Makoto Sei Watanabe

Images Publishing, Australia, 2009, 240 pages,
numerous colour illustrations,
ISBN 978 1 86470 300 2

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Graham Cooper introduced his book to an audience at Daiwa House in London on 28 October 2010. He had been awarded a Japan Foundation Artist Fellowship in 1995 with a brief to study "Art in the context of Contemporary Architecture in Japan." He explains in his "Author's Statement" that this survey "is a record of personal assignments and captures the many sites" which he has visited. He "discovered a distinct lack of understanding and awareness in the wealth of creativity currently on display in Japan."

Following a preface by Tadao Ando, one of Japan's outstanding modern architects, Graham Cooper sets the scene by a brief survey of the history of Japanese architecture. This is followed by an essay entitled "Mass Culture and Self-Restraint: a Japanese Aesthetic." He

then discusses the urban context which he describes as “Ancient and Modern Cheek by Jowl.” In describing modern Japanese architecture he notes Fumihiko Maki’s perceptive comment that “architects have an obligation to involve existing craft skills in the construction industry.” He thinks that “The design of cities and public spaces in future will be driven by society’s desire for a more healthy and sustainable quality of life.” However, he considers architecture to be an “ornamental art form.”

After these introductory essays the book contains a ‘catalogue’ (photographs) of buildings by modern Japanese architects together with descriptive commentaries. The personal contributions of modern Japanese articles are followed by a number of reviews beginning with an essay about the Japanese-American sculptor Isamu Noguchi.

This book was published somewhat earlier than *New Architecture in Japan* [review on the Japan Society website and in forthcoming issue 30] by Yuki Sumner, Naomi Pollock with David Littlefield and photographs by Edward Sumner, published by Merrell, London and New York in 2010 which I reviewed earlier this year for the Japan Society. The approach of the two books differs but they both shed light on architectural trends in modern Japan. This book was also published before our volume VII of *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits* [review in this issue] which contains a number of portraits of British and Japanese architects namely Tatsuno Kingo, who studied under Josiah Conder and then in Britain and Europe, Wells Coates, described by Anna Basham as “Modernist Japonisme,” and Thomas James Waters who designed among other Meiji buildings the mint in Osaka, Takebashi barracks in Tokyo and who inspired ‘Ginza Bricktown.’ The essay in the same volume by Ann Basham on “The Changing Perceptions of Japanese Architecture, 1862-1919” provides a valuable account of how British attitudes towards Japanese architecture developed over the years. Although there are an increasing number of books about Japanese architecture in English there is still much work to be done on the Anglo-Japanese relationship in the context of architecture.

Graham Cooper’s book is informative but his style does not make for easy reading and this book cannot be considered as a definitive account of modern Japanese architecture. The illustrations are not in my view as good as those in *New Architecture* and it is not always easy to envisage the impact of the buildings selected for illustration on their surroundings. Nevertheless they provide valuable information which contributes to our appreciation of modern Japanese architecture.

I found it difficult to select typical illustrations for this review. Some such as Tadao Ando’s Chichu Art Museum Naoshima need to be seen from many angles and are difficult to reproduce in a short review. A quirky example of ornamental Japanese architecture is that of a straw shopping bag (Tang Da Wu) (page 139):



The fruit museum at Yamanashi by Itsuko Hasegawa, who according to the commentary “combines her interest in new materials and the natural environment with her concerns for the user” may also seem quirky to some:



An example of the close relationship between Japanese architecture and garden design is shown in the following photo of rocks at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo:



Some of the best illustrations are of traditional Japanese architecture such as this of old houses in Kanazawa:

