FANTASY AND IMAGINATION: EXPLORING JAPANESE CREATIVE WRITINGS

PANEL DISCUSSION

**SYDNEY**
Tuesday 22 March 2011, 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Lecture Theatre 351, Education Building, University of Sydney
RSVP reception@jpf.org.au or phone (02) 8239 0055

**CANBERRA**
Wednesday 23 March 2011, 5.30pm – 7.30pm
Sparkes Helmore Lecture Theatre 1, Australian National University
RSVP Christina.Gee@anu.edu.au or phone (02) 6125 3165

**BRISBANE**
Friday 25 March 2011, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Abel Smith Lecture Theatre (TBC), University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus
RSVP e.shedden@uq.edu.au or phone (07) 3365 6311
FANTASY AND IMAGINATION: EXPLORING JAPANESE CREATIVE WRITINGS

Japanese popular culture has seen a growing popularity worldwide, coining the phrase ‘Cool Japan!’ Is there anything unique about the Japanese ‘imagination’ which might explain this fascination with all things Japanese?

Bearing this question in mind, this panel discussion will introduce the Australian public to an exciting array of Japanese literature with a special focus on ‘fantasy’ novels. Japan has a rich tradition of literature, with early folklore dating back to the 6-7th century. But apart from prominent authors such as Murakami Haruki, Japanese literature and its vibrant contemporary scene remains largely unexplored outside Japan.

Sharing their own personal experiences of how they became fans of Japanese literature, our panellists, Dr Carol Hayes, Edward Lipsett and Roger Pulvers, will guide you through the amazing world of Japanese fantasy novels, asking if Japanese fantasy is different from the likes of Harry Potter and Lord of the Rings, and if so, how?

SPEAKERS

Dr Carol Hayes
Dr Carol Hayes is a senior lecturer in Japanese language and literature at the Australian National University. Specialising in modern and contemporary Japanese literature, her current research interests include the work of the Taisho poet Hagiwara Sakutarō, and postwar Japanese literature and film, focusing on the portrayal of the Pacific War in cultural production.

Edward Lipsett
Edward Lipsett is a graduate of the University of Maryland (USA), with a BA in Japanese Language and Civilization, and has now lived in Japan longer than he’s lived anywhere else. For the last 25 years he has run a commercial translation company in Japan, launching Kurodahan Press in 2003 to make Japanese literature more available in the English language.

Roger Pulvers
Roger Pulvers is an author, playwright, theatre director and translator, who divides his time between Sydney and Tokyo. Roger has directed at the Adelaide Festival of Arts and was assistant director to Oshima Nagisa on Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence. This month his novel set in Meiji Japan, “The Dream of Lafcadio Hearn,” is being published by Kurodahan Press.

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