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A Newspaper For All
Peoples Interest In the
Welfare of Japan and
The Japanese People

The Japanese American News

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NIPPONESE POETS AKA TO IMAGIST

U. S. Literary Critic
Sees Influence Of
"Hokku" in West

By C. F. B.

Boston Transcript
It was Lafcadio Hearn, the great interpreter of the personality of Japan to the western world, who wrote:

"In their limitation of a poem to the presentation of a single impression, and in their ability to present that impression with the utmost vividness and with the sternest economy of words, the Japanese poets are strangely akin to the imagists."

These words in themselves would be enough to call the attention of the modern poetry lover to the verse of old Japan. And though the pioneer English imagists say that the movement receives its characteristic features as well as its name from a corresponding movement in French verse, yet it gains in interest when we became aware that its roots—some of them at least—extend back to far earlier days, across distant seas to the Orient, showing a certain affinity between ancient days and extremely modern modes of thought.

Whether there is any distant borrowing or copying of eastern models in this new imagism matters little. (Some of it we know professes to be translation or paraphrase.) The interest is that some of our contemporary artists, consciously or not, are beginning to feel back to some of the earlier discovered, almost forgotten methods of art.

Those who have any acquaintance with Japanese poetry can see the force of that telling phrase "stern economy" but more of us approach the Japanese spirit, not through poetry but painting. And there we find further illustration of economy. For in the paintings of Hokusai, Hiroshige, and many others, that is the striking characteristic—the single deft line that hints at so much more than it actually says. To the westerner the Japanese interior decoration seems a bit bare and bleak; and yet how much of simplicity we have been learning from it since we have emerged from Victorian clutter! How, to take merely one instance, we utilize the motif of the slender vase with its single flower, in contrast to the old pitches crammed full to bursting with blossoms!

And Japanese poetry is akin to the rest of Japanese art—all seems to be of a piece. Much of it aims to be pictorial, to do with the line of reticent verse what the painter did with his restrained curve, leaving the same indelible impression.

College Athletes of Tokyo Up in Arms As Their Pictures Are Used By Ladies To Decorate Dainty "Hagoita" Racquets

TOKYO, Dec. 20.—(Special)—The high and mighty collegiate sportsmen of Japan's capital are aroused to a righteous indignation today. For they have been subjected to extreme humiliation by the female population of the city.

And their manly spirit has rebelled.

With the approach of New Year the girls and young women of Nippon are beginning to play the "hagoita," a Japanese ladies' game played somewhat in the manner of ping pong by two girls with daintily colored lacquer racquets and a feathered ball. Usually these racquets are decorated with pictures of graceful actors and actresses or paunchy Japanese wrestling champions.

But this year the fad among the girls took a decided turn, and these racquets are decorated with faces of collegiate athletes.

And that's where the rub comes in. For how can these stalwart sons of young Japan keep their pride when their physiognomies, both handsome and otherwise (mostly otherwise), are placed scandalously on the playthings of womenfolk?

That's what the Intercollegiate Sportsmen's League of Tokyo wants to know. So they passed a resolution against decorating "hagoita" racquets with pictures of college athletes. And the spirit of these samurais has been appealed.

It may be that the nature of the language imposes a restriction which the poets have changed from an impediment to a distinction. For scholars tell us that the Japanese have never succeeded in the "nagata" or long songs, but only in "tanba," short songs, five lines in length the first and third containing five syllables, the other two seven. And so we find not the long narrative, but only the poignant lyric, the epigrammatic utterance. And the themes deal with the beauty of the outside world; waves, birds, blossoms, rivers, and even the white clouds of Fuji over-towering. In this regard it is akin to the Chinese, for the poets of China believe that the best poem should not exceed twelve lines (not even allowing for the sonnet)! But Japanese poetry is more restricted than Chinese poetry. "The Chinese syllable had far more complication and variety than those of Japanese words—the only thing in the mechanism of Japanese poetry which distinguishes it from prose is the alternation of phrases of five and seven syllables." Thus Mr. W. G. Aston in his "History of Japanese Literature."

(To be continued)

Idehara Elected Head of Berkeley Fellowship Group

BERKELEY, Dec. 20.—(Special)—Kozo Idehara, senior student at the University of California majoring in engineering, was elected president of the Berkeley Japanese Fellowship at a recent election.

The newly elected officers follow:

Kozo Idehara, president; Miss Ruth Morishita, vice-president; Miss Sada Onoye, corresponding secretary; Gim Kimura, recording secretary; Joe Kawahara, treasurer.

* * * * *

OUR JUNIOR SECTION

Mabel Araki of Fulton, California, writes us a lovely poem called Christmas Joy.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Thanksgiving is past,
Here comes Christmas at last,
Santa's coming through the snow
When we're fast asleep you know.
Stockings he'll fill from his pack,
Then up the chimney there he goes!
A bit of ice on his nose.

* * * * *

That was a fine poem Mabel, it certainly reminds us of the Christmas Holidays.

The Junior Club is flooded with letters from our members so don't discouraged, Juniors, if your letters appear a few days late.

* * * * *

Mieko Hosoda of Faso Robles wishes to know how she may get a Junior Club camera. All that you need to do Mieko is to get two new month's subscriptions or one new month's subscription to The Japanese American News. You don't have to pay for the Junior Club camera.

* * * * *

Here are Mieko's jokes:

He: I'm 21 today. I can vote.
She: No, you can't. There's no election.

* * * * *

Teacher: Tommy, parise this sentence: "Tom married Jane."

Tommy: Tom is a noun because it is the name of something. Married is a conjunction because it joins. Jane is an adjective because she governs the nouns.

* * * * *

These were very clever jokes, Mieko. We hope that you will get your subscriptions for our camera.

* * * * *

Mary Fujita, of Eastlake, Colo-

MTN. VIEW IS ALL SET FOR SACRED PLAY

Sunday School Children Take Part In Colorful Cantata

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Dec. 20.—(Special)—"A Christmas in Cherryland!" This is the opportunity offered by the Mountain View M. E. Church Sunday School, and invitation is extended everyone to attend the Christmas Cantata by that name.

The Cantata, which is produced and played by members and faculty of the Sunday School, will be presented Saturday evening, Dec. 22, beginning at 7 o'clock in the auditorium of the new Mt. View Grammar School on the State Highway.

One of the features of this coming production is that the entire Sunday School is cast in the play including the little tots and members of the faculty.

Directed by Mrs. Brunhofer and Mrs. Minton, the character have achieved good talent and assure the audience a real "Christmas in Cherryland."

The scenery for this play was created by Arthur Nishiyama of San Francisco, a talented artist.

The cast follows:

Hazel Hollister Sakaye Sugai
Hortense Hollister Toshiko Kiyomura

They are two college girls visiting Japan.

Anas Hollister, Father of the girls.

Professor Cram Henry Kiyomura
(looking for antiques)

Iris Kato Frances Funabiki, (a young Japanese student)

Morning Glory Edith Tsuruda, (girl of the Golden Lotus Tea Garden)

Wisteria Tomoko Kimura, (girl of Golden Lotus Tea Garden)

Yum Yum Mason Funabiki, (a battercake man)

Japanese girls Sunday School children

Cookie Unknown

rado, wishes to vote for the Forget-Me-Not.

Mary sends us some interesting jokes and riddles.

* * * * *

Bill: I hit my head on the piano last night.

Bob: Did it hurt?

Bill: No, I hit on the soft pedal.

How do you spell Chicago?

Ans.: A chicken in a car and the car won't go, that's the way to spell Chicago.

* * * * *

What has many keys but can't open a lock?

Ans.: Piano.

* * * * *

THE WEATHER

The Official Forecast:

Friday—Fair and mild. Moderate Westerly Winds.

* * * * *

British Gunboat Rushes to Scene Of China Battle

HONG KONG, Dec. 20.—(UP)—Active fighting is occurring at Chunking, 1,000 miles up the Yang-Tse River from Shanghai in the province of Szechuan, advised from there said today.

Shore batteries of machine guns and field pieces fired in the British steamer Kangting and the fighting is being concentrated in the compound of the British-owned Asiatic Petroleum Company. The British gunboat Tern is proceeding to Chunking from Wan-shien, 200 miles distant, to protect British lives.

Authorities are preparing to evacuate the city and have thrown bridges across streams to facilitate movement of the population.

Some anxiety is also prevailing at Hankow where officials of the tax bureau are threatening to enter and search British property, contrary to treaty rights.

* * * * *

71 ARRESTED
FOR MOBBING
LAW MAKERS

Legislators' Attempt
To Remove School
Starts Riot

TOKYO, Dec. 20.—(Special)—For mal charges against 71 residents of this city, under arrest for participating in the riot against the prefectoral assembly a few days ago was lodged with the court today by the prosecuting attorney.

The whole incident, which has attracted the attention of the nation, started when the members of the two major political parties in the assembly decided to pass bill, for riot fire-engines from the city fire department rushed to the scene of tumult and instead of quieting the mob, dashed streams of water on the dignified assemblymen and forced them to flee the building. In the meantime a mob gathered around the house of Governor Yamamoto, who was leading the movement to pass the bill, and tore open his door. The crowd rushed in to mob the Yamaoka family. How-

ever, the governor was not to be found, while his children and wife were behind barred doors in the cellar beyond the reach of the mob.

During the wholesale arrest that followed, it was found that many prominent city officials as well as leading citizens were involved in the plot to overthrow the assembly by

the Minseito politicians.

This brought a storm of protest from the people of Miyazaki, who attacked the prefectoral assembly while it was in session, preventing the passage of the bill. During the riot fire-engines from the city fire department rushed to the scene of

tumult and instead of quieting the mob, dashed streams of water on the dignified assemblymen and forced them to flee the building. In

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ever, the governor was not to be found, while his children and wife were behind barred doors in the cellar beyond the reach of the mob.

The feature of the evening will be the very colorful Mexican Christmas play, in which all the ancient traditions and gayeties will be shown interwoven with the plot of the play. Another important number will be the pageant.

The affair is being sponsored jointly by the Y. W. C. A. and International Club. Similar program will be rendered on both nights with the added attraction of a dance on Saturday night. California Trio will furnish the music.

Some political observers believe the life of Premier Baron Tanaka's cabinet, which has been in power since April, 1927, will depend on its ability to weather this storm without defeat on any major question.

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