
ASIA NOTES

Newsletter of the Department of
Asian Languages & Literature
at the University of Washington

SPRING 1993

MURAKAMI HARUKI VISITS ASIAN L&L

Popular Japanese novelist Murakami Haruki visited the University of Washington campus Thursday, November 12, 1992, primarily to check on the truth of reports to him that no one in Jay Rubin's classes is allowed to read any other author. It turned out to be true. Students in both Japan 431 and Japan 580 enjoyed Murakami's straightforward answers to a variety of questions regarding the problems he faces as a Japanese writer living in America, his preferences in American fiction, and his views on the significance of his own writing. University of Washington students were pleased to find Mr. Murakami quite human and easy to talk to. *The New Yorker* has carried two of Rubin's Murakami translations (11-18-91, 3-30-92) and one by last year's visiting professor Philip Gabriel (11-2-92). Knopf has recently published a book of Murakami short stories translated by Rubin entitled *The Elephant Vanishes*.



Murakami Haruki

For a critical assessment of Murakami's fiction by Matthew Strecher, a graduate student in Japanese language & literature, see pages 4 and 5.

SEASSI '93

Summer Quarter, 1993, the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, together with the Southeast Asian Studies Program of the Jackson School of International Studies, will for the second consecutive year host the Southeast Asian Summer Studies Institute (SEASSI). The language coordinator will again be Professor Harold Schiffman. The Institute, supported by a consortium of U.S. universities committed to Southeast Asian Studies, the Ford Foundation, the Luce Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Fulbright Foundation, will offer courses in eight Southeast Asian languages (Burmese, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Taga-

log, Thai, and Vietnamese) to an anticipated 200 or more students. Instructors for the languages will be culled from Southeast Asia, Europe, and from our own campus. Last summer Vietnamese and Lao were coordinated by our own Dr. Kim Nguyen and Dr. Wiworn Kesavatana-Dohrs, respectively. Sections will be small (no more than ten students in each) and numerous (three or four sections for beginning Indonesian, Thai, and Vietnamese). Describing last summer's SEASSI program, Professor Schiffman says, "We very much appreciated the patience with which established departments tolerated our presence—with 39 sections of 8 language programs occupying rooms 4 hours a day, 5 days a week for 9 weeks, we were taking over a lot of space, and some established programs felt invaded." He points out one of the biggest benefits of the program, namely, the "opportunity to build links with local Southeast Asian communities, such as the Filipino-American community, the Lao-American community, and others. Local people were delighted to receive our visitors in their homes and make them welcome in Seattle, and we hope to build on this next summer as well." In January, Professor Schiffman travelled to Southeast Asia to investigate establishing links with universities there with a view to collaborative development of teaching materials for the Southeast Asian languages.

"The Anthology in Asia"

A conference on the
theory and practice of
literary canonization

See page 3.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Things are swiftly changing at the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. Long a department known primarily for the strength of its graduate programs and for the quality of the scholarship coming from the pens of its faculty and graduate students, Asian L&L is now swamped with requests for instruction and other services from new and diverse quarters. Seemingly out of nowhere, the Department finds itself with over one hundred undergraduate majors. Graduate applications have risen to their highest levels in twenty years. And the Department is called upon to provide courses tailored to the needs of specific clienteles, professional students in law, business, and engineering, majors and graduate students in Asian L&L itself, and the undergraduate population of the University as a whole. With calls for "internationalizing" American education, an enterprise in which departments of foreign language are expected to play a central role, it is obvious that these pressures on Asian L&L are likely to continue for some time to come.

If Asian L&L is to remain a viable and flourishing department in the future, it is evident that it is going to have to make adjustments and accommodations in the direction of its new and more prominent role in the University. More attention is going to have to be given to the quality of undergraduate majors in the Department. A start has already been made in this direction with the establishment of a standing departmental committee on undergraduate education. This committee has already been seeking concrete ways in which Asian L&L can contribute to undergraduate life in the University as a whole, by developing new courses in literature in translation, by sponsoring talks and seminars, and by cooperating with other departments and programs on interesting and exciting projects.

But if more attention inevitably is to be directed towards the Department's contribution in undergraduate education, it is imperative that this be done in a way that does not impair the ability of the Department to carry out its graduate mission. This will not be easy. In an era of budgetary reductions, it will be no easy trick to find ways to protect the excellent graduate programs that built the reputation of the Department in the first place, while responding to the legitimate demands, coming from other fronts, for new kinds of courses and services. In the midst of all this talk of courses, it will also be important to find ways to increase financial support for graduate students. In this regard, the awarding last year to Asian L&L by the US Department of Education of 14 three-year "GAANN" Fellowships is an excellent first start. But if Asian

L&L is to continue to attract first-rate new students, it will have to continue to seek new and different types of graduate support.

I would be remiss in this message if I failed to note that during the past six or so months many changes have also taken place affecting Asian L&L faculty and staff. After five years of distinguished service, my predecessor, David Knechtges, has stepped down from the Chair, and returned full-time to his first love, classical Chinese literature. David has earned the appreciation of the entire Asian L&L community for his efforts on behalf of the Department. After some 15 years of service, Rose Olsgaard has retired as Administrative Assistant. Rose's warmth, caring, and dedication to the Department will long be remembered in Gowen Hall. In the wake of Rose's retirement, there have been several changes and additions to the departmental staff. Youngie Yoon has assumed the post of Administrative Assistant, Marivic Rigor has become Curriculum Secretary, and Steve Hammer has joined Asian L&L in the capacity of Departmental Secretary. And lastly, in a matter of great sadness, I am sorry to report of the passing during the past twelve months of two faculty members long associated with Asian L&L, Henry Tatsumi and Leon Hurvitz. Both of these men, through their research, teaching, and personalities, enriched the University of Washington and made substantive contributions to the dissemination of knowledge about Asian languages and literatures. They will be greatly missed.

Michael C. Shapiro

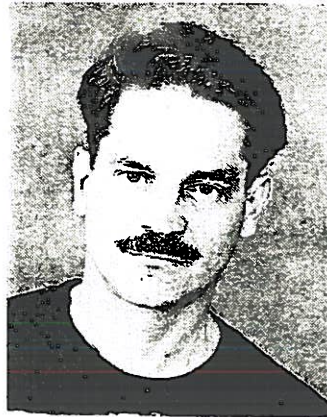
New Publication

Forbidden Games & Video Poems: the Poetry of Yang Mu and Lo Ch'ing, translation and commentary by Joseph R. Allen. Those of us who have been in the Department for at least a decade will certainly remember Joseph Roe Allen, who graduated from the Department with a Ph.D. in Chinese literature in the summer of 1982. Allen's new book is a study and translation of the works of two Chinese poets, Lo Ching and Yang Mu, who is none other than our Department's very own Professor Ching-Hsien Wang.



Ching-Hsien Wang
(a.k.a. Yang Mu)

Published by the University of Washington press, the book has been well received, drawing such comments as that of Howard Goldblatt, University of Colorado at Boulder: "*Forbidden Games & Video Poems* presents neatly crafted, sympathetic, and authoritative renderings of the work of modern poets. Seldom are translations surrounded by such a supporting cast as they are here: the poets' own writings on Chinese poetry and their personal views, merged biographical sketches . . . , explanatory notes that only someone with complete access to and personal familiarity with the subjects could provide, and a critical study that is itself a fine piece of scholarship."



Joseph R. Allen

In his review of another book featuring work of Yang Mu (*Anthology of Modern Chinese Poetry*), appearing in *The New Republic* for February 22, 1993, Stephen Owen comments, "Yang Mu . . . is perhaps the wisest and most gifted of the poets now in their middle age. In his work, informed equally by Chinese and Western poetic traditions, modern Chinese poetry comes into its own, with work of intricacy and control that still loses nothing in depth or intensity. . . . I have noted points of Yang Mu's Western learning, but his work is distinctive in moving easily between the Chinese and Western traditions while exoticizing neither. He is a poet who works with the materials that he has, and those materials include a sense of poetic and cultural history that transcends the cultural division of the 'West' and China. He has become bicultural. There are a number of poets with great talent in the anthology, but talent by itself is not enough: if Yang Mu offers the largest hope for the future, it is because he draws two disparate histories together."

A Conference: "The Anthology in Asia"

"The Anthology in Asia," a University of Washington Conference on the Theory and Practice of Literary Canonization in India, China, Korea, and Japan, was held Friday and Saturday, May 21 and May 22, 1993 in Parrington Hall and Gowen Hall, respectively. The conference began May 21st, with "Defining Literature: The Anthology in Early Medieval China" (David R. Knechtges), followed by "Tensions Reflected in Anthologies of Korean Classical Literature: *Tongmunson* and *Chonggyuyongdon*" (Sang Ran Lee, Sookmyung Women's University). On May 22nd the following talks were given: "Anthological Paths and Pathological Anthologies: Buddhist Soteriology in the *Chokusenwakashū*" (Stephen Miller, University of Colorado); "Keener Demarcations': Anthologies and the Canon of Tang Poetry" (Pauline Yu, University of California, Irvine); "What is Tamil Literature?--Views from the Anthologies" (Norman Cutler, University of Chicago); and "Anthologizing Subversion: *Gengenshū* and the Descriptive Mode in Japanese Court Poetry" (Helen McCullough, University of California, Berkeley).

The Fiction of Murakami Haruki -- A Critical Assessment

Murakami Haruki is Japan's best "serious" popular fiction writer. For those not yet familiar with Murakami (who is perhaps the first Japanese writer to hit major international stardom since Yukio Mishima), there are ample opportunities, and more on the way. In addition to the translations of most of Murakami's novels by Alfred Birnbaum, Professor Jay Rubin has brought out a number of felicitous translations of Murakami short stories, as well as several articles. His latest, "The Other World of Murakami Haruki," appeared in the October-December, 1992 issue of the *Japan Quarterly*, and provides, among other things, several very good reasons for taking Murakami seriously.

Professor Rubin's article is timely, as opinions about Murakami range from dismissal (Masao Miyoshi), to disappointment (Ōe Kenzaburō), to enthusiastic praise within this department. Despite Miyoshi's contention that there is no point in attempting a deep reading of Murakami (*Off Center*, 1991), there are those who feel that Murakami is one of the more interesting explorers delving into the subconscious levels of the human mind--particularly the mind of the writer. Murakami's method up until now has been to begin with a single image (a sheep; a song; pinball), and from there permit the story to flow out from within himself, almost unconsciously, until it has exhausted itself (for readers of *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World* this may ring a bell). Is Murakami suggesting that he himself plays no greater role in the writing process than as a link

between his inner-consciousness and the outside world? In his review of Birnbaum's 1989 translation of *Hitsuji o Meguru Bōken* (*A Wild Sheep Chase*), Jay Rubin points out that "Murakami may sound like a New Age channeler when he talks about the way his books 'want to be written by him'" (*The World & I*, April 1990, 387), and in fact this is essentially what Murakami said during a discussion (over beer) regarding the role of the writer as creator. Like so many of the unexplained images in his novels and short stories, the words themselves simply emerge from someplace inside his mind, providing him with a starting point from which to write.



Murakami Haruki

It would be absurd to suggest, however, that the process is *wholly* unconscious, for Murakami's use of images and symbolism are generally consistent, and often surprisingly conventional. Soaring birds suggest

freedom, wells remind the reader of the depths of human consciousness, and the sheep . . . well, no one is really sure what the sheep means--including Murakami, or so he claims.

But are we to believe that Murakami has no idea what his images (or his stories in general) really mean? Does he truly expect his readers and critics to accept that his remarkable narrative constructions, his development of worlds ranging from unusual ("Sleep": a person wakes up one night, never to sleep again) to almost "cyberpunk" (*End of the World*: brain implants, consciousness "switches," computer-manufactured memories, etc.), come into being without conscious shaping on his part, and that their significance and success are a matter of chance?

Yes and no. If Murakami's stories are relevant for his readers, it is because he knows his craft, and equally important, because behind the mask of the entertaining, slightly off-the-wall story-teller is a genuine, decent human being with an enviable imagination. But Murakami does insist that interpretation of his writing is solely in the hands of readers, not himself. Hence the liberating, if sometimes frustrating, answer he gives to specific explanations of his work: if you found something there, then it probably exists. Murakami invests words and language with the power to mean autonomously, a conviction which is often expressed quite clearly in his writing. In "Bimbō no obasan no hansahi" (The Story of the Poor Aunt," 1980), the narrator discovers the shadowy figure of a pathetic, middle-aged woman clinging to his back one day. The "poor aunt" appears as something or someone familiar to each person who sees it (a dog who died of throat cancer ▶▶▶

to one; an unfortunate school-teacher to another), but never the same thing to more than one person. Later, trying to explain the figure to a television talk-show host, the narrator says that it is *tada no kotoba*, "just words." This is a key to understanding Murakami and his works, for, like most of the images that appear in his books, the narrator never sees where the "poor aunt" comes from, nor does he see where she goes when she leaves. One possible answer is that these images come popping out of Murakami's own inner consciousness, manifest themselves in the world for a while. For us they are the stories themselves; within the stories, they become "real"; the sheep, the "poor aunt," and so forth). What these images mean, why they lurk within Murakami's mind, and why they must emerge at all, is something neither he nor his narrators ever seem to know.

Reading Murakami provides a rare glimpse, through the thinnest of veils, into the inner consciousness of another human being. And while the presentation is often light and amusing, behind the deflecting sheen of humor usually lurks something much darker (at least one critic has expressed surprise at the number of suicides that occur in Murakami's writing, predictably presented without the histrionics one might expect). It has been suggested that Murakami's religiously observed morning runs serve to keep him fresh and sane, a necessary balm against the dangers of foraging inside the darkness of his mind too long.

Charges that Murakami's writing lacks the confrontational edge of more "serious" writing, that it fails to engage in social critique, are understandable, if not always correct. Such charges are easy to level in the face of Murakami's pervasive hu-

mor, his simplified writing style and the veneer of absurdity that cloaks his more serious underplots. Yet it is difficult to emerge from "Sleep," "The Story of the Poor Aunt," or *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World* without reflecting on the loneliness, the nostalgia, the desire for individuality and meaningful human interaction that cuts across the grain of human experience in these stories. This is especially true of one of the few Murakami novels not yet published in translation, *Dance, Dance, Dance* (1988), in which the "metaphysical" narrative serves to propel a more basic critique of Japanese society in the 80s.

Whether one reads for edification or purely for pleasure (as we studiously and critically bore through the texts, thousands of Japanese high school students may be pursuing the same texts for amusement in their spare time) there seems to be something for almost everybody in Murakami. His narrative and thematic conflicts are equally diverse, ranging from a broadside leveled against the insidiousness of high capitalism to conflicts entirely within himself. These are not concerns only of intellectuals, but of society in general. This may be one explanation for Murakami's remarkable appeal, not only in Japan but throughout the world.

Matthew Strecher

Tatsumi Award Winners

Two students of Japanese, **Mr. Adam Goff**, a graduate student in Japan Regional Studies, and **Mr. Dan Charlson**, an undergraduate majoring in Linguistics and in International Studies, received the Tatsumi Award in early May, 1993. The Tatsumi Awards are given to students who distinguish themselves in the study of the language and culture of Japan.

New Graduate Students for 1992/93

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature welcomed twelve new graduate students in the current academic year. They are: **Mr. Paul Anderson**, University of Minnesota, Chinese L&L; **Mr. Kurt Beidler**, Lehigh University, Chinese L&L; **Mr. Patrick Chew**, U.C., Berkeley, Chinese L&L; **Ms. May Hoshide**, Pomona, Japanese L&L; **Ms. Jiang Bing**, Southwest Normal, Chinese L&L; **Ms. Mary Hirsch**, Carleton College, Chinese L&L; **Ms. Amy McGhee**, George Washington, Chinese L&L; **Ms. Ann Murphy**, Brown, South Asian L&L; **Mr. Jason Neelis**, Brown, South Asian L&L; **Mr. Kurtis Schaeffer**, Lewis and Clark, South Asian L&L (Buddhist Studies concentration); **Mr. Tetsuji Ueda**, University of Oregon, Chinese L&L; **Ms. Zheng Xiaorong**, Sichuan University, Chinese L&L. Best of luck to each of them.

Innocents Abroad

Studying abroad this year are **Ms. Arienne Dwyer** (Urumqi, Xinjiang), **David Branner** (Fuzhou, Fujia), **Christopher DeLuica** (Taipei, Taiwan, Taiwan National University). He has written a report on the Exchange Program, which is available in the Office.), **Alicia Yen** (Taiwan), **Jakob Dempsey** (Taipei, Taiwan, Taiwan Normal University), **Martin Koessel** (Yokohama, Japan, IUC), **Rachel DiNitto** (Yokohama, Japan, IUC), **Douglas Slaymaker** (Kumamoto University -- Autumn and Winter Quarters), **James Dorsey** (Hosei University, Tokyo, Monbusho); **Rebecca Manring**, (India and Bangladesh), **Patricia Hammerle** (India).

STUDENT NEWS

Activities

The graduate students in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature hold an annual Student Conference on Asian Studies. This year's Conference was held on Saturday, April 24, 1993, in the Student Lounge of the Political Science Department. This year, Professor William Boltz gave a keynote address on "The Art and Arts of Translating Classics of Asian Literature." The conference also featured a potluck lunch and post-conference discussion facilitated by "brain tonic" at the Big Time Saloon on University Way.

Papers read and discussed this year were: "Axe Blades in Early Chinese Culture," **Mary Hirsch**; "Merchants in Medieval and Mughal India," **Jason Neelis**; "Some Notes on the Southern Song Buddhist Tripitaka," **Tetsuji Ueda**; "The Fusion of Time in *Matsuri no ba*," **Davinder Bhowmik**; Examples of Our Ancestors: Historical Impressions of the Northern Song Official, Wang Anshi, and Concepts of Political Reform During the Qing Dynasty," **James Anderson**; "The *Raula Vela* Inscription From Dhar," **Tim Lenz**; "Morphological Analysis of Tamil Words by Computer," **Vasu Renganathan**; "Reading Contemporary Japanese Literature by Women of the Postwar Generation: Tomioka Taeko's *Sakagami*," **Christine Marran**; and "A Quotative Particle in Qinghai Chinese: Further Evidence of Language Contact in Northwest China," **Keith Dede**.

In addition to the Student Conference on Asian Studies, the graduate students are sponsoring a book sale. Though not an annual affair, the book sale is always very popular and generally profitable. Proceeds from

the sale go to the Asian Languages and Literature Graduate Student fund. Please contact Carrie Reed at 543-9170 or 528-4810, M248 Gowen Hall, for further information.

Publications

Zhuangzi Speaks: the Music of Nature. Adapted and illustrated by Tsai Chih Chung, translated by **Brian Bruya**, Princeton University Press, 1992. Tsai Chih Chung is a popular Taiwanese cartoonist who has turned from drawing humorous characters and producing animated films to adapting and illustrating the works of ancient Chinese philosophy and literature. Brian Bruya, who recently received a joint B.A. degree from the Departments of Asian Languages and Literature (in Chinese) and Philosophy, is currently employed as a free-lance translator. He first encountered Tsai Chih Chung's work while employed as a translator at the National Palace Museum in Taiwan. Mr. Bruya studied Chinese at National Taiwan Normal University's Mandarin Training Center. He also has participated in the Stanford Inter-University Program for Chinese language studies at Taipei.

Zhuangzi Speaks illustrates the "Thought" of Zhuangzi (369?-286?), who though he himself would have been unfamiliar with the term "Daoist," has been categorized as Daoist since the second century before Christ. A native of Song, Zhuangzi relied upon parables, anecdotes, and flights of fantasy to get his ideas across. He had "little use for language as a tool for gaining access to knowledge" and his writings "show no ecumenical interest," "are unequivocally anti-Confucian and anti-Mohist," and "reveal no political interest." According to Zhuangzi, the "perfect man uses his

mind like a mirror, going after nothing, welcoming nothing, responding but not storing."

This is a delightful book, bright and colorful, and a clever way to introduce the young at heart to the thought of Zhuangzi. Congratulations on a fine accomplishment, Mr. Bruya!

Bill Galloway, a Thai major, has for some months been writing articles on Thai affairs for the *Northwest Asia Weekly*. Notable among his pieces are "Elections in Thailand: Voices of the Undead" (9/12/92), "Integrative Thai Art at the Burke Museum" (9/26/92), "Traditional Lao Textiles-Living Art, Cultural Imperative" (10/3/92), "Thai Election Results Herald Reform, Compromise" (10/3/92), "Wattana Wattapanun--An Artist in two Worlds" (11/7/92), "The Power We Share: AIDS and Prostitution in Thailand" (5/8/93). The articles are authoritative, compassionate, and politically astute. They are also well researched and place contemporary affairs in a broad historical context.



Bill Galloway

When he graduates in June, 1993, Mr. Galloway plans on continuing his professional study of Southeast Asia in a graduate program in Anthropology here at the University of Washington.

Who's Who

This year's GPSS student representatives have been **Peter Schwabland** and **Mary Hirsch**. This year's senators have been: **Jin Ning** and **Anne Murphy**.

Honors

Sixteen Asian L&L graduate students were honored at a reception in early April hosted by the Graduate School and the Provost for "meritorious graduate students who have received fellowships and other awards." The sixteen included fourteen GAANN awardees: **Paul Anderson, Kurt Beidler, Ramiro Casañas, Jeffrey Crosland, Patricia Hammerle, Timothy Lenz, Amy McGhee, Anne Murphy, Jason Neelis, Kurtis Schaeffer, Peter Schwabland, Ravinder Singh, Cyrus Stearns, and Matthew Strecher**. Other awardees included **David Branner** and **Rebecca Manring**, Fulbright recipients researching their doctoral theses in China and India, respectively.

Student Resources

Tim Lenz has drawn up a list of resources which may be of interest to students:

U.S. Department of Education Southeast Asian Summer Business Internships, two to four months, up to \$4,000.

Institute for Advanced Study, Post-Doc. Contact: Administrative Office, School of Social Science, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ 08540.

United States Institute of Peace. Fellowships are "to increase understanding about international Peace and conflict management." Write to Jennings Randolph Program for

International Peace, United States Institute for Peace, 1550 M. Street, N.W., Suite 700, Washington, D.C. 2005-1708. Ph: (202) 457-1706, FAX (202) 429-6063

Council on Foreign Relations. Contact: Council on Foreign Relations, 58 East 68th Street, New York, N.Y. 10021, Ph (212) 734-0400, FAX (212) 861-2701

American Council of Learned Societies, 228 East 24th Street, N.Y., NY 10017. Ph. (212) 697-1505, FAX (212) 949-8058. President: Dr. Stanley K. Katz. Publishes annual report, newsletter (quarterly) and occasional papers concerning humanities & humanistic aspects of social sciences.

Library of Congress Junior Fellows Program: Library of Congress, Washington D.C. 10540, Ph (202) 707-5420

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowships, contact: The Fellowship Office, GR420A, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20418, Ph (202) 334-2872.

Cap & Gown 1992/93

Ph.D.

Richard Simmons, "The Hangzhou Dialect" (advisor: Jerry Norman)

M.A.

Davinder Bhowmik

Keith Dede

James Dorsey

Christine Marran

Vasu Renganathan

Joseph Schmidt

Douglas Slaymaker

Ph.D. Candidacy

James Dempsey

Ablahat Ibrahim

Heidi Pauwels

Yang Qi

Ding Xiang Warner

Yu Zhiqiang

Staff News

With the retirement of Mrs. Rose Olsgaard in June, 1992, Ms. Youngie Yoon was promoted to the position of Administrative Assistant; Ms. Marivic Rigor became Curriculum Secretary in Ms. Yoon's place; and the Department hired Mr. Steven Hammer to fill the position at the front desk.

Mr. Hammer says of himself that he was born and grew up in the Missouri Ozarks; that he moved to Kansas City, Missouri with his family when he was entering high school; that he attended the University of Missouri for two and a half years before being drafted into the U.S. Army. He married in 1974 and became (he says with a characteristic equanimity) a "trailing spouse," moving from Missouri to Minnesota, to Washington--Seattle and then Olympia and then Seattle again--where in the summer of 1992 he accepted the Department's offer to "man" the front desk. Steve's work experience includes five and a half years at the University of Minnesota and six years at the University of Washington (prior to his current employment).

Outside of work, Mr. Hammer enjoys gardening, hiking, backpacking, and travel. Welcome aboard, Steve!

Language Program Notes

Japanese

In early November, Professor John Treat was invited by the Japanese Government (Monbusho) to lecture at the Institute of Japanese Literature (Tokyo). Professor Treat spoke on "Japanese Literature and Modernization." Treat is also editing a special issue of the *Journal of Japanese Studies* slated for Summer, 1993, focusing on Japanese popular culture.

Also in November, Professors Jay Rubin and John Treat participated in a panel with the famous Japanese novelist Haruki Murakami (*Norwegian Wood, The Wild Sheep Chase*) at the University of California at Berkeley. (For a discussion of Haruki Murakami, see pages 4 and 5.)

Two Asian L&L graduate students are studying at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama during the 92-93 academic year: Ms. Rachel DiNitto and Mr. Martin Koessel. James Dorsey is doing some early doctoral research at Hosei University in Tokyo this year. Douglas Slaymaker (back in Seattle now) spent two quarters researching his Master's thesis in Kumamoto.

Jay Rubin, a member of the Asian L & L faculty since 1975, will be moving to Harvard University in the Fall. Jay's droll wit, not to mention his expertise in Japanese literature and gifts as a translator, will be missed around the Department.

South Asian

The program in South Asian Languages and Literature is attracting an increasing number of students. In particular, the growing presence on campus of students with a South Asian background has helped to swell enrollments in Hindi language courses. This year, for the first time

ever, enrollments for the elementary Hindi course were large enough to require division into two sections.

Richard Salomon, who in addition to being Professor of Sanskrit is Chair of the South Asia Program, is busy with administrative duties, but still finds time to continue his career-long study of ancient Indian inscriptions.

Professor Alan Entwistle has started making arrangements for the Sixth International Conference on Early Literature in New Indo-Aryan Languages, which will be held at the UW in July, 1994. Response from the first circular has been encouraging; more than seventy scholars from nineteen countries are planning to come, most of whom intend to present a paper. This triennial conference has previously been held at various universities in Europe and has become the most important forum for research in pre-modern Indo-Aryan devotional literature.

Professor Leonard van der Kuijp spent Autumn Quarter in China and Tibet collecting copies of newly discovered Buddhist texts and manuscripts.

In November Naseem Hines read a paper and chaired a panel at the 21st Annual Conference on South Asia held at the University of Wisconsin (Madison). She spoke on the relationship between Hindu and Islamic poetry in the Mughal period. She also attended the next meeting of the AAS in Los Angeles and continues to be active in local poetry readings (mushaira) and musical events.

Graduate students in the South Asian Languages and Literature program have been hard at work. Heidi Pauwels passed her qualifying examinations and is now writing her dissertation. Tim Lenz made a brief visit to India. He landed in Bombay just as riots were breaking out in the

wake of the demolition of the Babri Masjid, but this did not prevent him from carrying out his planned research. He even managed to get permission to photograph an important inscription in Bombay's Prince of Wales Museum. Rebecca Manring, who is spending a year in India and Bangladesh, communicates that she is doing well in Calcutta and is planning to visit Bangladesh in pursuit of information and texts concerning one of the leading early figures in the Caitanya movement. Pat Hammerle is in India for the Spring Quarter, mainly to take some advanced Hindi courses. Vasu Renganathan earned his M.A. and is preparing for the entrance exam to the Ph.D. program.

Two scholars have visited the UW for the Winter and Spring Quarters. Linh Mei-cun, from the Institute of Cultural relics in Beijing, is here as a Visiting Scholar working in association with Professor Salomon. He is an expert on the Indianized cultures of ancient Central Asia and is engaged in the translation and interpretation of epigraphical and documentary materials from this region.

On May 17 and 18 we had the honor of welcoming Professor Ludo Rocher, who is the W. Norman Brown Professor of South Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. On May 17 Dr. Rocher addressed the Department on "The Scholarly Editing of Indian Texts," and on May 18 he delivered the Solomon Katz Distinguished Lecture in the Humanities on "Orality and Textuality in the Indian Context." Dr. Rocher is one of the most eminent senior scholars in this country in the fields of Indology and Sanskrit studies, and is particularly known for his expertise in the field of Indian law including both the classical *Dharmaśāstra* and its relevance and application to the modern Indian legal system.

Southeast Asian

Professor Harold Schiffman spent January in Southeast Asia visiting universities in Bangkok, Hanoi, Jakarta, Surabaya, Singapore, and Kuala Lumpur. He negotiated the setting up of cooperative linkages with universities in our regional language consortium (Oregon, UBC, UW) in order to develop teaching materials for Thai, Vietnamese, and Indonesian. It is hoped that instructors from Southeast Asian universities will be able to come to the UW and help develop teaching materials.

Professor Schiffman also did some ground work for a research project that will examine language policy with regard to Tamil in Malaysia and Singapore. He is busy in his capacity as language coordinator for the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute, which will be held at the UW in the summer of 1993 and will offer courses at the elementary, intermediate, and advanced levels in Burmese, Indonesian, Javanese, Khmer, Lao, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese, as well as seminars on Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and even a Dutch reading course.

Professor Schiffman is also pleased to announce that the compilation of his *English Dictionary of the Tamil Verb* has been aided by a donation of \$2,000 from Mr. and Mrs. P. Veluchamy. Mr. Veluchamy, who now operates an educational magazine distribution business, studied Engineering at the UW and was a Teaching Assistant in Tamil.

Professor Schiffman has been selected for a Fulbright Senior Scholar award under the Southeast Asian Regional Research Program during the 1993-94 academic year.

Chinese

Associate Professor Anne Yue-Hashimoto has just concluded two

collaborative research projects on Comparative Chinese Dialectal Grammar, which were supported by both the NEH and the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation from 1990 through 1992 and for which she served as principal investigator/director. These constituted the second stage of her research in the field, focusing on the Neutral Question forms across the major dialect groups of Wu, Yue, Southern Min, Southeastern Mandarin and Northwestern Mandarin, but also including a few dialects from Southwestern Mandarin, the Gan and the Hakka groups. Her chief collaborators were the late eminent Professor Zhu Dexi of Peking University; Professor You Rujie of Fudan University, who worked on the Wu dialects and was a visiting scholar to our Department from April through November, 1991; Professor Liu Xunning of Peking University, who worked on the Northwestern Mandarin dialects and the *Zutangji*, and was a visiting scholar to our Department from January, 1991 through August, 1992; Dr. Zhang Min of Peking University, who worked on Southeastern and Southwestern Mandarin and was a visiting scholar to our Department from August, 1991 through March, 1992; and Professor Chang Yu-hung of National Taiwan University, who worked on some colloquial Min documents. Professor Jerry Norman served as consultant, and two graduate students—Mr. Keith Dede and Ms. Ann Kenady—served as research assistants between 1991-1992. With additional help from various colleagues in China—Mr. Chen Zhongmin and Mr. Dai Yaojing of Fudan University, Professor Li Yongming of the Xiangtan University, Professor Liu Jian, Hou Jingyi and Zheng-Zhang Shangfang of the Linguistic Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Professor Shi Qisheng of the Zhongshan

University and Professor Zhan Bohui of Jinan University—over 100 dialects were investigated. Preliminary and partial research results have been published or presented as papers at conferences.

The results of these research projects sparked Yue's interest in a closely related field—language contact and syntactic change. Yue recently received a two-year collaborative research grant from the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation to pursue this interest. The project focuses on sociolinguistic factors that contribute to syntactic change as well as on the nature and process of syntactic change. Yue's chief collaborator is Professor Lien Chinfa of the National Tsing Hua University, who will work mainly on colloquial Min documents and the Southern Min dialects in Taiwan, and will visit our Department during the summer of 1994. This grant will enable Yue to carry out field work on various Yue dialects in Hong Kong during the summer of 1993. She will also work on colloquial Yue documents. Dr. Zhang Min will join this project some time in 1993 to work on the colloquial documents of the Mandarin dialects.

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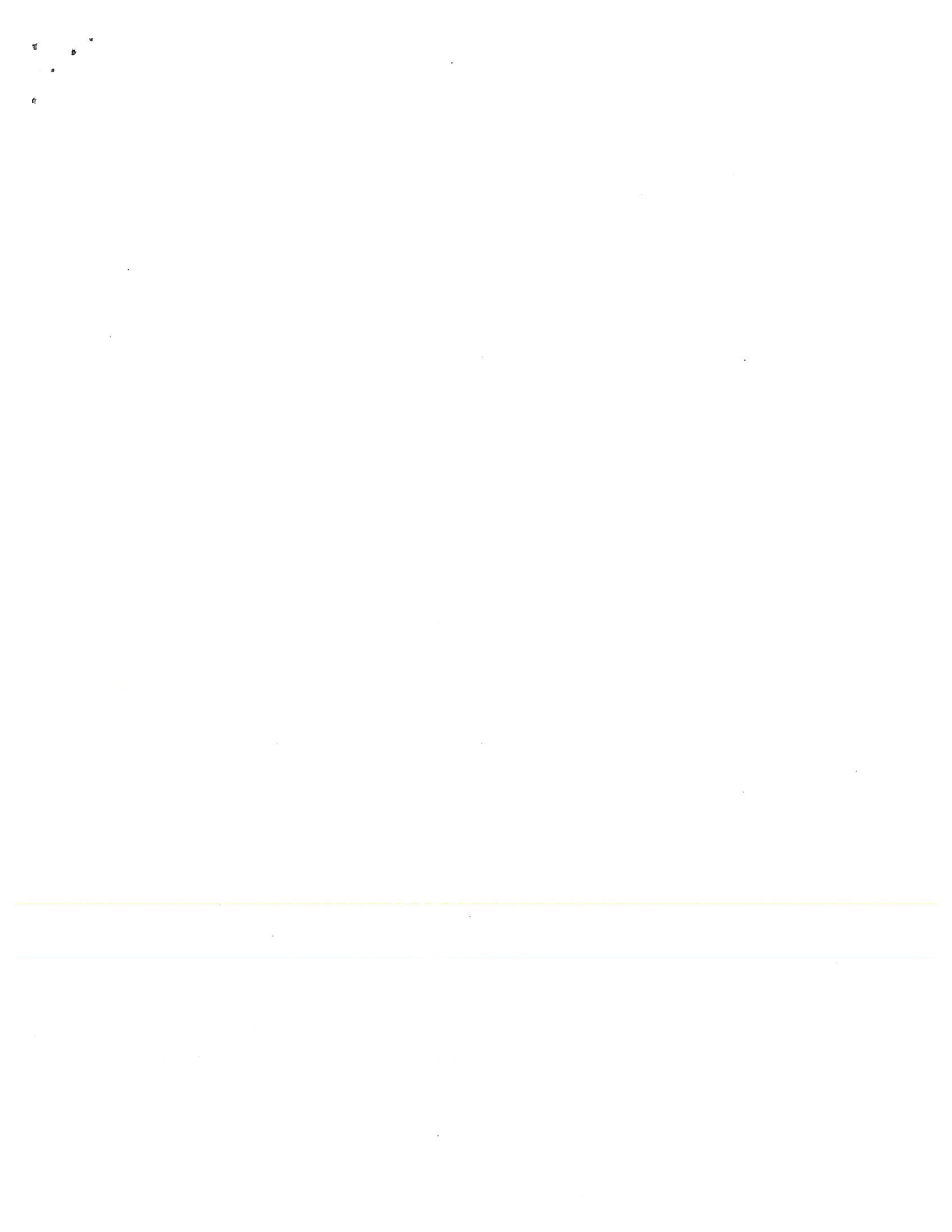
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