

Editor's Note

This fourth edition of *Japanese Studies in the World* is an all English edition. In it we feature two papers: one on Japan Studies in the Philippines, by Professor Josefa M. SanieI, and one on recent dissertations written in the USA on Japanese though,t by Dr. Carl Becker.

Professor SanieI presented her paper at a seminar on Japanese Studies in the World, which was held at Nichibunken on February 19, 1991. The original paper provided a comprehensive overview of the study of Japan in the Philippines which included detailed data on the study of the Japanese language also. However, due to limitations on space we have reproduced here an abridged version which focuses only on the topic of research on Japan.

In her paper, Professor SanieI not only surveys the study of Japan in the University of the Philippines, the Ateneo de Manila University, the University of Santo Tomas and the De La Salle University but also undertakes the difficult task of defining and differentiating terms such as "Japan studies" and "Japanese studies" as well as "studies on Japan" as opposed to "the study of Japan." By doing so, she has managed to clarify the character of the types of studies being undertaken in the Philippines whilst also providing

food for thought on further defining the ever growing and diversifying field that is so often simply given the label of Japanese Studies.

In the second paper, written by Dr. Becker, we have been provided with an overview of the trends and changes in doctoral dissertations in the USA which focus on Japanese thought. In his paper, which covers the decade of 1979 to 1988, Dr. Becker has not confined his survey of dissertations simply to ones that were products of religion or philosophy departments but rather has extended his survey so that all dissertations related to Japanese thought from the humanities field were included in his study. His study is therefore based on 62 dissertations which he analyses to discover the general trends in work being conducted, as well as some changes in topics according to geographical locations. This analysis serves to paint an overall picture of studies on Japanese thought thus allowing us to see what has yet to be carried out.

Dr. Becker also includes comments on how studies on Japanese thought might also be used to refresh and nourish present Western thought, which in itself presents an interesting aspect of the potential of Japanese studies.

As always, I would add that we are always glad to receive papers on Japanese studies which may focus on anything at all

related to research in this field. Whilst the papers in this series do not focus on actual results of research they will, no doubt, provide invaluable information for all involved in this field. Hopefully the information provided here will be stimulating in that it provides researchers with data on other researchers and research departments. Although this may not relate directly to particular research, news on such things as tools of the trade and structures of organisations may just provide the important hint which contributes to new discoveries.

August 1992

園田英弘

(Sonoda Hidehiro)

Pauline Kent