

The Concierge

The Tohoku University Main Library Newsletter in association with 'The Sentinel'



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Better be lost in BOOKS!

Have you ever missed your young age when you have no mobile phone to check countless times for a day, and the only way friends can contact you is the telephone that your whole family together use at home? How many times have you been upset with the time-consuming habit of watching videos from u tube and playing mobile games, while enjoying and addicting at the same time? If our answer is yes, then we have been the victims of advanced technology.

Of course, who can deny the convenience of a wonderful digital revolutionary age? What do we want to know? What do we want to do? It is all on our smartphone. It is magic, it isn't it?

Well, on the other hand we are losing many things in return. Where is the habit of getting up early morning? The habit of mobile using in bed until late is replacing it. Where is the habit of writing down the notes and remembering them in school lecture? EBooks and pdf files are replacing them. When is the last time we stand and see the natural beauty and moments around us? The convenient and quick use of the mobile camera is stealing our chance to enjoy the true moments. What do we do when we arrive at the class a couple of minutes ahead of the time? We are as usual all dipping inside mobile screen instead of glancing who is sitting next to us.



We meet the same people every day on the bus, on the train, at the station, in the same class for years. But we never become friends. We never get to know each other. We are losing the chances of talking with wonderful people while being drowned in so-called social media. How many contact numbers do you remember by heart? Are you still using the traditional way of counting for simple calculation or do we just open the calculator if you encounter more than one digit number? Again our mobile phone or PC with high storage capacity has replaced our capability of remembering. Our attention is limited anyway. We have become too full of technology. While looking at one video, another upcoming video is drawing our attention. Our concentration and the power of attention have loosened along with the easy and quick scroll of a mouse click or a touch on a screen. Ok, save it somewhere and I will read it later are the things that we always forget to go back to read. We are exposed to a variety of experiences and of course knowledge and in the end, we could grasp nothing firmly.



These are some of the few examples of how we are suffering from the drawback of rapidly growing technology. Health, social affairs, education, we are all affected badly in these aspects. It is always difficult to break the habit that you are deeply addicted to years. But it does not mean impossible. For all of us in this modernized and highly competitive age, there is no wonder that we try to escape from tiring industrialized worlds from

time to time. Some may have taken a long vacation for a trip just to escape from their stressful lifestyles. Some may have gone drinking or to Karaoke or movie or taken whatever some mind relieving activities they could consider to relieve from stressful moments. I wonder how many of us go and choose to do reading for pleasure in these moments. Let me suggest why not choose another economical and wonderful escape where we can leave our crumpled mind and body for a while and dive down into the sea of books? The best things in the world are gained for free.

Library is one of them. Luckily, it is near us. So leave our mobile somewhere behind at least one day and head to the library without a plan in hand? Say hi to books as if we run into old friends unexpectedly on the way, do not give a care to particular spot to sit. Anywhere at your ease is all for you. So let's sit down on the floor, hide at a quiet corner, leaning against the bookshelf with a random book that you run into. Either when we finish a chapter of a book, a page of an encyclopaedia, a comic book or the whole novel without turning back to the mobile screen, and then we should congratulate ourselves for our successful escape.



As expressed by Thiri SOE

Tohoku University Main Library 12th Global Session "Have Fun Reading and Speaking in Japanese!"

On January 16th(Wednesday)2019, we held the 12th Global Session of "Have Fun Reading and Speaking in Japanese" at Main Library in Kawauchi. The workshop was to read a favorite story written in easy Japanese and discuss with other participants freely in Japanese. It was intended for International students whose proficiency in Japanese is at intermediate to advanced level. And also, Japanese students were join the event to help them. Facilitator was Lu Hailan who is one of our international concierge member. Her field of study is Japanese-language Education. The session made a great time to them.

東北大学附属図書館 第12回グローバルセッション

にほんごほん

やさしい日本語の本を読もう!

~楽しく読んで日本語で話すワークショップ~

日本語を学んでいる留学生を対象にした、日本語の本を読むワークショップをおこないます。

好きな本を選んで読み、日本人学生と一緒に感想を自由に話し合います。いろいろな本を、みんなで楽しく読んでみませんか?

◆使用する図書◆
にほんご多読ボックス
にほんご よむよむ文庫
マンガ など

日時: 2019.1.16(水) 15:00-16:00

会場: 附属図書館2階 大会議室

対象: 日本語レベル初級 (おむね JLPT N3相当) 以上で日本語での簡単な会話ができる留学生

定員: 10名程度

申込: 附属図書館レファレンスデスク ☎022-795-5935
✉ desk@grp.tohoku.ac.jp、または QR コードから
事前に申し込んでください。
(当日参加も可能です)

Poster

The facilitator was introduce herself and explain about this session in the first. Then, the participant chose the book which want to read. These books were already selected by Lu from Global learning room. It was many kind of stories, for example, folk tales of Japan, Japanese culture, Japanese historical person and Japanese comic "Case closed" so on. After they chose the books, they were divided into 4 groups and sit. And also, each groups had one Japanese student to support them. They read it about 20 minute by themselves. They were so earnestly to read books but they could ask

the word that they don't understand to the Japanese student so it had been filled with cozy atmosphere.



The Book was divided into each level

When the conversation time started, they were very enjoy talking about the book which they read. One of them read "Yukichi Fukuzawa". He is not only Japanese historical person but also printed on 10.000 yen bill. Therefore, some Japanese people saying 10.000 yen bill, as "Yukichi", Japanese student explained. It was great opportunity to get a new Japanese word for them. Each group had active exchange of opinions, questions and answers with a bright laugh. Time flew when they were having fun.



They were relax and read a book



They could ask word which doesn't understand to Japanese student.

In summary, this kind of global session was held for first time. People who were join this workshop was really enjoy reading Japanese books and talking in Japanese. We could know that they especially wanted to have chance to talk in Japanese. We are very glad if we help them to learn Japanese and culture. We hope this session face towards a bright future for them, like sunflowers do.



A group photo

As reported by Mika UENO (Library Staff)

Reader's Choice: What to Read Next?

This section introduces a new book from our available selection at the Tohoku University Main Library. It is intended to pique your interest and fill your grey matter with intellect and emotion. Sit back and read!

The first thing that attracted me to this book was the title. Isn't it quite unusual for a Japanese writer to write in Roman Script? It was the first time for me to encounter such a case. Together with my undeniable passion for autobiographies, I couldn't resist to pick it out as my next read.

The author, Takuboku Ishikawa (石川 啄木, February 20, 1886 - April 13, 1912), was a Japanese poet born in Iwate prefecture of Tohoku region. He is well known as a Tanka and new-style poet, however, he died at a very young age due to tuberculosis. As for his personality, he was a weak and rather miserable man who was buried under the pressure of his responsibilities towards his family, which can be clearly inferred from his Romji Diary.

"Romaji Diary" is the first of the two parts in this book. It is actually Ishikawa's personal diary that was written from April to June 1909, three years before his death. The second part, "Sad Toys", is a collection of 194 Tanka (the traditional 31-syllable Japanese poems) he composed.

I believe that reading even ordinary people's diaries bears a unique enjoyment. Simple everyday pieces of writing might not be considered elite literature, but it can definitely reach out and be relatable to a much wider range of readers. I have always enjoyed reading personal blogs. Romaji Diaries seemed to me just like another blog, although, what makes the difference is that this one is written by a rather unfortunate Japanese poet in early 20th century and that makes it quite hard to ignore! By reading this book, you can see the world through Ishikawa's eyes. You can wander around an older version of Tokyo and maybe you will be able to feel his pain and frustration throughout his short life. To be honest, the book is very sad in many ways. Poverty and illness are two distinct elements that shaped Ishikawa's life.

My favorite part of the Romaji Diary is the one with Ishikawa getting emotional after receiving a letter from her younger sister,

Mitsuko. The only one whose letters are not a reminder of the distressing responsibilities he had to bear. Ishikawa freely expresses his feelings towards his sister and the old days' memories:

"Tonight, I can't suppress my love for my younger sister. I want to see her! On seeing her, I want to say something an elder brother would say. I want to talk with her about Shibutami to my heart's content. I want both of us to return to those days long passed when we knew nothing of the bitterness, the sorrow, and the pain of the world. Nothing else is necessary!"

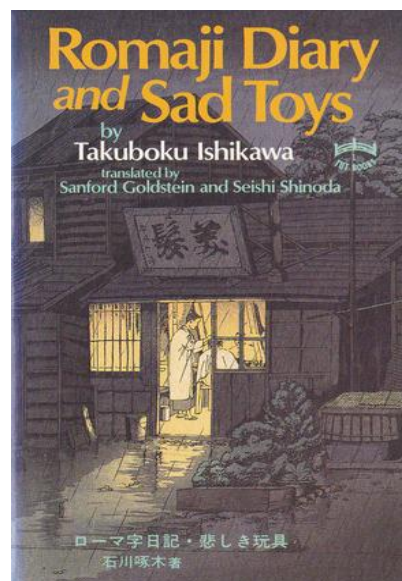
At the end of each part, there are pretty interesting explanatory notes from the translators that can help you understand the situation better throughout your read.

I want to finish my review with three of Ishikawa's Tanka. For Japanese learners, do check out the original Japanese versions of the poems which are also available in the book.

"Like some train across a wild waste
This agony
Now and then through my mind!"

"Convinced you can't put characters
On unlined papers ---
O this innocence of my kid!"

"When I breathe,
This sound in my chest
Lonelier than the winter wind"



Book – *Romaji Diary and Sad Toys*
Author- Takuboku Ishikawa
Publisher- Charles E. Tuttle Company, Inc.
Barcode No - 00880461542
Call No – KH 197/1
Location – Main Library, Global Learning Room

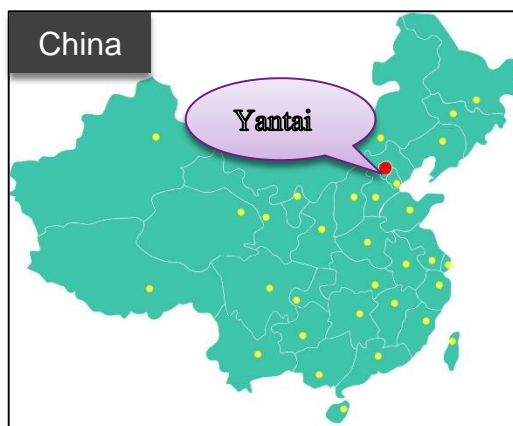
Reviewed by **Sara Ebrahimi Azar**

My hometown: Yantai(煙台市)

In this column, we introduce the hometowns of our members, giving you glimpse into the culture and the best things to do!

Yantai, situated at the north of the Shandong peninsula, is a small and quiet port city. Surrounded by mountains and the sea, Yantai has been titled as “one of the most comfortable city to live” by the UN*.

*Yantai won the United Nations Habitat Scroll of Honor Award in 2005.



The signal fire turret
(<http://blog.sina.com.cn/redapple1993>)

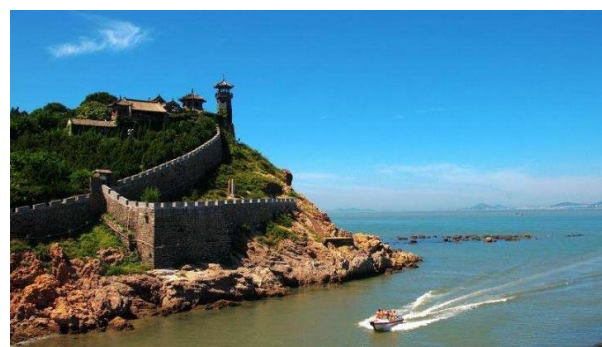
The name “Yantai” came from the signal fire turret on the mountain near the coast, which is built in the Ming Dynasty. Now it has become a famous scenic spot and a symbol of Yantai.

The most famous spot of Yantai is the Penlai city, a town in the west of Yantai. It's known for a beautiful fairy tale “Ba Xian Guo Hai”(the Eight Immortals cross the sea by their own talisman and Penlai is the place they live). Thousands of tourists come to Yantai to visit the mountain where they start their journey in Penglai. And seafood there are also cheap and delicious.



八仙人(東遊記)

(<http://japanese.cri.cn/941/2012/10/08/201s199200.htm>)



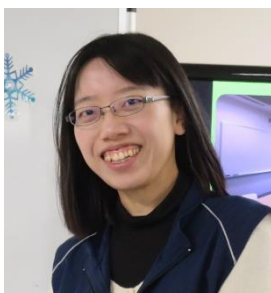
Penglai Pavilion(蓬萊閣)

(http://www.naic.org.cn/html/2018/gjzg_0202/38214.html)

Look back on the modern history of Chinese economy, we can find “Yantai” in the history book. Because Yantai is the city where the first Chinese red wine company “Changyu” was founded. And now the brand has become the most famous wine brand in China. If you like red wine, you would like to come to Yantai and have a taste.

As expressed by **You Jie(由婕)**

Editors



Lin, I-Chia (林宜佳)

A graduate student of International Cultural Studies from Taiwan, she loves listening to music and reading children's literature which full of illustrations. "Peace begins with a smile" is her favorite quote.

Cristy Garciamendez

She is a graduate student of law and philosophy from Mexico. She loves to travel, dance, and read. Her personal motto is: "The more you explore, the more you learn and grow."



Yang Yan (楊妍)

Yang, from China, loves to write comic strips! A graduate student of international cultural studies, she believes that none of us should ever forget our first resolution. Interested in her work? Check out the next issue for her manga!

Andi Holik Ramdani [Editor-in-Chief]

Salam Kenal! A student of religious study and come from Indonesia, a country with thousands island and rich with diversity, Andi love to watch a movie, traveling, and art-design. Active in Tohoku tsunami disaster reconstruction social and mutual activities between Indonesia and Japan, also supporting mutual coexistence program (Tabunka Kyosei) in Sendai through interreligious dialogue.



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