

**Arne Kalland and Henrik H. Sørensen, eds:** *Perspectives on Japan and Korea*. Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, 1991 (Nordic Proceedings in Asian studies, No.1). 306 pp.

In 1988, the first Nordic Symposium on Japanese and Korean Studies was held at Stockholm University as a rather small gathering of scholars. The second such symposium took place in Copenhagen in 1990, and this time there were 65 participants. At this meeting it was decided to establish the Nordic Association for Japanese and Korean Studies (NAJAKS). A third symposium of Nordic Scholars in Japanese and Korean studies was held in

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Tampere, Finland, in 1992 with a further increase in participants.

The present publication includes 17 of the 24 papers that were presented at the conference in Copenhagen. The papers span a wide range of subjects, because the symposium did not have a common theme - a deliberate decision on the part of the organizers who wanted the symposium to reflect the variety and breath of Japanese and Korean studies in the Nordic countries. Of the contributors to the book nine are from Sweden, three from Denmark, two from Norway, and one from Finland. The final two contributions are from the invited guest speakers from Korea and Japan: Dr. Kim Youngho who writes on "Interreligious Issues Common in Traditional and Contemporary Religions in Korea", and Dr. Saitoo Osamu who contributes an essay on "Urbanization and De-urbanization Patterns in the Japanese Past: with Special Reference to the Tokugawa Period."

Among the articles by Nordic scholars there is one on Japanese art collecting (Widar Halén), one on modern Japanese literature (Noriko Thunman), three on religion (Ian Astley-Kristensen on esoteric Buddhism, Henrik H. Sørensen on Korean Buddhism, and Aasulv Lande on new religions in Japan), three in the field of anthropology (Els-Marie Anbäcken on medicine in Japan, Katarina Sjöberg on the Ainu, and Toshiko Tsukaguchi-le Grand on the ideology of *Nihonjinron*). The rest of the articles deal with politics. Political culture in Japan and Korea is analyzed by Mika Merviö and Geir Helgesen. Lee Jae-Suk discusses relations between South and North Korea, and Marie Söderberg U.S. - Japan relations. Lars Lindström writes on organized labour in South Korea, and Gabriel Jonsson compares industrialization in Britain and Korea. Finally, Bert Edström analyzes the Japanese attitudes towards the Pacific Basin.

The book is edited by Arne Kalland and Henrik H. Sørensen, and although the papers vary somewhat in depth and quality, the volume is interesting as an indicator of at least some of the things that are happening in East Asian studies in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland.

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