Nakagami, Japan
Buraku and the Writing of Ethnicity
ANNE MCKNIGHT

NEW How do you write yourself into a literature that doesn’t know you exist? This was the conundrum confronted by Nakagami Kenji (1946–1992), who counted himself among the buraku-min, Japan’s largest minority. His answer brought the histories and rhetorical traditions of buraku writing into the high culture of Japanese literature for the first time and helped establish him as the most canonical writer born in postwar Japan.

In Nakagami, Japan, Anne McKnight shows how the writer’s exploration of buraku led to a unique blend of fiction and ethnography—which amounted to nothing less than a reimagining of modern Japanese literature. As McKnight considers the ways in which Nakagami and other twentieth-century writers used ethnography to shape Japanese literature, she reveals how ideas about language also imagined a transfigured relation to mainstream culture and politics. Her analysis of the resulting “rhetorical activism” lays bare Nakagami’s unique blending of literature and ethnography within the context of twentieth-century ideas about race, ethnicity, and citizenship—in Japan, but also on an international scale.

“In Anne McKnight’s proposal that we understand Nakagami’s writings in terms of a ‘parallax vision’ immediately resonates in the mind of anyone familiar with his works: it is an approach that finally allows Nakagami to be Nakagami. We know that we need to get outside the framework of national literary studies, but that is a task easier said than done. McKnight goes a good deal of the way toward showing us what is to be done now in the study of both Japanese literature and minority cultures.” —MICHAEL K. BOURDAGHS, University of Chicago

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Asian Studies and Literary Criticism Pages 2, 5-6

Graphic Arts and Visual Culture Pages 3-4

Asian American Studies Pages 6-7

Film Studies Pages 7-8

Urban Studies, Globalization, and Development Pages 8-9

Culture and Society Page 10

Also of Interest Pages 11-13
Beautiful Fighting Girl
SAITŌ TAMAKI
TRANSLATED BY J. KEITH VINCENT AND DAWN LAWSON
INTRODUCTION BY J. KEITH VINCENT
COMMENTARY BY HIROKI AZUMA

NEW From Cutie Honey and Sailor Moon to Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind, the worlds of Japanese anime and manga teem with prepubescent girls toting deadly weapons. In Beautiful Fighting Girl, Saitō Tamaki offers a sophisticated and convincing interpretation of this alluring and capable figure. For Saitō, the beautiful fighting girl is a complex sexual fantasy that paradoxically lends reality to the fictional spaces she inhabits. Rejecting simplistic moralizing, Saitō understands the otaku’s ability to eroticize and even fall in love with the beautiful fighting girl not as a sign of immaturity or maladaptation but as a result of a heightened sensitivity to the multiple layers of mediation and fictional context that constitute life in our hypermediated world—a logical outcome of the media they consume.

Featuring extensive interviews with Japanese and American otaku, a comprehensive genealogy of the beautiful fighting girl, and an analysis of the American outsider artist Henry Darger, whose baroque imagination Saitō sees as an important antecedent of otaku culture, Beautiful Fighting Girl was hugely influential when first published in Japan, and it remains a key text in the study of manga, anime, and otaku culture.

“Foundational ... Saitō’s uncomfortably deep understanding of the particulars of this Japanese phenomenon allows us to finally begin to answer questions about the far-reaching implications of the now nearly universal fetish, of our atomizing technologies of interactivity, and of our obsessions with new media. I wouldn’t be surprised if this book gives that once-a-decade jostle leading to the n-th wave of feminism or a complete reconfiguration of our understanding of male desire.” —Jonathan E. Abel, Pennsylvania State University

4 $42.00 $60.00 cloth ISBN 978-0-8166-5450-5
248 pages • 23 b&w photos • April 2011

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Japanese Counterculture
The Antiestablishment Art of Terayama Shūji
STEVEN C. RIDGELY

Terayama Shūji (1935–1983) was an avant-garde Japanese poet, dramatist, film director, and photographer known for his highly provocative art. In this inventive and revealing study, Steven C. Ridgely shows that a conventional notion of him does not do full justice to the meaning and importance of his work.

“A long overdue study of Terayama's complex oeuvre, carefully researched and brilliantly argued.” —Akira Mizuta Lippit, University of Southern California

“Exciting ... conveys the feeling and air of the times, the ‘tactical’ interventions of this fascinating figure.” —Miryam Sas, University of California, Berkeley

Mechademia 5
Fanthropologies
FRENCHY LUNNING, EDITOR

Fanthropologies focuses on fans, fan activities, and the otaku phenomenon. The zones of activity discussed in these essays range from fan-subs and copyright issues to gender and nationality in fandom, dolls, and other forms of consumption that fandom offers.

Contributors: Madeline Ashby, Jodie Beck, Christopher Bolton, Naitō Chizuko, Ian Condry, Martha Cornog, Kathryn Dunlap, Ōtsuka Eiji, Gerald Figal, Patrick W. Galbraith, Marc Hairston, Marilyn Ivy, Koichi Iwabuchi, Paul Jackson, Amamiya Karin, Fan-Yi Lam, Thomas Lamarrre, Paul M. Malone, Anne McKnight, Livia Monnet, Susan Napier, Kerin Ogg, Timothy Perper, Eron Rauch, Brian Ruh, Nathan Shockey, Marc Steinberg, Jin C. Tomshine, Carissa Wolf

The Anime Machine
A Media Theory of Animation
THOMAS LAMARRE

A foundational theory of animation.

“Thomas Lamarre has produced a landmark work in cultural theory and media history.” —Brian Massumi, author of Parables for the Virtual

Otaku
Japan’s Database Animals
HIROKI AZUMA
TRANSLATED BY JONATHAN E. ABEL AND SHION KONO

“One of a truly seminal set of works attempting to theorize the form of social being that we now call the otaku.”

—Thomas Looser, New York University
Writing the Love of Boys
Origins of Bishōnen Culture in Modernist Japanese Literature
JEFFREY ANGLES

NEW Despite its centuries-long tradition of literary and artistic depictions of love between men, around the fin de siècle Japanese culture began portraying same-sex desire as immoral. Jeffrey Angles looks at the response to this mindset and focuses on key writers (such as poet Murayama Kaita, mystery writers Edogawa Ranpo and Hamao Shirō, anthropologist Iwata Jun’ichi, and avant-garde innovator Inagaki Taruho), examining how they experimented with new language, genres, and ideas to find fresh ways to represent love and desire between men.

“An important contribution to the study of sexuality in modern Japan. Jeffrey Angles thoughtfully examines the representation of male-male sexuality in the work of three prewar Japanese writers, offering insightful commentary on the specific features of how each writer depicts male-male desire and uses their texts as a lens through which to explore larger currents in the literary and sexual culture of the time.”
—Jim Reichert, author of In the Company of Men

“Angles vividly resurrects a current of Japanese literary modernism—namely, its estheticization of the ‘love of boys’—that previous narratives have obscured.”
—Gregory Pflugfelder, Columbia University

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“Yellow Future’s emphasis on ‘oriental style’ is interesting and fresh. I can see other scholars in the field picking up this term and running with it, both in their writing and teaching. Jane Chi Hyun Park has written an excellent, useful book.”

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Contributors: Sarah Banet-Weiser, U of Southern California; Barbara A. Barnes, U of California, Berkeley; Marie Sarita Gaytán; Avery F. Gordon, U of California, Santa Barbara; Tanya McNeill, U of California, Santa Cruz; Sudarat Musikawong, Willamette U; Akiko Naono, U of Kyushu; Rebecca R. Scott, U of Missouri.

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