

Editor's Introduction

One of the most outstanding tendencies in American Studies in recent years is the widespread interest in “internationalizing,” or, “denationalizing” the discipline. Scholars have made many efforts to place both the United States and American Studies in a wider global context. Some are engaged in cooperative projects seeking to reconstruct the field, and others are developing approaches which question the boundaries and classifications heretofore taken for granted, expecting that such undertakings will enrich not only the study of the United States but also that of other disciplines. Although the current issue of our journal does not explicitly discuss such new tendencies, the articles contained are expected to make a contribution to American Studies which is becoming increasingly international.

The first essay by Stephen H. Sumida is based upon his speech at the annual meeting of the Japanese Association for American Studies held in Kobe last June. In “America at War Again: Issues of Ethnicity and Unity,” Sumida gives a nuanced reading of Robert Frost’s poem “The Road Not Taken.” He suggests that the poem is not a praise of individualism, an affirmation of choosing the “road less traveled,” but rather, an expression of ambivalence in choosing the particular road that the traveler happened to take. Then he warns that in post-9/11 America, there is growing pressure from the government and media to applaud the United States for taking the “road less traveled” uncritically, in order to unify the diverse public into supporting America at war.

The next four essays are devoted to the special theme of this volume, “Ideas of Time in America.” How has ideas of time been defined throughout American history, across the vast space that America occupied, and across various disciplines of American Studies? How did ideas of time affect the lives of the American people and the way in which they perceived their history and destiny? The essays under the special theme try to shed light on such questions on time.

The first two essays examine the concept of time in early America. In “American Conceptualization of Time and Jonathan Edwards’ Post-Millennialism Reconsidered,” Naoki Onishi explores the post-millennialism advocated

by Edwards and argues that since his accumulated writings were of limited availability, his idea was interpreted not as Edwards himself asserted it but as his followers wanted him to have asserted. Critically examining the way in which Edwards' idea of post-millennialism was accommodated so that it might suit American sentiments of various times, Onishi advocates the necessity to place his works in the context of his own time. The next essay, "Conception of Time in the History of Childhood: A Study of Intergenerational Perceptions of Life in the Early New York Frontier" by Shigeo Fujimoto analyzes the perceptions of nature and society held by early settlers who inhabited the frontier of New York State and how those perceptions were handed down to the succeeding generation. After examining the generational ideas about nature and education, he concludes that since they were closely connected with frontier experience and thus transitory, the intergenerational perceptions were an inherently vanishing historical phenomenon.

The next two essays explore the concept of time as represented in literature. In "A Legacy of Female Imagination: Lydia Maria Child and the Tradition of Indian Captivity Narrative," Hisayo Ogushi demonstrates that Child's first romance *Hobomok* as well as her other novels were direct descendants of seventeenth-century Indian captive narratives written by Puritan women. She argues, however, that while using the traditional narrative, Child turns the white woman from a helpless victim to an agent of change, thus transforming a conventional genre into an instrument with which a legacy of female imagination in American literary history has been established. Hisao Tanaka, in "Modes of 'Different' Time in American Literature," tries to explore various epistemological modes of time in American literature, particularly in Herman Melville, William Faulkner, and Toni Morrison. They all were 'rebels' in their treatment of time, he argues, since they departed from the dominant framework in American society in which the idea of the linear progress of time was taken for granted. In the end, he suggests, Morrison's emergence on the American literary scene may activate the reexamination of the canonical genealogy of American history and literature.

The following eight essays, arranged more or less in a 'chronological' order, deal with various topics in American Studies. In "Rural Enterprise and the Northern Economy in the Early Republic: The New Jersey Charcoal Venture as a Test Case," Kenryu Hashikawa argues that rural capitalism which operated within the overall structures of rural work habits and culture was fairly common in the early republic and identifies characteristics broadly applicable to such rural enterprise. In "Japanese Picture Marriage and the Image of Immigrant Women in Early Twentieth-Century California," Kei Tanaka examines the photography used for marriage arrangement and analyzes the process through which the concept of the "vain women" became the dominant perception of immigrant Japanese women. "The Pursuit of Excellence: Abraham Flexner and

His Views on Learning in Higher Education” by Sachiko Iwabuchi examines the career and vision of Flexner, one of the most influential educational critics in late nineteenth-century America and the founder of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, and argues that his commitment to an aristocracy of excellence may have relevance to the discussion of educational reform elsewhere.

“From Model to Menace: French Intellectuals and American Civilization” by Reiji Matsumoto discusses the ambivalence with which French intellectuals have perceived America from the eighteenth century to the present. He argues that the current revival of anti-Americanism in France has much continuity from the past, but there are also some new elements: the ubiquity of American culture, the effect of globalization, the impact of information technology. The next essay by Mikiko Tachi explores the relationship between commercialism and counterculture in the 1950s and 60s. In an article entitled “Commercialism, Counterculture, and the Folk Music Revival: A Study of *Sing Out!* Magazine, 1950–1967,” she demonstrates how the folk music revival, despite its strong anti-commercial and anti-mass culture message, operated within mainstream commercialism as demonstrated in various advertisements.

The next two essays focus on Los Angeles in the 1960s and 70s. “Race, Class and Gender in America’s ‘War on Poverty’: The Case of Opal C. Jones in Los Angeles, 1964–1968” by Kazuyo Tsuchiya analyzes how an African American female activist struggled to recast “War on Poverty” programs at a local level and fought against the tendency to subordinate women and ignore racial/class differences. In “Little Tokyo Reconsidered: Transformation of Japanese American Community through the Early Redevelopment Projects,” Miya Shichinohe Suga reveals the tension between Japanese Americans and Japanese business people who took part in the redevelopment process, and discusses the impact of the projects upon Japanese American ethnic community.

The last paper in the volume, “Strategic Innovation or Strategic Nonsense? Assessing the Bush Administration’s National Security Strategy” by Yasuhiro Izumikawa analyzes the national security strategy of the administration of George W. Bush. He points out that although Bush’s strategies are far more organized and consistent compared with those of his predecessor, they contain various contradictions which may not be overcome by the overwhelming material power that the United States possesses.

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Editor

For those who wish to submit a manuscript to the *Japanese Journal of American Studies*:

1. Contributors must be dues-paying members of the JAAS.
2. Contributors are expected to observe our time schedule. They must first submit the title and abstract (about 300 words) by mid-January. We are unable to accept the manuscript without this procedure.
3. The final manuscript (maximum 7000 words including notes) is due early May. The editorial committee will inform each contributor of the result of the selection process by the end of June. If accepted, the paper will be published in June the following year.
4. The fall issue of the JAAS Newsletter will carry “call for papers” announcement with exact deadlines and special theme for the forthcoming issue.
5. The JAAS will accept inquiries through email:
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