

Editor's Introduction

“Fifty Years of Postwar Japan-U.S. Relations” is the main theme of this issue of *The Japanese Journal of American Studies*. This particular subject of historical significance was featured in a symposium at the 1995 Annual Conference of the Japanese Association for American Studies held in Sendai. Half a century is an appropriate landmark to reassess whatever happened between the two Pacific nations, although the topics discussed would never be squeezed into an appropriate time scheme.

Professor Paul Lauter kindly contributed an article based on the key-note lecture “Studying War in '44: My Junior High School Songbook,” which he gave at the 1995 JAAS Conference as the president of the American Studies Association. It is fortunate that his presentation has been preserved in this issue in a revised form, but the editor misses the wonderful music that Professor Lauter sang on the spot. We have two other articles which originated from a symposium at the same conference. The paper by Professor Yoko Yasuhara covers the Japan-U.S. bilateral economic problems from the time of Commodore Matthew Perry’s visit up to the present. The article by Professor Takayuki Tatsumi discusses how the image of Geronimo has been transformed into the metallic heroes of picaresque novels in the postwar Japan.

Professor Teruko Imai Kumei’s paper on the repatriation of the ethnic Japanese in the United States from the wartime internment reflects how the time has matured for us to write, with detailed documentation, about some of the more sensitive topics from that era.

Finally Professor Chieko Kitagawa Otsuru, whose article was selected from among the general submissions made by members of the Association, explores some of the fundamental questions regarding the notion of political equality in the United States.

The publication of this Number Seven has been assisted by a support of a Grant-in-Aid for Publication of Scientific Research Result from the Ministry of Education, or *Monbusho*, of Japan. The annual publication of *The Japanese Journal of American Studies* continues to require both a competent editorial board and active participation by the readers. The next issue is already being prepared for publication under the new editorship of Professor Eiichi Akimoto. As in the past, general contributions for the coming issues will be strongly encouraged. Rules for submissions are provided separately in the Association's *American Studies Newsletter*.

Shinichi Shigihara
Editor