
English-Language Works by JAAS Members
2009

The following citations and abstracts introduce recent publications written in English by the members of the Japanese Association for American Studies on topics related to American Studies. The works are listed in the order of articles in journals, articles in books, and books.

ARTICLES IN JOURNALS


Beginning in the 1900s, Williamson County, Illinois, was divided over the liquor issue. Citizens for a “dry” (saloonless) community organized “law and order” leagues and badgered local governments to enforce the liquor laws strictly. It was those dry citizens who supported the Ku Klux Klan’s crusade against vice in the 1920s.


The people who rallied around the Ku Klux Klan were ordinary citizens of Williamson County. The Klan movement encompassed the entire native-born white Protestant community, representing virtually all occupational groups. Coal miners, farmers, merchants, doctors, and clergymen gave the hooded organization moral, financial, and physical support. Contrary to the antilabor image of the secret order, many of the Williamson County Klansmen were coal miners belonging to the United Mine Workers of America.

To outwit unjust Chinese exclusion laws, which had been enforced in the United States since 1882, the Chinese worked out a system of “paper sons,” which enabled Chinese immigrants to enter the United States. The motif of paper sons has been employed in novels written by Chinese American writers over the last few decades, such as China Men, Paper Angels, and Paper Son. This article examines the system of paper sons as portrayed in these works.


The article describes the experience of teaching Wright’s haiku at a Japanese college, including looking at the difference in the use of a season word between Japanese classic haiku and Wright’s. It also shows Japanese students’ reactions to the African American writer’s haiku.


This article examines the reasons for the passage of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act. Previous studies have emphasized the political process. This article, however, focuses on the support for this bill from President Herbert Hoover, clarifying that he was an expansionist of the executive branch, not a high protectionist.


This article investigates how Japanese immigrant women, writing in a Japanese immigrant newspaper, viewed the concept of motherhood in the early twentieth century in the United States. Concepts of motherhood were formed through the media in connection with ideas of “home,” and included discourses on birth control and desirable child care.


Willa Cather was greatly influenced by Henri Bergson’s philosophy, in particular by Bergson’s account of duration, intuition, creative evolution, and individual consciousness. This article examines the reasons why Cather was drawn to Bergson’s philosophy in the middle of the naturalistic movement and how she applied it in her fiction.

This article examines how the preservation of San Francisco’s Japantown as a place conditions the identity formation of the dispersed Japanese American community of today. By applying spatial theories of place, it offers different ways of understanding the creation of San Francisco’s Japantown Special Use District to protect its unique cultural characteristics.

ARTICLES IN BOOKS


This chapter in a book that explores the applicability of Tocqueville’s theory of democracy to the contemporary world discusses how Tocqueville’s ideas are relevant for understanding modern Japan. Issues dealt with are: equality and equalization, centralization, the democratic family, and a historical comparison of the two revolutions, the French and the Meiji.

BOOKS


Baron Kentaro Kaneko (1853–1942) was born into a samurai family in the Fukuoka Domain (now Fukuoka City). He was selected to study in the United States, accompanying the Iwakura diplomatic mission in 1871 and graduating from Harvard Law School. In 1889 he accompanied Hirobumi Ito on a trip to study the constitutions of various Western nations to find a model for the Meiji Constitution. In 1904 he was sent as a special envoy to the United States. This book tells the story of the one-man unofficial mission in detail for the first time in English from Japanese sources.

This book is a detailed study of women’s writings about the American West found in periodicals in the late nineteenth-century United States. It presents a new aspect of American feminism by examining the ways in which women in the West created diverse, complicated feminist arguments alongside territorial expansion.