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JAPANESE BRANCH REPORT 1998

by Yuriko Kani

The second annual convention of the George Eliot Fellowship of Japan was held at Toyo University in Tokyo on Saturday, 31 October 1998. After a year of careful preparation, the convention was successful. The morning session began with a welcome speech by Yuzo Uzuhashi, Chair of the English Literature Department at Toyo University. After that, three papers were presented. The first paper, 'Representations of Mobs and Riots: *Felix Holt* as an Industrial Novel', was presented by Tadashi Wada, a graduate student at Tokyo University. He discussed how the author's ambivalent view of mobs and riots was reflected in the representations in *Felix Holt*. Midori Takamatsu, a lecturer at Yamawaki Junior College, presented the second paper, 'Italy in "Mr Gilfil's Love-Story"'. She discussed how the Italian elements, e.g., the Italian heroine and her sufferings, contrasted with the characteristics of exclusive English aristocratic society. In the third paper, 'Shadow Behind the Wreck: The Reading in *Middlemarch*', Masako Hirai, a professor at Kobe-Jogakuin University, focused on chapter 20. She pointed out that the 'disturbing sounds' and 'the weight of intelligible Rome' and its 'wreck' of the past caused Dorothea to face the abyss of unreality and made her realise in turn the abysmal reality of her disillusioned married life.

The afternoon session began with the general meeting presided over by Yoshitsugu Uchida, a professor at Tezukayama-Gakuin University. After that there was a symposium on *Middlemarch* facilitated by Masatoshi Ogino, a professor at Nanzan University. As the first speaker, Miwa Ota, a lecturer at Komozawa University, pointed out the types and characteristics of sympathy. Next, Mieko Hirono, an assistant professor at Yamaguchi University discussed why and how Dorothea could escape from the entangling thread of cause and effect. The final speaker, Mieko Matsumoto, an assistant professor at Aichi Prefectural University, compared *Middlemarch* (1871-2) with H. Martineau's *Deerbrook* (1839) and pointed out that George Eliot was able to elucidate the sufferings of women whose personalities and sexuality were unrealized outside the home. Their presentations provoked a lot of responses in the audience and lively discussion followed. A special lecture, entitled 'Rural and Urban Areas in the Victorian and Edwardian Eras', was given by Ai Tannji, a professor at Tokyo University. He discussed how Victorian countryside and its culture changed into Edwardian towns and their urban culture and pointed out the importance of studying the intertextuality of cultures that produced originality. The convention ended with a closing speech by Hiroshi Ebine, the president of the George Eliot Fellowship of Japan and professor at Toyo University.

After active participation in the convention, forty-nine people of the eighty-four attendants enjoyed the informal dinner party held at one of the campus restaurants.

日本ジョージ・エリオット協会 第2回全国大会



■ 日時 / 1998年10月31日(土) 10:00~17:10
 ■ 場所 / 東洋大学 白山校舎 新1号館 1403教室

〒112-8606 東京都文京区白山5-28-20 Tel:03-3945-7220
 地下鉄三田線白山駅(東京駅より丸の内線大手町で三田線乗り換え)下車徒歩3分。
 または地下鉄南北線本駒込駅(東京駅より丸の内線後楽園で南北線乗り換え)下車徒歩5分

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|---|----------------------------|
| ■ 開会挨拶 (10:00) | 東洋大学英文学科主任教授 埋橋 勇三 |
| ■ 研究発表 (10:10~12:00) | |
| 1. 群衆問題と暴動の表象—産業小説としての <i>Felix Holt</i> | 司会 / 帝塚山大学 教授 津田 聖子 |
| 2. "Mr. Gilfil's Love-Story"におけるイタリヤ | 東京大学大学院博士課程 山脇 短大専任講師 和田 唯 |
| 3. Shadow behind the Wreck: The Reading in <i>Middlemarch</i> | 司会 / 津田塾大学 教授 高松 みどり |
| | 神戸女学院大学 教授 土屋 俊子 |
| | 平井 雅子 |
| ■ 総会 (13:00~13:40) | 司会 / 帝塚山学院大学 教授 内田 能嗣 |
| ■ 会長挨拶 (13:40~13:50) | 東洋大学 教授 海老根 宏 |
| ■ シンポジウム (14:00~16:00) | |
| <i>Middlemarch</i> を読む | 司会 / 南山大学 教授 萩野 昌利 |
| | 講師 / 山口大学 助教授 廣野 由美子 |
| | 愛知県立大学 助教授 松本 三枝子 |
| | 駒沢女子大学 専任講師 大田 美和 |
| ■ 特別講演 (16:10~17:10) | |
| ヴィクトリア朝とエドワード朝における田舎と都市 | 司会 / 東洋大学 教授 海老根 宏 |
| | 講師 / 東京大学 教授 丹治 愛 |
| ■ 閉会の辞 (17:10) | 津田塾大学 名誉教授 近藤 いね子 |
| ■ 懇親会 (17:30~19:30) 場所 / 雨水会館 (同窓会館) | |

日本ジョージ・エリオット協会
 (THE GEORGE ELIOT FELLOWSHIP OF JAPAN)

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