

Alumni News

Ishikawa Alumni Association

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Message from the Chief Managing Director

「いしかわ同窓会」会員みなさん、お元気でしょうか。輝かしい新世紀を迎え、おめでとうございます。

さて、石川県で暮らし、帰国後もここ石川に関心と愛着をお持ちくださる海外のみなさん、「いしかわ同窓会」も4年目を迎えました。現在、会員数も1,000名を越えるまでに成長しました。

会員みなさんと石川県民、会員相互のコミュニケーションを深めることによってこの同窓会はより発展します。この同窓会は会員みなさんのためのものです。ぜひ魅力あるものに育ててください。事務局宛にみなさんの近況や国のニュース、石川県への提言等をどしどしお寄せください。「Alumni News」でみなさんにご紹介

したいと思います。今号はオプライエンさん、エメリックさんよりご寄稿いただいたものをご紹介します。誌面を借りて、お二人には厚くお礼申し上げます。

2002年は財団法人石川県国際交流協会が誕生して10年になります。これを記念して、同窓会行事をはじめ、いろいろなイベントを盛大に行いたいと思っています。みなさんからもすてきなアイデアをお出してください。お待ちしております。

財団法人石川県国際交流協会内
いしかわ同窓会事務局
事務局長 越田 曾登代



Dear Alumni Members

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all members of the Ishikawa Alumni Association, and to wish you a prosperous new year as we head into the new millennium.

The Ishikawa Alumni Association, a group of individuals who have lived in Ishikawa and retain fond memories of it, is now in its fourth year. At present, membership in the association exceeds 1,000 members.

Alumni association members and citizens of Ishikawa prefecture believe they can promote the activities of the association by strengthening mutual communication between them. This association is for the benefit of its members.

Please continue to develop this association into an attractive, productive one. Please keep our office posted on recent happenings and news in your various countries and send any suggestions you may have for Ishikawa. We would like to introduce everyone in future editions of *Alumni News*. We have received manuscripts from Ms. O'Brien and Mr. Emmerich, and we would like to thank them for their cooperation in this edition.

The year 2002 will mark the 10th anniversary

of the establishment of Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange (IFIE). For this occasion, we like to hold many events, especially those involving the alumni association. If any of you have ideas or suggestions, we encourage you whole-heartedly to submit them to us. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Sotoyo Koshida
Chief Managing Director
The Secretariat of
The Ishikawa Alumni Association
Ishikawa Foundation for International Exchange

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Four Seasons along the Sai-Gawa



Elizabeth O'Brien

I sit on the roof of my apartment building, four stories above Kanazawa. The river stretches before me, a silver ribbon shining in the early July sun. A book lies open on my lap, but I'm not reading. I have come to say good-bye.

My time in Japan has come to an end. I decided to leave after two years, my experience perfect: symmetrical and rounded like an egg. I worry, though, that it will crack into a million pieces when I try to take it home with me. From my rooftop perch, I survey the city, trying to memorize the sights, smells, and sounds that will miss so much. I look down on the river, my neighbor and witness to my life over the past two years.

Every morning I walked to work along the river, marking the changing seasons along its banks. The people of Kanazawa celebrate each new season with special foods and activities. While I didn't understand this custom at first, my daily walks made me a believer. I will miss the cool noodles of summer and the hot stews of winter, the way even the beer cans dress up in special seasonal packaging.

This summer, I will leave before the intense heat of August weighs down the city and *atsui*, "hot," replaces hello as the standard greeting about town. I will not miss the way my shirt stuck to my back before I even got to work. But I will miss the tropical sun reflecting off the shining black roof tiles and blurring the edges of the

horizon.

This year I will not be here when the oppressive summer gives way to the sharp crispness of fall. I will miss the mountains ablaze with color at the head of the river and the smell of burnt leaves along its banks. I will miss seeing the people jogging in the brisk air along the river as I power-walked at night without any concern for my personal safety. I think I will miss everything about fall in Kanazawa, except the foreboding knowledge of the long winter ahead.

This winter I will not pull on my boots against the heavy, wet snow that blankets Kanazawa for days to end. I will not miss the Siberian winds that whipped through the thin walls of my apartment, my two *rokujo* heated only by a kerosene space heater, which I turned off at night. I will not miss how I awoke every morning with my breath making clouds above my pillow. But I will miss my deep bathtub, the way that the water warmed my bones so that I could just bear turning off the heater and jumping into my futon.

Next year I will not see winter turn into spring, the snowy runoff from the mountains swelling the river to its highest point of the year. I will miss encountering a friend along my morning route, the older gentleman in rubber overalls who would soak his kimono fabric in the river, the colorful silk billowing out from his bent frame like a mermaid's tail. He explained to me that March was the only time of year when water conditions permitted him to soak his kimono in the traditional Kanazawa way.

Next spring I will not see the cherry blossoms begin to bloom along the riverbank after the water level returns to normal. The Japanese reserve the most cheer for the ►



● Doing *bon-odori* with another CIR Yoko and members of City Hall



● A Christmas party with the members of my English salon

Young Translator's Career Started in a Kanazawa Bookstore

*It was in a bookstore in Kanazawa that Michael Emmerich happened across the copy of Yasunari Kawabata's 1958 collection of stories *Fuji no Hatsuyuki*, which so overwhelmed him when he read it that he started writing an English translation of it almost immediately.*

A senior at Princeton University at the time, he received permission to submit his translation as a senior thesis, and when he did his professors were so impressed that they mentioned it to friends, including the editors of a few prominent literary magazines. And almost before Emmerich realized what was happening, five of his Kawabata translations were scheduled to appear in three different magazines, and he had a contract with Counterpoint Press to publish the entire book. *First Snow on Fuji*, the first English translation of some of the best stories Nobel Prize winner Kawabata ever wrote, appeared in bookstores late in autumn of 1999, the centennial of the author's birth. Reviews in the *New York Times* and a number of other major newspapers highly praised both the translation and the collection itself.

Emmerich translated his next book, Yoshimoto Banana's collection of novellas *Asleep (Shirakawa Yofune in Japanese)*, while enrolled as a first year Master's student at Kyoto's Ritsumeikan University. At Ritsumeikan he has been studying translation theory and Heian period Japanese literature, focusing most on the eleventh century classic *Genji Monogatari (The Tale of*

Genji). "Translating Yoshimoto while reading *Genji* was a really fascinating experience," Emmerich says. "It meant that I was always immersed in two very different, almost incomparably different versions of Japan and Japanese culture. And at the same time I'm living in contemporary Kyoto, which is also a mix of all kinds of different cultures, old and new, and from various different places within and outside of Japan." Emmerich thinks of translation as a kind of state of mind, a habit of consciously existing between languages, or in more than one language at once. Studying classical Japanese literature while translating modern and contemporary works seems, in that sense, a perfectly natural approach to take.

In April, Emmerich will be returning to the United States to continue his education. He says he has a list of stories, plays, and novels he wants to translate that is so long it makes him dizzy just looking at it. Lovers of literature will just have to hope that he makes his way through it. ■



Michael Emmerich

Four Seasons from page 2

◀ annual appearance of the blossoms and the custom of "flower-watching," as they call picnicking under the lacy branches. I will not miss my sleep being interrupted in the middle of the night by drunken revelry, the chants of *iki, iki, iki!* But I will miss the nightly news reports that track the progress of the blossoms as they swirl up the country like a pink typhoon.

Next spring I will not feel the air warming after the last of the cherry blossoms have dropped from the trees. I will miss the colorful carp-shaped streamers that people fly to celebrate children's day in May. I will miss seeing the old

men fishing side-by-side along the river, unconcerned about the competition, and the way the fresh Kanazawa sashimi would dissolve on my tongue.

Next summer I will not sit on this roof in the beautiful July sun, ignoring a book on my lap.

Soon I will be gone. ■



● Man doing Kaga Yuzen along the Sai-gawa

Alumni are encouraged to submit ideas, letters, personal stories, commentaries, and other materials for publication. Please e-mail, send, or fax word processed materials to the Ishikawa Alumni Association Secretariat Office. IAA reserves the right to edit or reject any submission.

Ishikawa Japanese Studies Center Established Last Spring

石川県日本語・日本文化研修センター開設

(財)石川県国際交流協会内に「石川県日本語・日本文化研修センター」が2000年4月に設置されました。センターの所長に前北陸先端科学技術大学院大学学長の慶伊富長氏が就任し、顧問に前国連事務総長プトロス・プトロス・ガリ氏を迎えました。約15年間続いてきた日本語・日本文化研修のための「石川ジャパニーズセミナー」は、大学生グループのみならず、高校生・社会人グループのための新規コースを加え、「石川ジャパニーズ・スタディーズ・プログラム」と名前も新しくなりました。

このプログラムはホームステイにより日本の生活習慣や文化に直接触れながら日本語学習をするものです。また、本県の誇る伝統文化、伝統工芸を体験や学習でき、日本文化、歴史を学ぶ講座も自由に組み込むことができるようになっています。

アメリカのプリンストン大学、オーストラリアのモナシュ大学、韓国の韓国外国語大学では、同センターでの研修がそ

れぞれの大学のカリキュラムの単位として認定されるなど高い評価を受けています。

今年度は新たにマンフィールド太平洋問題研究所のアメリカ政府職員の研修生やイタリヤ、フランス、香港の大学生が参加し、約250名を受け入れました。

詳細は「石川県日本語・日本文化研修センター」のホームページをご覧ください。http://www2.ifie.or.jp/ijsc



●オープニングセレモニー

Calendar 2001

Ishikawa Ongakudo Opens This Fall 石川県立音楽堂が今秋開館

石川県は文化都市です。石川で生まれ、石川で育まれたオーケストラ・アンサンブル金沢に代表される新しい音楽文化と長い伝統に培われた邦楽の交流、発信拠点として石川県立音楽堂が2001年9月12日(水)開館します。

質の高い音響を追求するシューボックス型ホールに北陸初の本格的パイプオルガンを備えたコンサートホールの他、プロセニウム(額縁)構造で廻り舞台、追り、花道などを備え、舞踏、歌舞伎、文楽、民謡にも対応する邦楽ホールなどを備えたすばらしい芸術の殿堂です。



●石川県立音楽堂コンサートホール側



●音楽堂コンサートホール内部



●石川県立音楽堂邦楽ホール側



●音楽堂邦楽ホール内部

18th Japan Urban Green Fair in Ishikawa, September 8th through November 11th, 2001 第18回全国都市緑化いしかわフェア・夢みどりいしかわ2001

2001年9月8日から11月11日まで、「みどりと人、まち、文化の関わり」をテーマに、自然との共生を目指す新たな都市緑化について多くの人々と交流を深めながら考える「夢みどりいしかわ2001」が新しく完成する金沢城址公園を中心に兼六園周辺文化ゾーンを主会場に開催されます。主会場の

金沢城址公園内では様々な団体の出展のほか、長い間大切に保存され多種多様な動植物が生きる森、国指定重要文化財の石川門や三十間長屋、史実に沿って再現される菱櫓や五十間長屋など、花や緑はもちろんお城の跡地を効果的に生かした歴史的文化にも親しむことができます。



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