

Kokugakuin Japan Studies

Volume 5, 2024

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Editorial Intent

Special Number: “Images of Japanese Culture”

Since the end of 2019, the global response to COVID-19 has drastically altered our daily lives. This situation led us to rethink cultural inheritance, culminating in our third issue in 2022, which focused on the transmission of Japanese culture.

Now, in 2024, as measures have eased and “post-corona” has entered common parlance, there is a noticeable shift back to pre-pandemic norms, albeit with differences. Despite COVID-19’s ongoing presence, its perception has evolved from a daunting unknown to a manageable everyday illness. This “post-corona” image transformation is, in turn, having real impacts on our daily lives.

With the influence of images on people’s actual lives in mind, this special feature, comprised of three articles, explores “Images of Japanese Culture.”

Kobayashi’s article considers the populace’s *goryōe* being adopted by the imperial court during the Jōgan years to discuss the establishment of the official image that spirits cast curses.

Fujisawa’s article contends that Katsushika Hokusai inherited both the Rinpa school’s distinctive visual images, such as compositions and distorted expressions, that had been carried on as painters modeled their styles on artists they admired, as well as the images that symbolized the school, such as the *mitate* technique and the theme of nature.

Omichi’s paper notes the recent surge in publications on Shinto and shrines within Japan’s spiritual marketplace, particularly following the power spot trend, and investigates the images of Shinto and shrines therein.

These three articles address various evolving images, and we hope they will serve as a starting point for reconsidering how images construct Japanese culture.

KJS Editorial Committee

Included Articles

- Kobayashi Norihiko 小林宣彦 (Associate Professor, Department of Shinto Culture, Faculty of Shinto Studies), “Nihon kodai ni okeru shisha no rei to tatari, saigai ni kansuru kōsatsu: Jōgan goryōe ni itaru haikai o chūshin ni” 日本古代における死者の霊と崇り・災害に関する考察—貞観御霊会に至る背景を中心に—, *Kokugakuin zasshi* 國學院雜誌 123:12 (2022), pp. 85-108.
- Fujisawa Murasaki 藤澤紫 (Professor, Department of Philosophy, Faculty of Letters), “Katsushika Hokusai ga ‘Fugaku sanjū rokkei’ ni miru Kōrin imēji: Ukiyoe to Rinpa” 葛飾北斎画「富嶽三十六景」にみる「光琳」イメージ: 浮世絵と琳派,” *Kokugakuin zasshi* 國學院雜誌 123:11 (2022), pp. 1–23.
- Omichi Haruka 大道晴香 (Assistant Professor, Department of Shinto Culture, Faculty of Shinto Studies), “Negai o kanaeru ni wa ‘doko no jinja ni iku beki ka’: Shintōkei supirichuariti ni okeru jinja erabi no kijun ni tsuite” 願いを叶えるには「どこの神社に行くべきか」: 神道系スピリチュアリティにおける神社選びの基準について, *Kokugakuin zasshi* 國學院雜誌 123, no. 12 (2022), pp. 127–147.