

SUSANNE FORMANEK, PETER GETREUER (comps.), *Verzeichnis des deutschsprachigen Japan-Schrifttums 1980-1987*. Wien: Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1989. 194 pages, DM 30.-/ÖS 210.-

For almost fifty years there has not been any general and exhaustive bibliography of Japanese studies in the German language. As the AAS-Bibliography of Asian Studies does not really cover much German material, the bibliography now presented by Susanne Formanek and Peter Getreuer meets a long-felt need. Publication will be continued so that we can expect updates and corrections which will add to the undoubted value of their achievement. Though the present volume will already be very useful, further editions will be even better if the following items are taken into consideration by the compilers.

First, the printing is deplorably poor. It is difficult to distinguish "W" and "M" and "w" and "m" and so forth; larger letters and a laser printer would considerably increase readability.

I have the impression that the compilation is partly *too* exhaustive. Though a list of 4512 titles may not seem too much for a period of seven years, the composition as a whole seems astonishingly unbalanced. While in their preface the compilers state that they will not, as a rule, include newspaper articles, Michael Morgental, e.g., managed to get nine such articles listed - published in newspapers such as the *Mittelbayrische Zeitung*, whose influence on Japanese studies in Germany tends towards zero. On the other hand, Peter Odrich, Tôkyô correspondent of the renowned *Frankfurter Allgemeine* who probably published hundreds of articles in the same time, is listed with no more than one of them. Either list them all or omit them all - and I would very strongly recommend not to list newspaper articles at all, except perhaps for review articles.

Did you know that Akutagawa Ryûnosuke published no less than 36 works between 1980 and 1987? Of course not, because he died as early as 1927, and the years here refer to translations of his short stories - all published in one and the same book. But even the shortest of them got its own, full entry. Now you know what redundancy is. Ihara Saikaku and Inoue Yasushi share the same fate. - There is no doubt that an index of translations from Japanese literature into German is useful. But translations should not be confused with Japanese studies, i.e., studies on Japan. They should be separated from the rest and listed in an annex of translated titles. Thus, in cases like Akutagawa's, you can reduce the number of entries in the main list to one - under the name of the translator.

A very special problem of Japanese studies seems to be the listing of unpublished works, mainly M.A. theses. In one case (# 31), even a typed paper is listed; and more than once, both unpublished theses and printed book are given (e.g., # 2612, 2613; 1227, 1233) - in the worst case, one author gets three entries for the same study: once as unpublished M.A. paper, once as author of the published version, and once as co-author of the book in which the paper appeared (# 144-146)! This is clearly another form of redundancy. Generally speaking, I do not think there is a real need to include unpublished materials other than dissertations in this sort of bibliography. The renowned *Jahrbuch der historischen Forschung* explicitly excludes M.A. theses. I think this is a sound principle, as they are not generally available in libraries.

A final remark pertains to the way in which the books are presented. The compilers decided in favour of an alphabetic list of publications by authors, preceded by a somewhat cryptic list of key words which gives only the number of the respective entry in the main list of authors. At the end, there is another alphabetic index of authors: since the compilers decided not to include book reviews etc. written in languages other than German in the main list, they had to add another index of authors. My suggestion of how to avoid such redundancy is to list the publications by subjects - as is the case with the *Bibliography of Asian Studies* - and to append an index of authors. This would doubtless prove more helpful; most of us do not use bibliographies in order to compile the Collected Works of a certain German japanologist, but to find out what has been written about a certain subject.

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