

## REVIEW

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*Japanese Studies: Papers presented at a Colloquium at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London 14-16 September 1988.* Edited by Yu-ying Brown. London: British Library, 1990. (British Library Occasional Papers; 11) £ 35.00. Paperback. Available from The British Library, Marketing and Publishing, 41 Russell Square, London WC1B 3DG, England, UK. 398 pages.

This book contains the conference proceedings from a Japanese studies colloquium held in London in 1988. It is organised into three main parts: Overview of resources for Japanese studies; Printing, publishing and the art of the Japanese book; and Automation and cooperation. Its intended readership includes Japanese scholars, librarians and archivists, students of librarianship, oriental art historians and collectors and dealers in oriental antiquarian books.

The book provides well-rounded coverage of Japanese studies and resources, and the importance of library resources for scholars comes through clearly. Some sections are obviously aimed at librarians and scholars, and some at book collectors. The paper on Japanese government documents would be particularly useful for librarians collecting in this area, or for students of Japanese politics, while the paper on academic networks in Japan would be useful for scholars.

Several papers originally presented in Japanese have been competently edited and translated into English. The work is international in tone, with several Japanese contributors. Not surprisingly, there is a predominance of papers from the host country. There is always a danger of conference proceedings having patchy coverage because the contents depend on the random submission of papers by individuals. In this case, there are articles by speakers from Japan, the United Kingdom, Sweden, and Bulgaria, but little from North America, none from China or other Asian countries. This preponderance of European contributors, however, has not detracted from the quality of the work or its coverage.

Although £35.00 sounds a high price for a paperback, this is a solid work of 398 pages, printed on good quality paper and well produced. The editing and careful collation have made it a cohesive work.

The fact that the work has taken two years to appear in print does not appear to have affected it adversely; much of the information (except that on automation) will probably

not have dated much in that time. One small point: considering the amount of time spent on preparation for printing, it could have been provided with an index. The informational content deserves an index.

In short, this book is a must for anyone who is seriously interested in Japanese books and resources, be they scholars, collectors, or librarians.

Susan MacDougall  
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