

Notes on primary source authors

Higashi Mineo is a contemporary Okinawan writer who won the Akutagawa Prize in 1972 for “Okinawa no shōnen” [Child of Okinawa]. He was born in Mindanao, Philippines in 1938, and returned to Okinawa in 1945. In 1956, he dropped out of high school, later claiming that the reason was he read too much Tolstoy. After that, he started working on Kadena base in Okinawa, but he soon changed his job many times.

In 1964, he went to Tokyo and started working at a book bindery, but he changed his job to have more time to write. In 1971, he made some money from “Okinawa no shōnen,” but he remained poor. In spite of his poverty, he refused to write a sequel to “Okinawa no shōnen.” After that, he seldom wrote and faded from the limelight. In 1977, he got married and went back to Okinawa. In 1984, he had two children, but he eventually abandoned his family and went to Tokyo again. In 1993, he worked as a security guard but lost his job because of depression. He sometimes lived on the street. In 2002, he wrote “Gādo man aika” [A Guard’s Elegy]. After moving, he did not tell his address—even to his editors. Even now, he lives in obscurity.

After “Okinawa no shōnen,” Higashi wrote “Shima de no sayōnara” [Saying Good-bye on the Island] (1972) and “Chura kāgi” [Beautiful Face] (1976). “Okinawa no Shōnen” is based on his childhood; “Shima de no sayonara,” on his teenage years; and “Chura kāgi,” on his adolescent. These three stories are sometimes regarded as a trilogy. However, Higashi himself emphasized that he never wrote a sequel to “Okinawa no shōnen,” so one cannot so easily say that the three stories are connected.

“Okinawa no shōnen” is Higashi’s first story and, the second Okinawan work to win the Akutagawa Prize. One of the remarkable features of the work is Higashi’s mixing of Japanese and Okinawan language. Although the language is comprehensible for Japanese readers, Higashi manages to capture the linguistic rhythm of the Okinawan language. Another remarkable feature is the story’s setting. At the beginning of the story, Tsuneyoshi’s mother wakes him up and tells him to let a U.S. soldier and a prostitute use his bed. The shocking scene reveals the painful circumstances of Okinawans who needed to be involved in the sex trade for U.S. soldiers. In other words, the story describes an abnormal situation surrounding an ordinary boy in Okinawa.

In 1983, the story was made into a movie, with the same title. In the movie, Tsuneo is a young adult who has left Okinawa and is working in Tokyo. His childhood is depicted through flashbacks, but the movie adds a scene of the crash of a U.S. military fighter jet into Miyamori Elementary School in Ishikawa, an actual event that occurred in 1959. In addition, Tsuneo works at a book bindery, just as Higashi did. Tsuneo often feels the discriminatory attitudes of Tokyoites towards Okinawans, and since Okinawa is under U.S. military rule, he needs a passport to go to Japan. The movie depicts the suffering of Okinawan people before reversion.

From the blog "Reading Okinawa, One story at a time..."

<http://takumasminkey.com/readingokinawa/styled-14/index.html>

BACH--Julian. Born on August 31, 1914 in Deal, New Jersey, and died September 30, 2011 at his home in New York City at the age of 97. He was graduated from The Choate School and from Harvard College, Magna cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa. While at Harvard, he was published in *The New Republic* and had covered the coal mines of Pennsylvania and West Virginia, textile mill towns in the South and the drought in the dust bowls of the Midwest. He then became a junior foreign correspondent in London and the Balkans for Raymond Moley's *Today* magazine. After a stint at the London School of Economics, he became an editor of *Life Magazine*, when it was just a year old. His eleven years at *Life* were interrupted by four years in the Army. He volunteered for the infantry the day after the United States entered the war and served in Iceland, England, France, the Battle of the Bulge and Germany rising to the rank of captain. On his voyage home he wrote *America's Germany*, which had been commissioned by Random House. Returning to *Life Magazine* for a few years, he left to become executive editor of *True*, then the world's largest men's magazine, and subsequently editor-in-chief of its sister magazine, *Today's Woman*. In the early sixties he formed

The Julian Bach Literacy Agency with the help of Christopher Shaw, eventually representing some 500 primarily American and English authors. He loved music and was a devotee of concerts and the Metropolitan Opera. An enthusiastic traveler, he particularly liked hiking in the Swiss Alps. He attended virtually every Harvard varsity and freshman football game, both home and away until his mid eighties. His brief marriage to Kathryn Rains ended in divorce. In 1947, he married Halle Cowen (Schlesinger) who died in 1972. He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Hope Liberman (Harris), his daughter, Prudence Mortimer (Jay), his sister Doris Gordon, his stepson, Arthur (Tony) Cowen III (Edna), his stepdaughters, Alice Eberhardt (Ron), Audrey Matson (Marcus). He was predeceased by another stepdaughter, Halle (Jill) Cowen. He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Harriman Bach Mortimer, Jeffrey Cowen, Jane Cowen Hamilton, Eliza Cowen, Katherine Nintzel, Abigail Nintzel, Claire Matson and two great-grandchildren. Services at Frank E. Campbell (The Funeral Chapel) Madison Avenue at 81st Street on Tuesday, October 4th at 11am. Burial private. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The New York Service for the Handicapped, 1140 Broadway, NY, NY 10001.

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Lindesay Parrott, a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times* who covered the Pacific theater in World War II and later the Korean War and served as Tokyo bureau chief for 10 years, died of heart failure yesterday at his home in Arlington, Va. He was 86 years old.

Mr. Parrott, who joined *The Times* in 1937, covered the return of Gen. Douglas MacArthur to the Philippines during the American invasion in October 1944. He followed General MacArthur on his campaigns through the Philippines and to Tokyo at the end of the war.

Mr. Parrott was wounded by shell fragments on Nov. 24, 1944, as American troops moved ashore at Leyte. He was removed by plane, but returned two months later to cover the final stages of the war.

Following the surrender of the Japanese aboard the battleship Missouri in 1945, Mr. Parrott reopened The Times bureau in Tokyo.

Traveled in Japan

As bureau chief, he had direct supervision of *Times* correspondents in the Korean peninsula, providing daily coverage of the war and the cease-fire negotiations. He would open the bureau at 4 each morning - midafternoon in New York - to prepare and forward the copy on the previous day's fighting or negotiations.

During his 10 years in Japan he traveled from the northern island of Hokkaido to the southern island of Kyushu. He wrote in 1953 that "these field trips, so necessary to the understanding of a people still in great degree rural, are among the pleasant interludes of a Tokyo correspondent's life."

"Sleep on the floor's straw matting of a village inn," he wrote. "Soybean soup, rice and green tea for breakfast. Crazy! But some of us like it." He spoke Japanese, in addition to French, Russian and Italian.

New York a 'Sharp Contrast'

He left Tokyo in December 1955 and came home to New York to report from the United Nations. He wrote of his move from the Far East to the East River, "There is a sharp contrast between the polite chitchat of the United Nations and the harsh realities of the Korean War or a Japan where most of the inhabitants still must spend about 70 percent of their incomes just for food to stay alive."

However, he noted, "anyone who thinks of the Japanese as a slow-moving people should take a look at the rush hours" in Tokyo. "Times Square can't match it."

Mr. Parrott was born July 26, 1901, in Edinburgh, Scotland. He attended schools in England and Switzerland, the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey, and Princeton University, where he graduated in 1921. His father, Dr. Thomas Marc Parrott, was a professor of English at Princeton for

39 years.

Mr. Parrott's first newspaper job was with *The Newark Evening News*. He then moved to *The New York Evening Post*, for which he covered the Lindbergh kidnapping.

Covered Sale of His Paper

From *The Post* he went to *The Morning World*. His last story there was about the sale of the newspaper, the lead story in its last issue.

Between the demise of *The World* and joining *The Times*, Mr. Parrott worked for the International News Service. He headed that organization's bureaus in Moscow, in Rome during Mussolini's war in Ethiopia, and finally in Paris.

Mr. Parrott's last story for *The Times*, on May 26, 1961, was written from the United Nations on a crisis in the Belgian Congo.

Following his retirement from *The Times* in 1961, Mr. Parrott moved to his 50-acre farm at Bradford, Vt. Several years later he moved to Arlington.

He is survived by his son, Lindsay Marc Parrott, of Honolulu, two grandsons and one great-grandson.

By JOHN T. McQUISTON, Special to the *New York Times*

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