

what in the world is "rice-lightening"? Etymologically the joining of rice (*ina*) and lightening-flash (*hikari*) may have come about because the farmers connected lightening with a good harvest, but why not translate the word as the dictionary does, "lightening," and reverse the image? During a period of fasting, one has finally managed to forget the hunger pains and dozed off to sleep, and then a bolt of thunder awakens you and you see a flash of lightening. All you can think of is you need a glass of water.

It may be that neither of these haiku were translated by the author of this book. Credit is given to Ueda Makoto (*Bashō and His Interpreters*), however, for the following puzzling English rendition of a haiku by the master:

*tsuru naku ya
sono koe ni bashō
yarenubeshi*

a crane cries...
by that voice the bashō
shall be ripped

Bashō

The reader needs to know not only that a *bashō* is a banana plant, but that Bashō Matsuo took his name from the tree he planted in his garden when he moved to Edo in 1672, where he served as inspector of the public waterworks while pupils came to sit at his feet and write haiku. Yes, he could hear the cry of the crane, but he, Bashō, was not moving (*yarenubeshi*) from this spot!

A Biographical Dictionary of Methodist Missionaries to Japan: 1873-1993

John W. Krummel, editor
Tokyo: Kyo Bun Kwan, 1996. 342pp.
Introduction, Bibliography, Index

This bilingual illustrated hardbound dictionary includes entries for 1,534 persons who served in Japan under the United Methodist

Church and its predecessor bodies (Methodist Episcopal, Methodist Episcopal South, Methodist Protestant, Evangelical, and United Brethren churches), the Methodist Church of Canada, the Free Methodist Church, and the Wesleyan Church, U.S.A. It lists not only career missionaries but also short-term missionaries, contract workers, volunteers, visiting scholars, and Methodists who worked in Japan under such agencies as the YMCA, YWCA and WCTU.

Each entry gives basic biographical data and includes information on the individual's unique contributions, publications, honors, etc., as well as references which point the reader to further sources of information.

This dictionary will be of value not only to those interested in church and mission history but also to the student of intercultural exchange, as well as to those investigating other aspects of the modernization of Japan such as education and social work. (This descriptive note is taken from the order form from Cokesbury, U.S. distributors.)

A History of Japanese Theology

Yasuyo Furuya, editor and translator
Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans
Publishing Co., 1997 161 pp.
Introduction, Bibliography, Index

*Reviewed by Thomas Hastings,
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The present reviewer learned of the existence of this book one cold February afternoon while visiting the religious center of neighboring International Christian University where Rev. Dr. Yasuyo Furuya, the book's editor and translator, was professor and chaplain for thirty-five years until retiring in March 1997. The book was hot off the presses and, sensing my interest, Dr. Furuya graciously loaned me his only copy for review.