

**A POETRY SYMPOSIUM ON KENNETH REXROTH (1905-1982)
HIS VISIONARY INTERACTIONS WITH JAPAN
At Millennium House in KUIS
Saturday, October 6, and Sunday, October 7, 2007**

**During the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Founding of
Kanda University of International Studies in Chiba, Japan
Home of the Kenneth REXROTH Collection of 15,000 Volumes**

**Lectures, Roundtables, Performances, Exhibition, and Film
Commemorating Bilingually the Life and Work of the
Eminent East-West Poet, Translator, and Critic**

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2007 13:00-13:15

Welcoming Addresses by
KUIS President Masato AKAZAWA and
Director of the KUIS library Noboru HAMANAKA

Program Moderator: John SOLT

REXROTH'S LIFE, DEATH, AND IMMORTALITY

13:15-13:45 AN I-THOU DIALOGUE WITH KENNETH REXROTH: Morgan GIBSON.

13:45-14:15 WITH A TABLOID BIOGRAPHER WHO NEEDS AN OEUVRE?
John SOLT critically reviews Linda HAMALIAN's *Life of Kenneth REXROTH*.

14:15-14:45 KENNETH REXROTH AND HOMOSEXUALITY: Tetsuya TAGUCHI.

14:45-15:45 KENNETH REXROTH'S PRECIPITATING AND DISSOLVING INTO HIS
CREATIVE WORK: Rachelle K. LERNER will explore creative interactions among Rexroth's
paintings, his literary work, and his contradictory life, showing slide reproductions of his art work.

15:45-17:00 ROUNDTABLE IN ENGLISH: REASSESSING REXROTH'S IDEAS AND THEIR
CONTEMPORARY APPLICABILITY: John SOLT, Moderator. Rachelle LERNER, Morgan
GIBSON, Tetsuya TAGUCHI, Gabun SUZUKI, and Janie SPENCER who will speak on her video
interviews with Rexroth, his influence on poetry in France, and French translations of his work.
Audience participation.

17:00-18:00 THE KUIS ALL-JAPAN KENNETH REXROTH POETRY CONTEST;
A PUBLIC READING AND DISCUSSION OF FINALISTS' POEMS
Judged by Keiko MATSUI GIBSON, Yuzuru KATAGIRI, and Kevin KNIGHT

18:00-19:00 A FILM of the KENNETH REXROTH CENTENARY CELEBRATION,
Beyond Baroque Poetry Center, Venice, California, 12/10/05. Michael C. Ford, Curator.
Filmed readings by Rexroth's widow Carol TINKER, his daughter Mariana REXROTH, Morgan
GIBSON, California poets, musicians, actors, environmentalists, former students, and other friends.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2007

10:00-10:40 TEAM READINGS OF REXROTH'S POEMS AND
JAPANESE TRANSLATIONS OF THEM

Tetsuya TAGUCHI, Taylor MIGNON, and Misako YARITA, Coordinators
Janine BEICHMAN and Shinobu TANAHASHI: "I Dream of Leslie"
Sanehide KODAMA & Kevin KNIGHT
Yuzuru KATAGIRI & Taylor MIGNON,
Tetsuya TAGUCHI and John SOLT
Kazuko SHIRAISHI & Misako YARITA
Rou KODAMA & Yasuo FUJITOMI & Janie Spencer
Keiko MATSUI GIBSON and Morgan GIBSON

10:40-12:30 KEYNOTE ADDRESS: KENNETH REXROTH AND JAPAN: Sanehide KODAMA.

ROUNDTABLE IN JAPANESE: WHAT ROAD DID REXROTH POINT TO ? [Rexroth no shimeshita michi wa?] Moderated by Tetsuya TAGUCHI, with , Kazuko SHIRAISHI Yuzuru KATAGIRI, Sanehide KODAMA, Yasuo FUJITOMI, Janine BEICHMAN, and Keiko MATSUI GIBSON.

KENNETH REXROTH AND BASIC ENGLISH: Yuzuru KATAGIRI,

From DRIFTING FIRES: readings from an original Noh play by Janine BEICHMAN, containing a Rexroth poem, translated by Shinobu TANAHASHI.

12:30-13:40 LUNCHEON MIXER

13:40-14:00 REXROTHIANS IN ABSENTIA

1) From KENNETH REXROTH: EXPERIENCE AS CONSEQUENTIAL, by Barbara SZERLIP.
Read by Rachelle LERNER.

2) From THE GOOD DAYS (poem) and REXROTH ONLINE (essay), by Karl YOUNG,
read on his 60th birthday by Morgan GIBSON.

14:00-14:20 MORE ON THE JAPAN CONNECTION:
POETS CARRYING THE REXROTH FLAME: Taylor MIGNON.

14:20-14:30 "Kenneth Rexroth's Epiphany," a deathbed poem by Keiko MATSUI GIBSON.

REXROTH'S POETRY WITH MUSIC

14:30-15:00 THOU SHALT NOT KILL, Rexroth's Anti-War Elegy for Dylan THOMAS:
Misako YARITA performing Katue KITASONO's translation of it,
accompanied by percussionist Michitaka MATSUDA.

15:00-15:30 REXROTH'S EROTIC "MARICHIKO POEMS" SUNG WITH
SELF- ACCOMPANIMENT ON THE SHAMISEN: Fuei NISHIMATSU.

15:30-16:30 KAZUKO SHIRAISHI PERFORMING HER POETRY, with
Reminiscences of Kenneth REXROTH.

FINALE

ANNOUNCEMENT

PRINTED MATTER BOOK PARTY

Everyone is invited to a book party this evening (Sunday) at What the Dickens? British pub, for the new *Printed Matter Literary Anthology*, edited in Tokyo by Hillel Wright. Work by some participants in this symposium appears in it. The pub is only three minutes from Ebisu Station, Room 6 Building, 4th Floor, Ebisu-Nishi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo. Phone: (03) 3780-2099.

BIOS OF PARTICIPANTS (AND A COUPLE OF ABSENTEES)

Janine BEICHMAN, a poet and professor of Japanese Literature at Daito Bunkyo University, is a leading translator and biographer of Akiko YOSANO and Shiki MASAOKA.

Yasuo FUJITOMI is a leading poet with two dozen books. He has even translated into Japanese three books by the untranslatable poet e e cummings. He has written books on Katue KITASONO and Eric SATIE. He has been at the forefront of concrete and visual poetry since the inception of these movements in the 1950's. His drawings have been exhibited in Japan, Europe, and the United States. His CD *whatnever* is available from highmoonnoon.com

Uri HERTZ (in absentia), a Los Angeles poet who knew Rexroth, edited a special Rexroth issue of his *Third Rail* in 1987 and has an ongoing Rexroth Festschrift on his website www.literatureandarts.com

Keiko MATSUI GIBSON is a translator of Akiko YOSANO, a scholar of Comparative Literature and theory, and a KUIS Professor of English, with a Ph. D. from Indiana University. Some of her poems have been collected as *Stir Up the Precipitable World*.

Morgan GIBSON is a poet, essayist, editor, retired professor from Japanese and American universities, and the author of two books on Rexroth (one online at Karl YOUNG's site below). His long "I Thou Poem for Kenneth Rexroth's Centenary" appears in the new *Printed Matter Literary Anthology* in Tokyo and in the online archives of the 2006 Rexroth issue of *Chicago Review*.

Yuzuru KATAGIRI is a poet, the leading Japanese translator of Rexroth's poetry, a specialist on I. A. Richards and Basic English, and a Professor Emeritus of Kyoto Seika University.

Ken KNABB (in absentia) is the curator of the Bureau of Public Secrets, which includes his *The Relevance of Rexroth*, 1990, 1997, and much other work by and about our featured poet <http://www.bopsecrets.org>

Kevin KNIGHT is the MBA Lecturer in the KUIS Career Education Center.

Rou KODAMA, the Vice-Director of KUIS' Millennium Hall, is a leading on-stage reader of Japanese literature.

Sanehide KODAMA, in his definitive *American Poetry and Japanese Culture*, 1984, lauded Rexroth as "the American poet who best understands the Japanese culture." Formerly President of Doshisha Women's University, he is now an Emeritus Professor there.

Rachelle K. LERNER is the author of *A Rage to Order*, the new biography of Rexroth forthcoming from the University of Michigan Press. The book is enriched by many interviews and much other fresh research supported by a grant from the Ontario Arts Council. As an independent scholar, poet, and senior editor/writer in the two learning ministries of the Ontario government, she facilitates a variety of writing workshops.

Michitaka MATSUDA is Misako YARITA's percussionist.

Taylor MIGNON, poet, contributing editor of *Vallum: contemporary poetry*, translator of Shozo TORII and other Japanese poets, and an Instructor in Contemporary Culture at Bunkyo Gakuin University, wrote on Rexroth for his Antioch University M. A.

Fuei NISHIMATSU is a musician, composer, and Iemoto of the Nishimatsu School of Classical Japanese Music.

Kazuko SHIRAISHI is the living Japanese poet probably best known to readers of English, thanks to translations by Kenneth REXROTH, Carol TINKER, John SOLT, and others that were published in 1978 by New Directions as the collection *Seasons of Sacred Lust*. Her most recent book translated into English is *Let Those Who Appear* (Norton, 2002). She has received the Purple Ribbon Medal from the Emperor of Japan and many other awards. Her poetry has been translated into Korean, Spanish, German, and a dozen other languages, and she has represented Japan at every major international poetry festival during the past thirty years.

John SOLT is a poet, scholar, and impresario of Asian Culture who was Rexroth's student at the University of California—Santa Barbara and since 1990 has been Associate-in-Research, Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University. He is the author of the definitive critical biography of Katue Kitasono: *Shredding the Tapestry of Meaning*, Harvard Asia Press, 1999. Shichosa will publish the Japanese translation of it in 2008. His exquisite homepage is at <http://highmoonnoon.com>

Janie SPENCER-BELLET, M. A., sociologist, was Rexroth's student at the University of California—Santa Barbara and in his private writers' group.

Gabun SUZUKI is a cutting-edge photographer, a critic with three books on photography, and a poet who knew Rexroth in Japan and has been much influenced by him.

Barbara SZERLIP (in absentia) is a San Francisco poet, book sculptor, and wood artist. Rexroth introduced her poetry in *Four Young Woman: Poems*, 1973.

Tetsuya TAGUCHI is a poet and professor of Comparative Cultures, Faculty of Culture and Information Science, Doshisha University in Kyoto, and editor of the 1992 *Electric Rexroth* Festschrift. His lecture is based on a paper that he presented in Pamplona, Spain, to the UN-sponsored International Society for the Study of European Ideas.

Shinobu TANAHASHI is a freelance literary translator.

Misako YARITA is a poet, translator, popular performer, and author of two volumes about poetry.

Karl YOUNG (in absentia) is a Wisconsin poet and publisher of Light & Dust Books/Grist Mobile Anthology <http://www.thing.net/~grist/homekarl.htm> including Gibson's *Revolutionary Rexroth*.

Tsuguo NAGAHASHI of the KUIS library will introduce the Rexroth Collection and answer questions about it, the Rexroth Symposium, and KUIS generally. He has posted information on the KUIS homepage about Rexroth's work and the Collection and has also made countless necessary arrangements for this Symposium.

THE REXROTH POETRY SYMPOSIUM'S ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Keiko MATSUI GIBSON, KUIS Professor of English

Morgan GIBSON, poet and critic retired from universities in America and Japan, including KUIS.

Tsuguo NAGAHASHI, symposium coordinator, the KUIS Library

John SOLT, Associate-in Research, Harvard University

Tetsuya TAGUCHI, Professor of Comparative Culture, Doshisha University

The ORGANIZING COMMITTEE of the REXROTH SYMPOSIUM at Kanda University of International Studies thanks Michael C. Ford, Curator of Beyond Baroque Literary Arts Center in Venice, California for permission to show at our Rexroth Symposium (for noncommercial, educational purposes) the Hen House Studios DVD of the "Centenary Celebration for Kenneth Rexroth" at Beyond Baroque on 12/10/05. We are grateful for receiving the DVD, without charge, to be included in the Rexroth Collection in the KUIS library for future screenings. For further information we recommend that others explore the good work of both organizations at www.beyondbaroque.org and www.henhouse.studios