



Linguapax Asia 2007

Working Session: Language,
Religion, and Ethnicity

October 21, 2007 9:00-17:30
University of Tokyo, Komaba Campus
Building 18

Program

9:00 **Welcome**

9:15 **Opening of Session**
Frances Fister-Stoga, Director, Linguapax Asia

***Morning Session Chair:** Jelisava Sethna, Gakushuin University*

9:30 **Nordic Mythology, the Runes, and Ethnic Revivalism**
Dr. William Gater, University of the Sacred Heart

10:00 **Religion and Script: The Interface of Turkic and Arabic**
Hüseyin Özkaya, Meiji University

10:30-
11:00 **Coffee**

11:00 **The Sense of the Sacred in Navajo Language**
Prof. Cary Duval, Bunkyo University

11:30 **An Urban Japanese-Ainu's Identity Dilemma**
Dr. Marek Kaminski, Gender Studies Centre, Oxford University

12:00-
13:30 **Luncheon at Lever Son Verre restaurant, University of Tokyo**

***Afternoon Session Chair:** Frances Fister-Stoga, University of Tokyo*

13:30 **Biblical and Liturgical Japanese**
Dr. Charles De Wolf, Keio University

- 14:00 **Latin Revivalism and the Tridentine Mass**
Father Joseph O'Leary, Sophia University
- 14:30-
15:00 **Coffee**
- 15:00 **The Relationship Between the Hebrew Bible and the Hebrew Language**
Rabbi Henri Noach, Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Japan; Waseda University, Faculty of Law
- 15:30 **The Freising Manuscripts: The Birth Certificate of Slovene Language**
Jelisava Sethna, Gakushuin University and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies
- 16:00 **Janaček's Glagolitic Mass**
Steven Morgan, Music Director and Principal Conductor of The British Embassy Choir; Director of Musical Activities, St. Alban's Church Tokyo
- 16:30-
16:45 **Coffee**
- 16:45-
17:30 **Discussion and Closing Statement**
Prof. Tasaku Tsunoda, University of Tokyo; Honorary President, Linguapax Asia
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Registration

There are no registration fees for attending the 2007 Working Session. Seating is limited. Kindly contact the Director about your attendance in order to secure a place at the Working Session: fisterstoga@f.email.ne.jp

Access

Shibuya - Inokashira Line local train to Komaba Todai-mae

Symposium Administration

Honorary President: Professor Tasaku Tsunoda, University of Tokyo

Director: Frances Fister-Stoga University of Tokyo

Program Director: Jelisava Sethna, Gakushuin University

General Affairs: Cary Duval, Bunkyo University

Website: Melvin R. Andrade, Sophia Junior College

Speaker Profiles and Presentation Abstracts (in order of appearance)

Frances Fister-Stoga is Director and founder of Linguapax Asia and has been an American foreign lecturer at the University of Tokyo since 1992. She holds a certificate in Peace Education from Teachers College Columbia University and has taught in Poland, Slovenia, Austria, and Canada.

Bill Gater – Nordic Mythology, the Runes, and Ethnic Revivalism

Bio summary: William Gater was born in Canada and has a dual British and Canadian citizenship. He holds degrees in Russian and German, and a Ph.D. in Linguistics. A former lecturer in the University of Tokyo (1979 and 2004), his interests include linguistic relativity and etymology.

Abstract: Among the so-called "heathen" religions of Europe, the Nordic is, after the Greek, the most developed. The Nordic religion – now almost always referred to as Teutonic or Germanic mythology – spread through Scandinavia, Iceland and Britain. Its vehicle of expression was Old Norse along with its distinctive writing system of runes, which gave to the Nordic world a certain ethnic identity. With the advance of Christianity, Nordic religion started to recede but not without leaving behind some remarkable traces in the vernaculars. In modern times, the runes in particular hold a special place in the world of the occult and ethnic revivalism.

Cary Duval – The Sense of the Sacred in Navajo Language

Bio summary: Cary Duval, Associate Professor in the Faculty of International Relations, Bunkyo University, has been doing research on the sense of alienation as it effects human relations. He has written several papers concerning Mexican-American, Spanish bilingual education programs and the educational Policies of the United States. Since 1994 he has been very interested in the Navajo and their culture and the struggle to keep it alive in face of attitudes and policies that make it difficult to be bi-lingual and bi-cultural in the United States.

Abstract: The Dine or Navajo as the whites call them, view life as a sacred journey. They see a relationship between man and the sacred as intertwined not separated into certain days or certain areas of one's life. Based on research conducted among the Navajo Nation in recent years, the presentation will focus on how the sacred is presented in the Dine (Navajo) Language, including the use of chants in their ceremonies to purify a place or to bless the land and the use of myths in their songs for children in order to introduce Navajo culture to them.

Ignacy-Marek Kaminski – An Urban Japanese-Ainu’s Identity Dilemma

Bio summary: Professor Ignacy-Marek Kaminski, a Polish-born Swedish anthropologist and permanent resident of Japan is currently associated with International Genders Studies Centre (IGS), Oxford University. He has taught Applied Anthropology, Intercultural Communication and Cross-Cultural Filmmaking in Japanese and EU universities: Tokyo, Gothenburg, Uppsala, Warsaw. He specializes in comparative studies of political cultures, and conflict resolution among ethnic and social minorities. His globally-oriented fieldwork includes filmmaking among Okinawans, Ainu, Roma, Inuit. His works are published in eleven languages.

Abstract:: “How multi-cultural individuals accommodate contradictions between their ancestors’ belief systems and overcome ethnic stigmatization in Japan?” are central themes in Kaminski’s film-presentation: “AN URBAN JAPANESE-AINU’S IDENTITY DILEMMA” (47’15”/2007) is a documentary narrative featuring young woman sharing her ethnic awakening and return to her late Ainu father’s cultural roots with Tokyo’s international students.

Charles De Wolf – Biblical and Liturgical Japanese

Bio summary: Charles De Wolf, Ph.D., Linguistics, is a professor at Keiō University. His publications include work in morphology and syntax, with particular emphasis on comparative and typological issues. He has also written about register and speech-level variation pertinent to the topic presented here. In recent years, he has turned his greater interest to Japanese literary translation, both classical and modern.

Abstract: Language related to religion tends to be of a strikingly marked variety, favoring linguistic forms that in colloquial speech and even in formal writing are archaic or obsolete. The language used by Japanese Christians is a particularly interesting case in point, as it is the relatively new faith of a small minority of the population. The presentation will include a brief description of the characteristics of the Japanese used both in Bible translations and in the Catholic mass and will discuss changes that have taken place in recent years, as the colloquial language has come to replace the literary forms.

Rabbi Henri Noach – The Relationship Between the Hebrew Bible and the Hebrew Language

Bio summary: Rabbi Henri Noach was born in Paris and grew up in the US. He has lived in many countries including Israel, Switzerland, and Belgium. He holds degrees in Middle East Studies, International Relations and Jewish Studies. He has lectured on Judaism, Zionism, Middle East Politics, and Jerusalem at various universities and institutions. He is currently the Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Japan, and a lecturer of Jewish History at Waseda University Faculty of Law.

Abstract: Marshal McLuhan's famous statement, that "the medium is the message", describes very well the importance of the Hebrew language in conveying much of the teaching of the Torah. The presentation will focus on the relationship between the Hebrew Bible and the Hebrew language. The revival of the Hebrew language in the modern period as a spoken tongue will be discussed and some insights into the kabbalistic perspective re: the symbolic significance of the letters of the Hebrew alphabet provided.

Father Joseph O'Leary – Latin Revivalism and the Tridentine Mass

Bio summary: Joseph S. O'Leary is an Irish Catholic diocesan priest with a doctorate in theology, on St. Augustine's *De Trinitate*, from Maynooth College. He studied in the Gregorian University, Rome, and the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris. He has taught literature at Sophia University since 1988. His publications include *Questioning Back: The Overcoming of Metaphysics in Christian Tradition* (Minneapolis: Winston-Seabury, 1985), *Religious Pluralism and Christian Truth* (Edinburgh University Press, 1996), and *L'art du jugement en théologie* (Editions du Cerf, 2008). His blogsite: http://josephsoleary.typepad.com/my_weblog/

Abstract: The presentation will focus on how and when Latin became the liturgical language of the Western Church, with special emphasis on the historical genesis of the Roman Canon. The current English translation of the Canon and the proposed new translation will be looked at, and some theological criticisms that have been made of the Canon itself, of its translations, and of the recent "restoration" of the Tridentine Rite will be addressed, with particular emphasis on the problem of finding a sacred language today.

Jelisava Sethna – The Freising Manuscripts: The Birth Certificate of Slovene Language

Bio summary: Jelisava Sethna is a lecturer of English and Slovene at a number of universities in the Tokyo region, including Gakushuin University and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. She has published academic papers on phonology, classroom research, and the methodology of writing and has conducted socio-linguistic research on bilingualism and transfer of terminology. In 2000, she helped to organize a Symposium of Slovene Language, Literature and Culture at the University of Tokyo.

Abstract: The Freising Manuscripts, which originated in the Upper Carinthia (Möll river valley or Luhrnfeld) between 972 and 1039, stand at the beginning of the thousand-year history of Slovene writing culture. They are the oldest Slovene texts and also the oldest preserved Roman-script writings in any Slavic language. The manuscripts comprise three Slovene religious liturgies, which will be presented and their impact on the development of the Slovene language and sense of nationhood discussed.

Steven Morgan – Janaček's Glagolitic Mass

Bio summary: Steven Morgan has made Tokyo his home since 1995. Currently he is a part-time lecturer in English at Daito Bunka University and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and a visiting lecturer in music at Tohoku Gakuin University in Sendai. In addition, Mr. Morgan conducts the British Embassy Choir Tokyo and the parish choir of St. Alban's Anglican Church in Tokyo and serves on the board of directors of the Rikkyo Institute of Church Music. His academic background includes studies in choral conducting, music education, educational psychology, historical musicology, psycholinguistics and second language education. (93)

Abstract: Across the centuries, the mass of the Roman Rite has been treated by many composers as a screen upon which they could project various aspects of their personal political, social, philosophical, aesthetic and theological points of view. Though the texts themselves have remained relatively unchanged over time, composers have played with the variables of musical idiom, form, performing forces and even language in order to add rich layers of semiotic content that refer the listener to ideas, events and images often far removed from the liturgical acts which the music was originally intended to accompany. In this lecture I will discuss a fascinating example of this phenomenon, the *Mše Glagolskaja (Glagolitic Mass)* composed in 1926 by the noted Czech composer Leoš Janáček.

Tasaku Tsunoda is a professor at the University of Tokyo. He gained his Ph.D. at Monash University. His defense of the Australian Aboriginal language, Warrango, has been his life's work.