Japan: Natsume Soseki, His Contemporaries, and the Meiji Era


Zen poems, letters and other writings by Zen Master Ryokan. Soseki admired and wrote his own Zen poems, etc. It is a good insight into the world of Zen through writings.


An overview of modern East Asian history, starting with the first encounters with the West.


An exploration of the psychological world of Natsume Soseki and a select group of his characters and novels.


An insightful article that discusses Soseki’s struggles and accomplishments as a Japanese Meiji intellectual.


Detailed biographies of the three Japanese novelists.


A concise history and breakdown of Japan socially, culturally, economically, and politically from the Tokugawa shogunate to the present.

Heinrich, Amy Vladeck, ed. Currents in Japanese Culture: Translations and


Discusses Soseki and the psychological make-up of his novels, paying particular attention to how they reflect tradition and modernization in Japanese culture.


Detailed discussion of modern Japanese authors, particularly Soseki and his contemporaries. The work provides some comparisons with writers from the past.


A wonderful introduction to Japanese literature from all periods, focusing on the Meiji period.


A look at how Japanese authors were influenced by the war and if or how it
influenced their writing.


A wonderful collection of modern Japanese literature from the Meiji period.


Discusses Soseki and his feelings toward English literature. Explains how English literature differs and is similar to Japanese works.


A discussion of the two authors’ most famous novels, commenting on and analyzing their works.

1968.

An analysis of modern Japanese fiction – broken up into both the Meiji and Taisho eras – giving mention to many novelists.


A general overview of East Asian history from the start of civilization.


Discussion of ideology and narrative in certain Japanese novels, spanning from the Meiji period (1868) to contemporary authors.


A wonderful look into the new Meiji generation and the problems they had synthesizing the East and West while remaining Japanese.


A look into modern Japanese fiction and its traditions – uses themes and traditions of older works such as *The Tale of Genji* and compares them to aspects of other more modern works.


Discusses how Meiji period writers had to take special care concerning subject matter and tone.


A story concerning two contrasting characters and their adventure over a volcano, Mt. Aso.

________. *And Then*. Translated by Norma Moore Field. New York: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1982


A story focusing on a young man’s rebellion against the systems and ideologies of a country school in Japan.

________. “The Civilization of Modern-day Japan.” Translated by Jay Rubin. *Monumenta*
A translation of an article, or more likely a speech, concerning Soseki’s thoughts on modern day Japan and the direction in which it was heading.


A story concerning two intellectually contrasting characters who travel over a mountain and become interested in a country girl.

I Am a Cat. Translated by Aiko Ito and Graeme Wilson. Tokyo: Tuttle Publishing,

Life through the eyes of a cat without a name who watches people in action.


A collection of thirty-nine biographical essays through which Soseki reflects on his past and present, as well as his career as a novelist.


A story of a country-born college intellectual, his professors, and a woman with whom he becomes infatuated.

Another collection of short stories from Soseki. It also includes several essays that he wrote while in London.


Renown translation of one of Soseki’s most famous speeches, which discusses his duties to himself and to the Japanese nation.


A wonderful discussion linking aspects of Zen Buddhism to Japanese culture.


A wonderful collection of writings that helps one discover the sources of Japanese traditions.


Discussion of modern Japanese writers and how some of their writings have become “true literature.”


A brief look into Soseki’s later novels, including Kokoro, Mon, and Michikusa.


Discussion of novels during the Meiji period and how they were influenced by the individualism of the author.


An insightful look into the Meiji era, problems of modernization, and other aspects of Japanese history until 1967.


A detailed biography and analysis of the life, career, and struggles of Natsume
Soseki.