

## BOOK REVIEW

**Kenichi Mizusawa**, Ed. 水沢謙一編 *Iki ga pon to saketa* いきがポーンとさけた. Tokyo: Miraisha, 未来社, 1958. p. 357.

Employing the closing formula for a folk tale frequently used in the region, Mr. Mizusawa has announced his intention to conclude publication with this volume the reporting of tales which he has gathered in the central part of Niigata Prefecture, Japan. There a few new tales in this collection, but many variations of tales he previously introduced in his former collections. Taking Nagaoka City, his home, as the central part, he has grouped tales by areas within or bordering the city as central, eastern, western, southern, and northern areas. Within the 135 tales he has chosen those from 36 narrators, among them the remarkable 95 years old Kita Onozuka, whom the reviewer had the good fortune to hear a year ago. This last volume is produced with the same technique described in a previous review. His faithful rendition of the tale as heard, the use of dialect with notes and another glossary, and the record of the name, age, and address of the narrator are evidence of his care and seriousness. Mr. Mizusawa has thus preserved a generous sample of the folk tale as it is heard even today in the remote areas of Japan.

**Tayoko Noda**, Ed. 能田多代子編 *Tekkiri Anesama* 手っきり娘さま Tokyo: Miraisha 未来社, 158. p. 351.

This book by Mrs. Noda represents her efforts over the last thirty years to set down tales from the region in Aomori Prefecture where she was brought up. She has long been identified with the group of Japanese folklorists lead by Kunio Yanagita 柳田国男, and contributed tales in the *Mukashibanashi Kenkyû* 昔話研究, a journal devoted to the folk tale, which he edited. Her late husband shared this interest with her and made several trips

into the Gonohei and Nobechi areas to collect tales. Although most of the tales are those which she heard as a child, these were carefully edited and supplemented after several field trips into the region and hearing them once more from old narrators. Her work has a unique personal flavor, that of one who thoroughly enjoys the tales and who regards them as something of her own. The title means "The girl whose hands were cut off." It appears in other parts of Japan and is usually called "*Te nashi musume* 手無し娘" (The girl without hands)". The book is divided into groups of tales along several themes. At the beginning she gives tales to be told to small children, bride and bridegroom tales, stepmother tales, and *choja* tales. Then there is an extensive section devoted to miscellaneous tales, some rather fragmentary, followed by animal tales, numskull tales, tales about the bonze and his novice, and various novelities. Although Mrs. Noda employs dialect, she has not furnished a glossary. Some expressions are explained in the text, but part remain difficult to understand. She has said that in some cases the original meaning is not clear, but the expression is too much a part of the narration to be omitted. The editor of this volume has long been recognized as an authority on folklore in the region represented in this book, and scholars are grateful for this accessible material made possible through her efforts.

**Tadashi Hirano**, Ed. 平野直編, *Suneko tanpoko, Dai issbu, Dai nishu* すねこ たんぽこ第一集・第二集. Tokyo: Miraisha 未来社, 1958. p. 396, p. 436.

This two volume work by Tadashi Hirano represents one complete study which appeared within two months. Although the pages are numbered separately, the second volume is a continuation of the first. The title means "The boy born from a shin," and it is a tale frequently heard in Iwate Prefecture. This is the third time the editor has published material under this same title. Using the title, he published a 300 page volume in 1943 in which he assembled tales which he had previously published in magazines and some others. Again, he used the title for the first of three little collections he published in 1948. The present volume, however, is a study of the folk tales in Iwate Prefecture as found in his 1943 edition and the following other collections:

- Kunio Yanagita** 柳田国男 *Tono Monogatari* 遠野物語  
Tokyo (1911)
- Kizen Sasaki** 佐々木喜善 *Esashi-gun Mukashibanashi*  
江刺郡昔話 Tokyo (1922)
- " " *Shiwa-gun Mukashibanashi*  
柴波郡昔話 Tokyo (1926)
- " " *Too Ibun* 東奥異聞 Tokyo (1926)
- " " *Roo Yatan* 老嫗夜譚 Tokyo (1927)
- " " *Kikimimi Sôshi* 聽耳草紙  
Tokyo (1933)
- " " *Nomin Ritan* 農民俚譚  
Tokyo (1934)
- " " *Kamihei-gun Mukashibanashi*  
上閉郡昔話 Tokyo (1943)
- Tari Mori** 森多里 *Kogane no uma* 黄金の馬 Tokyo (1923)
- Kenkichi Ogasawara** 小笠原謙吉 *Shiwa-gun Mukashibanashi*  
*Shu* 柴波都昔話集 Tokyo (1942)

He has arranged the tales in the order used by Mr. Yanagita in *Nippon Mukashibanashi Mei-i* 日本昔話名彙 Tokyo (1948), the standard Japanese classification of folk tales. Selecting a representative tale in complete form, he adds to each notes on the variations found in that region. Since the northeastern part of Japan has proved to be rich in such material, this work of Mr. Hirano in surveying it systematically is a fine contribution to students. The fact that most of the source material used is out of print and difficult to locate in book stores, making it almost inaccessible, also makes this volume a valuable one. Mr. Hirano has been interested in the folk tale for nearly thirty years and also contributed tales through *Mukashibanashi Kenkyû*, the magazine to which Mrs. Noda also contributed. He has been a public school teacher for many years and his work represents material from Iwate Prefecture where he has always lived.

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