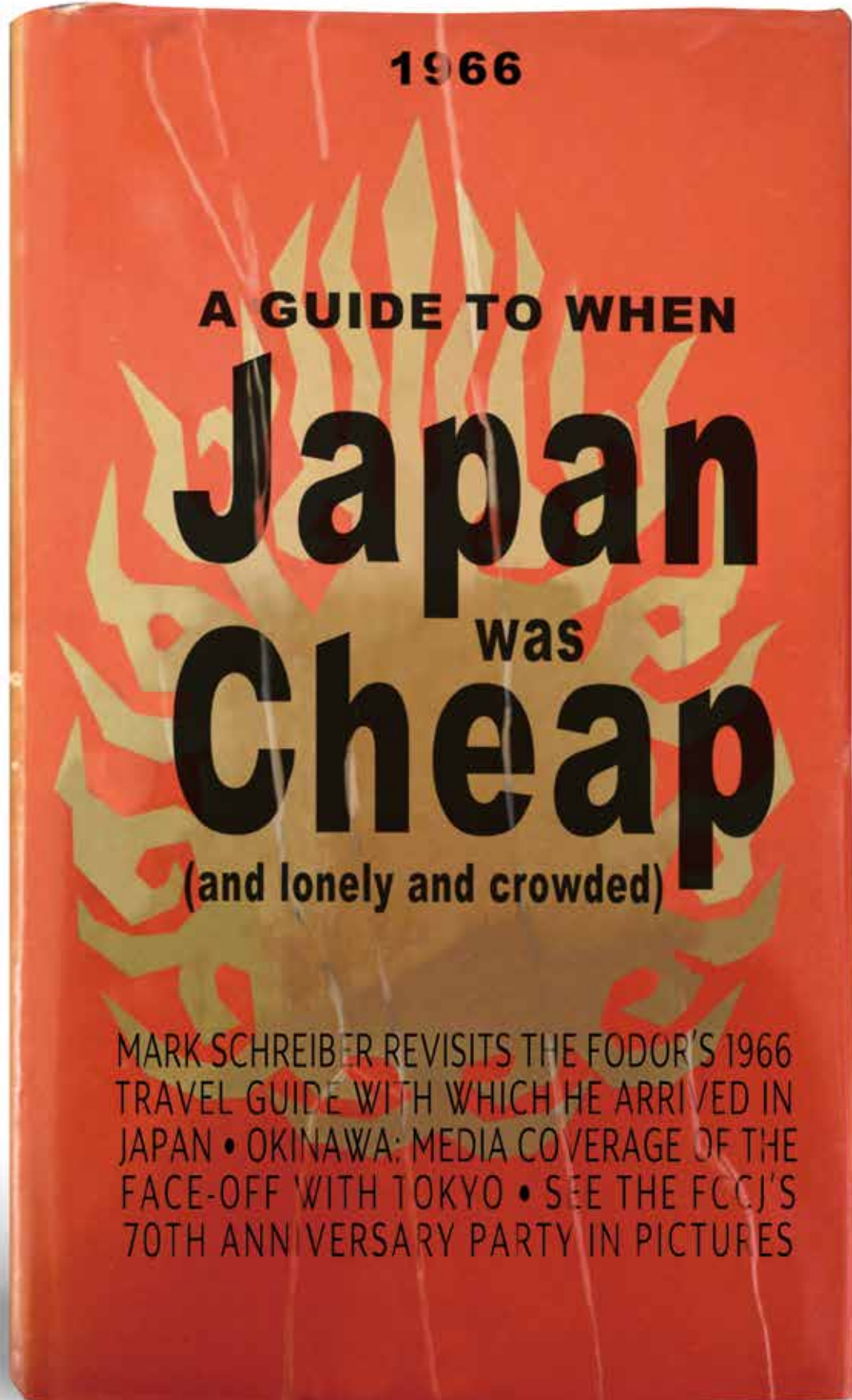




NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

November 2015, Volume 47 No. 11, ¥400





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Governor of Okinawa, Takeshi Onaga

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From the President

THE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' CLUB of Japan's 70th anniversary celebration was a glittering event, graced by Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado. The lobby of the ballroom in the newly renovated Palace Hotel, selected for the occasion, featured a display of the Club's history – large black-and-white photos from its 1945 birth in post-World War II Tokyo under the U.S. Occupation led by General MacArthur. The journalists who covered that tumultuous period marked Japan's introduction to democracy along with its embrace of a free media. Almost 450 guests, representing top media, diplomatic and business circles, participated. Dressed in black tie and pearl necklaces, guests sipped champagne, won handsome raffle prizes and danced the night away.

My toast paid tribute to the Club's founders – those unforgettable foreign correspondents who recorded the early breathtaking events in Japan as the country returned to international society. Those journalists plugged away at typewriters and captured in photo and film the historic changes. Some lost their lives during the Korean War, but such was their dedication and fearless commitment to journalism.

Seventy years later, the current generation who now dispatch the news from an affluent and peaceful Japan may not face similar dangers. Yet the vision remains the same. The FCCJ continues to be a place

where speakers from a wide array of backgrounds tell us their stories because of our commitment to report the truth to the world.

On a different note, Members must be curious about the progress of the board this past month. The good news is that we are putting the finishing touches on ending two lawsuits that have been draining the FCCJ's coffers for the past few years. The prime aim for these key breakthroughs is to bring the dealing with Club issues back inside the Club. I believe the time has come for the Club to be a place where members communicate with those they may not agree with. One of the most encouraging scenes towards this direction is to see committees inviting members who have long been isolated to work together. Let's not forget the reason we joined the FCCJ is to make it a great place to belong.

Finally, let me share with you my last moments of the anniversary night. Jumping into a taxi along with some other board members, I returned to the 20th floor to have a last toast. As we walked into the room we met friends who were already celebrating at the round tables. As we joined them and raised our glasses to the future of the FCCJ, it felt right to be gathering at a place where journalists have long congregated while doing their jobs. It was the end of a perfect evening!

– Suvendrini Kakuchi

For the rest of this 70th anniversary year, we will turn these pages over to the history of the Club, both of the many esteemed and important guests who faced us – and the world – from the FCCJ dais and of the many Members who have made the Club such a fascinating place to be.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



FURRY FRIENDS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The animal-loving duo of Siegfried Fischbach and Roy Horn appeared with their feline co-stars at the FCCJ on Jan. 31, 1989. The two entertainers had become famous in Las Vegas for their work with white tigers and white lions, and were on an international tour. Seated calmly at the table is Naooki Usui (McGraw-Hill), who had been president of the Club for the previous administrative year.

in Las Vegas, first at the New Frontier Hotel and Casino until 1988 and then at the Mirage Hotel from 1990 until October 2003.

During a show at the Mirage that October, Roy Horn was bitten on the neck by a seven-year-old male white tiger named Mantecore, and despite suffering from severe blood loss, insisted that no harm should come to the tiger. Horn later claimed that he had passed out as the result of taking a hypertensive medication and the animal had accidentally severed an artery while trying to drag him to safety.

The injury resulted in the closing of the show. By September 2005, however, Roy Horn was again able to walk without aid, and in February of 2009 the duo staged a final benefit appearance with Mantecore.

Siegfried & Roy retired from show business in April 2010.

Four years later a press release reported the death of Mantecore at the age of 17.

– Charles Pomeroy

BOTH ORIGINALLY FROM GERMANY, Siegfried Fischbach and Roy Horn combined animals and magic in a show that became popular across

Europe. The two entertainers then took their act to the U.S., where both eventually became naturalized. Their elaborate show was a perennial favorite

TALES FROM THE ROUND TABLES



LOST AND FOUND IN TRANSLATION

IN TOKUGAWA-ERA JAPAN, traders from the Netherlands had convinced the shogun that the world spoke Dutch, so when the Black Ships came crashing through the isolationist tranquility the first emissaries dutifully took their best Dutch interpreters to meet with Commodore Perry. The ensuing maneuvers, involving Dutch, Chinese and whatever other modes of communication they could draw from, were to lay the foundation for modern Japanese diplomacy, leaving us pondering what may have been lost in translation that day.

The 1930s and '40s brought an isolationism of another form which left Japan woefully under-equipped to deal with the Second Coming of the Americans. Not only had English not been taught, it was forbidden, and the FCCJ founders had a heck of a time fighting over the handful of employable Japanese staff that could get beyond "May I help you?" In the end, however, the linguistic heroics of a number of FCCJ luminaries helped pave the short track to Japan's economic miracle, not to mention ensuring the accuracy of the biggest stories filed by our correspondents.

One such legend, Sen "William"

Nishiyama, was born in the U.S., to a samurai scholar who had sailed across the Pacific and chose to stay. There, he grew up speaking English, only making his way to Japan after his father's death in 1936. His Masters in engineering promptly led to work on technical translations and further polishing of his already impressive Japanese skills.

We've found little evidence to suggest there was any talent in Tokyo to rival him in those days, and the first real challenge may have manifested when another FCCJ legend, Ichiro Urushibara, began working summer jobs for the Occupation Forces in Tokyo as a trusted interpreter.

Nishiyama later found employment with the U.S. Embassy, where he honed his skills in the art of cross-cultural communications. To this day, he is considered by many to be the father of simultaneous interpretation

in Japan. Many politicians and industry leaders came to him for guidance in building their bridges to the world, including a young Yasuhiro Nakasone – later to serve as prime minister – whom Nishiyama accompanied and coached on a trip across the United States.

Urushibara, too, worked for the GHQ. But both soon branched out into the burgeoning markets generated by new opportunities pouring in through the outbreak of hostilities in Korea. Urushibara went on to find yet another career in the entertainment industry as a bilingual radio host pioneer.

But in the midst of a heady interest in internationalization, another giant entered the field, though of a rather different ilk. Unlike Nishiyama and Urushibara, Masumi Muramatsu was born and raised in Japan. But his uniquely entrepreneurial spirit grew amidst the ruins of a defeated Japan,

as he found a job as a clerk-typist for the Occupation Forces, taught himself English, and by the 1950s was recognized as one of Japan's top simultaneous interpreters. He later made his mark as the founder of Simul International.

Each of them helped interpret the live transmission of the Apollo missions, which came to exemplify the highest elite status for interpreters in Japan, and virtually every head of state, newsmaker and celebrity visiting Japan would bid for their services.

Long-time FCCJ member Rick Dyck recalls the special relationship his Harvard professor and mentor Edwin O. Reischauer enjoyed with Nishiyama, as something similar to his famous marriage to Haru Matsukata. Born in Japan to American missionaries, Reischauer's profound grasp of Japanese was put to good use for the U.S. military during the war, and later on during his stint as U.S.

ambassador to Japan.

Since both Nishiyama and Haru were raised in thoroughly American environments, Reischauer was always quick to fill them in on Japanese historical context at every opportunity, including for the public speaking engagements at which Nishiyama would be interpreting. In the Reischauer household, the thoroughly American Haru, Dyck remembers, would serve corn flakes and scrambled eggs, when all Edwin and the children wanted was miso soup.

As FCCJ celebrates its 70th anniversary, one can only wonder how the aspirations of the generations inspired by these great interpreters have nevertheless left Japan as cellar dwellers in English proficiency amongst the economic powers of today.

– The Shimibun Alley Whisperers



Memories are made of this

The 1966 Fodor's guidebook is a benchmark for five decades of change.

To tweak his involuntary memory, French author Marcel Proust would bite into a small spongy cake called a "petite Madeleine de Commercy." While considerably less prolific than Proust – despite having been blessed with a longer lifespan (Proust died at 51) – I recently found another way to unleash a flood of fond memories, by skimming through the 1966 edition of Fodor's *Guide to Japan and East Asia*.

The 750-page monster, printed in Japan, sold for just \$6.95, and I certainly got my money's worth. Starting with an initial nine-day visit to Japan in December 1965, it was to serve as my guidebook over the next several years in Japan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand and South Vietnam.

I recently found a nearly mint copy of *Fodor's* for \$4.99 on Amazon.com. Upon opening it to the section on Japan, I was magically whisked back to the evening of Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1965. I'd turned 18 just a month earlier, and was accompanying my parents and younger brother on a propeller-driven DC-6 aircraft flying from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa to Tachikawa Air Base in western Tokyo. The carrier was a front company for the Central Intelligence Agency called Southern Air Transport, whose initials, its passengers would acerbically remark, stood for "Sorry About That."

The Japan I found back then is well described in the 34-page essay that makes up the opening section of *Fodor's*. It was written by someone I would meet in person years later, and whose writings I would see a great deal of: Edward Seidensticker.

Given his impressive academic and literary credentials I suppose Seidensticker found writing it a rather easy task. Titled "Japan: A crowded, lonely land," his essay begins: "Within seconds of his arrival, the visitor to Japan is immediately aware of one essential fact about the country. It is crowded. Whether he comes by ship or by plane, he finds himself immediately in the middle of the world's greatest jumble of humanity, the Tokyo metropolitan complex. Other cities rival Tokyo in size, but none approaches it in noise, in bustle, in the rip and swirl of its roiling sea of bodies."

On page 67, he justifies his title thusly: "The most obvious characteristic of the Japanese brings us back to the beginning: that they appear in crowds, and when they move they move in crowds, as if impelled by a terrible fear of being alone. . .

by MARK SCHREIBER

a society of relaxed, easy associations. . .

"All in all it is a chilly, fragmented, constricting world."

Some readers may recognize other names among Fodor's team of contributors: Peter Robinson, former correspondent for the *Sydney Morning Herald* and *Financial Times*, produced articles on Food and Drink, Dining out in Tokyo and Hokkaido. Maggy Burrows, a native of New Orleans, wrote about shopping. Others included Francis King (Kyoto), Robert C. Fisher (Kyushu) and James Kirkup (Tohoku).

Robinson's writing on cuisine comes across as enlightened, considering attitudes that prevailed at the time: "One of the greatest of Japanese dishes – and one which seems to worry Westerners, at least before they taste it, most of all – is raw fish. . . Many foreigners who live in Japan feel that sushi is Japan's greatest contribution to gastronomy; even those who don't particularly like it, agree that it is much better than its ingredients . . . would indicate."

He also writes: "Noboribetsu and other Hokkaido spas are among the relatively few remaining in Japan where mixed bathing between the sexes is common. However, many Western visitors will be surprised by how modest Japanese men and women can be with only a tiny wash towel. The prurient will find little of interest while the modest will probably be too overcome with shyness to experiment with mixed hot springs bathing. For the remainder, it should be an interesting and happy experience."

Although it is not attributed, Robinson may have also produced this unabashed advisory. "A few years ago, when prostitution was legal in Japan, certain districts were set aside for it – famed Yoshiwara was one. Such areas no longer exist, but the ladies of the profession are still plentiful. . . Arrangements vary, but the usual procedure is to make a private deal with your companion, to escort her to a hotel [in addition to] the hotel bill, perhaps another two thousand yen, and her 'present,' perhaps three thousand if you wait until breakfast to reward her. Obvious newcomers may be asked for twice as much. It will all be done with the peculiar Japanese women's charm, however, and your companion will explain everything to you without any apparent embarrassment."

"Although a Japanese is seldom alone, it may be said that he is frequently, perhaps even characteristically, lonely. Japan is not

Robinson's son Mark recalls his late father as "an extremely fast and prolific writer."

"One thing about dad," he says, "was he had no cultural chauvinism and very little ego. He simply accepted and enjoyed Japan for being different, and he carried very little Australian 'baggage.'"

The '66 *Fodor's* also contains several curious references that I confess to having no memory of whatsoever. One is its reliance on directions using the old street signs dating from the occupation period, with numbered streets and avenues designated "A," "B," "C" and so on.

Surprisingly, the section on Tokyo carries scant mention of the huge changes the city had undergone prior to the 1964 Olympics. And I was somewhat amazed to see that Japan's vaunted shinkansen warrants all of one sentence: "The latest word in streamlined speed by rail was introduced in 1964 with the opening of the New Tokaido line, offering one of the world's fastest services between the cities of Tokyo and Osaka."

From the guide, it seems that Yasukuni Shrine, located on a street labeled "T" Avenue on the map, had yet to take on its present-day political overtones. "Explore the shrine. . . You may walk about quite freely, though no one enters the actual shrine building. Indeed at any shrine, if the spirit moves you, you may toss a few copper coins in the box before the door, clap your hands to wake the gods within, fold them in prayer, bow your head for a moment and wish for something. The Japanese about you will be pleased and amused if you do this in your best Shrinemanship manner."

My reacquaintance with the guidebook I'd relied upon half a century ago reminded me of how much Tokyo's skyline has changed. Take this passage: As you approach the northern end of the palace grounds, you will see on your right, one of Tokyo's first skyscrapers, the home of the *Reader's Digest* and the *Mainichi*, one of Japan's leading newspapers. Construction began in 1964."

Today, The Mainichi Shimbun "skyscraper" is still occupied by its original tenant (although the Japanese edition of *Reader's Digest* is long gone). It stands all of nine stories high.

The photos in the book also reminded me of so many everyday things that have vanished, like three-wheeled trucks steered by handlebars, and Rabbit-brand motor scooters. The military payment certificates (MPCs) I spent on the U.S. military bases – are long gone; but then so are ¥100 and ¥500 bills.

Also celebrated in *Fodor's* but no longer with us are the glitzy Akasaka night clubs like the Mikado (which I visited twice and came away unimpressed) and the New Latin Quarter, in the basement of the Hotel New Japan, whose main claim to fame was that 39-year-old pro wrestler Rikidozan was fatally stabbed there by a gangster in December 1963. The hotel was permanently closed after a fire in February 1982, but the club survived until May 27, 1989.

I returned to Okinawa on New Year's Day, 1966, and nine months later was back in Tokyo to study at International Christian University. Through sheer persistence I became more adept at the language. The head of my host family patiently drilled me how to read Japan National Railways' massive monthly train schedule, which served as my Rosetta Stone to wander around the country. By the time I'd turned 21, my travels had taken me, with *Fodor's* in hand, from Sapporo to Fukuoka and many points in between.

In his wisdom, Seidensticker wrote in his *Fodor's* essay, "No one can honestly ask a stranger to come have a look, and expect him to derive much pleasure from his first impression. The visitor must rather be asked to stay until he has the feel of the place."

I'm happy I took that advice to heart. ❶

SOME CHOICE FODOR'S EXCERPTS:

Studying in Japan: The Japanese language has been called by one linguist, "the best excuse I ever knew for studying Spanish," but if you wish to take the plunge. . .

Photography: We recommend that you send your Kodachrome and Ektachrome film to regular processing stations of the Kodak Company. You can arrange to have the film returned to your home address or anywhere else.

Overseas Calls: To call the United States. . . from Tokyo, dial 109 and tell the operator your number. Waiting time will be about 10 minutes. Charges to the US are ¥3,240 for 3 minutes on weekdays, ¥2,430 on Sundays.



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RATES
 Single : \$ 6.15
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 Twin : \$12.50-18.10
 Suite : \$28.00
 Japanese Room : \$12.00-20.00

Ryokan: Price range should be about \$8 to \$14 per person, with two meals. . . we have tried whenever possible to find quiet places where organized tours do not stay. The price range here will be from \$4 to \$6, with two meals included. . . but you may find more expensive rooms if you desire.

Trains: Fares run from ¥10 and up according to distance

Taxis: Taxis are cheap, and by reputation, suicidal. The old resident, however, ignores the usual effect of a Keystone Kops movie chase at headlong speed. He knows that for the most part the drivers have an uncanny skill and a way of repealing certain laws of physics, such as the one about two objects occupying the same space at the same time.

Motoring in Japan: The roads of Japan are slowly improving, but it is still a grueling experience to travel any distance by private car. Because of the extremely heavy traffic, the narrow roads and the absence of safety law enforcement, it is strongly recommended that you do not attempt to drive yourself outside of the major urban areas. It goes on to mention that rental rates are usually about \$7.50 per day, including gas and oil.

Mark Schreiber currently writes the "Big in Japan" and "Bilingual" columns for the *Japan Times*.



AP PHOTO/YOSHIKAZU TSUNO

How the news media sees Okinawa

The confrontation between the leaders of the U.S.-Japan alliance and the prefectural government of Okinawa over the relocation of the U.S. Marine airbase at Futenma and the plan to construct a new airbase at Henoko has many dimensions – political, military, legal, historical, ethnic and economic. These have affected the way that it is covered by the local and global news media.

Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga is clearly aware of the importance of reaching out to the foreign media – as demonstrated by his late-May visit to Washington DC, his September speech at the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, and, indeed, by his two press conferences this year at the FCCJ. Onaga understands that shaming the Japanese government before the eyes of the international community is one of the key weapons at his disposal.

But keen awareness of the potential power of the media is also to be found on the other side of the political spectrum as well. Novelist and former NHK board member Naoki Hyakuta declared to admiring conservative lawmakers at a ruling party study meeting in June that the two major newspapers of Okinawa should be “crushed” in response to their support for the anti-base political views. In central Naha even now one can find a handful of activists outside these newspapers’ headquarters making similar calls.

Ryukyu Shimpō and *Okinawa Times* dominate the newspaper landscape in Okinawa. With two major newspapers grappling with one another within a relatively isolated prefecture, it might be expected that one of them would naturally trend more to the liberal side and one represent more conserva-

As the face-off between the prefectural and central governments continues, the good news is that press interest has increased and coverage has improved.

by MICHAEL PENN

tive voices. In fact, however, both papers are deeply committed to their anti-base movement. While there is indeed some portion of the Okinawan population that is pro-base, or at least not very concerned about the U.S. military presence, it would appear that this constituency is not large enough to support a major newspaper.

It should also come as no surprise that among print newspapers in any language, it is only the *Ryukyu Shimpō* and *Okinawa Times* that treat Henoko base construction as an issue of deep concern and seriousness. Without a doubt they offer the most regular and detailed accounts of the confrontation, and they are an essential source for anyone closely following developments on the ground.

For every other print media outlet in whatever language, the Futenma relocation drama is a peripheral matter, usually updated only when a major political figure makes a key statement or when an event of special significance takes place.

CONSERVATIVE NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS LIKE the *Yomiuri Shimbun* and the *Sankei Shimbun* have never wavered in their commitment to seeing the U.S. Marine airbase be built. For them it is a simple issue of national security and a commitment made to the U.S. allies. In the case of the *Yomiuri*, one editorial could stand in for a hundred others, as the message is always that base construction is necessary and anyone opposing it is both irresponsible and obstructionist. As they put it on Oct. 14: “The relocation to the Henoko district is the sole, realistic option chosen following many years of discussions among the Japanese and U.S. governments and local governments of

Islands in the streaming news

Okinawa Governor Takeshi Onaga meets the press.

Okinawa. Onaga continues taking his noncompliant stance, providing no alternative plans whatsoever.”

For the far-right Japanese media, the answers are also very simple. They insist that the anti-base movement does not represent the views of the majority of the Okinawan people, but rather are led by a handful of mostly Communist political activists from the main islands. They also believe that hidden Chinese agents and their collaborators are secretly guiding the anti-base movement.

The more liberal national dailies like the *Asahi Shimbun* and the *Mainichi Shimbun*, however, could probably be best defined by their wavering. They are certainly willing to give some space to anti-base views in their pages, especially in recent months, but they tend to be much more lukewarm than the local Okinawa papers. For example, these national newspapers appear to take more seriously the view that U.S. military bases are needed in the southwestern prefecture as an element of deterrence policy vis-a-vis China.

In contrast, the dominant view within Okinawa itself seems to be that China should be seen more as a trading partner than as an inevitable military threat. Governor Onaga himself made this point at his most recent press conference at the FCCJ – and it is often forgotten that Onaga hails from the more conservative political camp within his prefecture and was formerly a leader of the local chapter of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS MEDIA on the whole tends to show a reasonable degree of sympathy toward the Okinawans in their struggle to prevent the construction of the airbase at Henoko, though until recently there has also been a notable lack of interest in truly grasping the details of the situation.

Much of the international coverage of the Okinawa issue seems to be driven not by the unique history of the Ryukyu Islands (which is clearly central to Governor Onaga’s view), but rather to each specific media outlet’s general attitude towards the global military posture of the United States. Those international media that are most alienated from U.S. military actions in Iraq or Syria or Yemen, for example, also tend to paint the most negative pictures of the current situation in Okinawa.

An example of this latter approach can be found at *RT*, the English-language global news service of Russia. In an early-June report on the Okinawa issue, all of the analysis and commentary came from perspectives strongly critical of the United States. The quotation from Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine described the U.S. approach as “typical of colonial policies.” The one international expert introduced in the piece, the New Zealand-based Tim Beal, stated that U.S. bases in Okinawa really have little or nothing to do with any concern in Washington about the defense of Japan.

Since the Henoko base issue has been in the headlines off and on for some years now, the quality of the international reporting has clearly been improving. An increasing number of foreign journalists are actually visiting the sites of the confrontation and listening directly to the voices of the Okinawans. Interviews with Okinawa-based officials and analysts are now common in news features, and understanding of the local perspective has deepened considerably compared to five or ten years ago.

Direct experience in Okinawa, however, does not always lead in the direction of increased sympathy for the protesters. There are also those – usually associated with U.S. government policymaking circles or the military – whose views are nearly identical to what is expressed in the *Yomiuri Shim-*

bun, or occasionally even further to the political right.

One of the more active media commentators of this kind is Robert D. Eldridge, an author of several books related to Okinawa and for some years an official spokesman for the U.S. Marines.

When Governor Onaga made his visit to Washington DC in late May, Eldridge wrote a piece in the *Washington Times* to introduce him to American policymakers. Eldridge explained that Onaga had been elected “on an anti-base platform dominated by the organizational might of the Communist Party” and that the Okinawa governor “has been groomed for a long time by Chinese leaders” – echoing the claims of the Japanese far right.

Eldridge is also an outspoken critic of the *Ryukyu Shimpō* and *Okinawa Times*, describing them as “biased” in their coverage of the U.S. military and accusing them of consistently “focusing on the negative and sensational.”

Eldridge extends his critique to “the national and international media stationed in Tokyo.” Commenting on Naoki Hyakuta’s declaration that the Okinawan newspapers should be “crushed,” Eldridge observed:

“What was most surprising, however, about the ‘Hyakuta Incident’ was not his comments. Nor was it the strongly negative reaction of the two Okinawan newspapers – issuing a protest statement, partnering with their business allies such as the Asahi Shimbun to condemn Hyakuta in their editorials, and speaking before gatherings of their recent allies in the Foreign Correspondents Club of Japan. Rather, it was the slowness of people to realize that the media itself was crudely violating a private citizen’s freedom of speech, all in the name of protecting free speech and a free press.”

LIKE EVERY OTHER CONFLICT in the world, control of the narrative is a crucial element of the struggle for all interested parties.

The Okinawan opponents of the construction of an airbase at Henoko want to tell the story of their people’s unique history: their non-Japanese past, their horrific sacrifice in the Pacific War, their decades spent as a military colony of the United States, and the disproportionate burden of hosting U.S. forces that they carry even today. They insist that their experience teaches them the value of peace, and they don’t believe that the Chinese government has any intention to invade.

For mainstream conservatives on both sides of the Pacific, the salient narrative is about the U.S.-Japan alliance – how it protects Japan’s national security, deters potential aggressors, and serves as a necessary hedge against the growing power and aggressiveness of China. Mainstream conservatives sometimes acknowledge that Okinawa is disproportionately burdened, but for them these grievances must take a back seat to the larger alliance priorities. It’s regrettable, but that’s the real world, they assert.

The far right, mostly but not exclusively main-island Japanese, is nearly obsessed with the China threat. They depart from mainstream conservatives by denying that the majority of Okinawans oppose the construction of the Henoko airbase or are suffering significant burdens. They believe that leftist radicals are perpetrating a fraud by sending a handful of professional agitators out to the beach to stage protests, that are then covered by treasonous journalists. They see the shadowy hand of China everywhere.

Most of the international media picks from among one or more of these three broad narratives in their reporting on the Okinawa issue, although general attitudes toward U.S. power on the global stage also creep in from time to time. ●

Michael Penn is president of the Shingetsu News Agency.



Leo Lewis

by TYLER ROTHMAR

Leo Lewis, currently Tokyo correspondent for the *Financial Times*, grew up in England and hails from a family of academics. He was first drawn to Japan, he says, “for the worst reasons: video games and anime. Growing up in Oxford in the ’80s, you had these glints of Japanese culture which were impossibly exotic, and for the smallest reasons.”

Nobody could tell him, for instance, that the mysterious giant white vegetables one pulled from the ground in Super Mario’s second electronic adventure were in fact a kind of daikon radish. There he was surrounded by the finest academic minds, he recalls, yet it was up to him to unearth the solutions to this and other Japanese riddles.

Work on an undergraduate degree in oriental studies with a focus on economics afforded Lewis his first trip to Japan in 1994, where he spent a term studying at a local university in Minoh, near Osaka. Later, when a brief professional foray into the world of finance failed to scratch his creative itch, Lewis decided on journalism, leading to further study and a degree in the subject from City University London in 2000.

The journalistic bent that has led him to report on business and finance in Japan and China for 13 years and counting is perhaps an expression of the genes of his maternal grandfather, an Arabist and Turkologist “who did the same thing when he was my age,” Lewis says. “He disappeared and became a specialist in a part of the world that, at the time, people didn’t really know very much about.” Lewis sees himself in a similar light, as someone who helps to inform and challenge what are sometimes outdated opinions about the workings of Asia’s largest economies.

Although he writes on a variety of topics, financial journalism is closest to his heart. “When it’s done well,” he says, “you overlay a narrative and treat it as any other kind of journalism, in that you’re telling a story. The numbers are there as props and background, because at heart, you’ve got people making mistakes and errors and strokes of genius. There are petty arguments and big discussions about strategy and little ones about where to have the coffee machine. That’s business, whether it’s Google or a tiny Japanese construction company. It’s a series of stories.”

Lewis spent seven years from 2003 in Tokyo reporting for the *Times* before moving to Beijing in late 2010. He uses the word “brilliant” to describe his time there as bureau chief until April 2015, and likens it to being in the U.S. during the formative 1920s.

The breakneck speed of change, he says, was such that a massive cohort of newly white-collar Chinese were the first of their lines to buy cars, and did so almost simultaneously, mean-

ing the rules, etiquette and future norms of the road were being formed before his eyes. “I don’t like to use the word, and it’s a shame there aren’t more synonyms, but I was using ‘unprecedented’ in copy all the time, because it really was,” he remembers.

NOW BACK IN TOKYO with the *Financial Times*, Lewis is genuinely excited to be reporting on a pivotal moment for a Japan that “cannot be the same place it has been,” he says, citing not only the increasing counterweight of China, but a demographic

bind at home that many have seen coming but is only now becoming constrictive enough to force action.

Lewis acknowledges many of the criticisms of the current administration, but recognizes in Prime Minister Shinzo Abe a man “who has spotted that none of Japan’s issues are answerable without very substantial change.”

He feels Abe’s actions stem from a notion that the country does best “when it’s instilled with a kind of ‘*ganbare Nihon*’ nationalist fervor,” and that this constitutes “a fundamental misapprehension of what it is that gets Japanese people up in the morning.”

Labor in the 1950s, he says, was for many a kind of atonement for the war, and as conditions improved over the decades before the bubble, “hard work became the currency, literally, of national gratitude.

“The problem is that work has lost the capacity to be either of those things anymore, and that is what Abe and this economy are dealing with.” The leader who can harness whatever drives the average person will be successful, but that engine is not nationalism, especially not for the younger generation, he feels.

Whatever eventuates, Lewis will surely be covering it in the pages of the *FT*, the purchase of which by the Nikkei group is likely to be finalized as this issue of *No. 1 Shimbun* goes to print. “Projects where both sides can see the value of cooperation have been identified in substantial

number,” he says. “Some of those are already underway, and I’m delighted to say the Tokyo bureau is a big part of them, but I’m afraid you’ve caught me just a few weeks before we feel that warm glow.”

For Lewis, the thrill of spotting someone absorbed in his printed work on the train easily outstrips a glance at online traffic stats. He can still remember his first byline in the UK national press, a piece for the *Independent* for which he’d secured a choice quote on a hot-button topic of the day. “I remember thinking, ‘This is great. Everyone just says what they think! My career is going to be easy,’” he laughs. “And then of course I came to Japan, where nobody says what they think.”

“That’s business, whether it’s Google or a tiny Japanese construction company. It’s a series of stories.”



Tyler Rothmar is a Tokyo-based writer and editor.

At a recent forum on global media, researchers and reporters shared thoughts on how to deal with covering tragic events.

Reporting tragedy: rules and risks

by JULIAN RYALL

JOURNALISTS NEED TO interview the displaced, the distressed and the denied with a special kind of care, believes Gavin Rees, executive director of the Dart Centre Europe. And that applies whether the subjects are refugees from the conflict in Syria, survivors of a terrorist atrocity or someone who has gone through a natural disaster such as 3/11.

“As journalists, we were told in the past that you wrote down what you were told by the interview subject and that you were then good to go,” said Rees, speaking at a symposium in Bonn that was part of the Global Media Forum 2015 organized by German broadcaster Deutsche Welle. “But when you are dealing with people who are vulnerable, then different rules have to apply. Someone who has been the victim of a sexual assault, for example, is not in the same place as a clued-up politician.”

That need to tread carefully and slowly is invariably at odds with the demands of a news desk. “You’re on a tight deadline, but how do you get the correct information?” Rees asked. “A journalist needs to be very careful about spending enough time with a person to make sure they get enough context and to make sure their report is correct.”

Dr. Iris Graef-Calliess, the head physician at Germany’s Center for Transcultural Psychiatry and Psychotherapy, said studies indicate that asking a survivor of war, tragedy or natural disaster to go back over their experiences can activate – or reactivate in someone who is recovering – post-traumatic stress disorder, depression or psychotic disorders.

“You have to do all that you can to reduce stress levels in anyone you are interviewing,” she said. “Emotional support is very important; you need to build a relationship with this person

Julian Ryall is the Japan correspondent for the *Daily Telegraph*.



Interviewing Syrian refugees on a UK TV news program.

and develop a sense of trust that will give them a sense of safety.”

The risk a journalist runs of failing to take such steps is that they will get the story wrong. “One symptom of PTSD is memory dysfunction, meaning that they just don’t remember important facts,” Graef-Calliess said. “And demands for more information, for more details can act as a trigger for re-traumatization.”

She recommended using sensitivity, delicacy and giving the interview subject “enough space and time” to explain their experiences in their own words. “And never cut someone off when they are recounting an experience that was the most awful of their lives; it makes you look as if you don’t care,” she added.

Mani Yassir Benchelah, a Turkish filmmaker, has spent a good portion of the last three years documenting the lives and losses of refugees from the civil war in Syria and the subsequent emergence of ISIS. “I learned to keep the interviews short and stop whenever I sensed they were becoming uncomfortable,” he said.

“I only interviewed children when their parents agreed that they were ready to handle the questions and when they were in a place where they felt safe to express their feelings. I had to step back and practice ‘good listening.’”

Despite all the precautions, however, the softly-softly approach does not always work. In one of Benchelah’s documentaries, a young Syrian boy stutters and his facial spasms become increasingly pronounced as he talks about being pursued by soldiers who “want to kill us all.”

Rees believes that open-ended

questions are often the most effective in such situations as they give the speaker the chance to relate their experiences or, if they are uncomfortable, to redirect the conversation in a less threatening direction. And such tactics are not merely for the sake

of people who have been through traumatizing experiences, Rees added. “It is also a question of self-care for a journalist. The way that you cover harrowing stories will help you maintain your resilience and stop your own personal health from suffering from everything that you have seen.”

Just as the people affected by tragedy and disaster will be affected for the rest of their lives, studies have shown that journalists who have reported from war zones and the scenes of natural disasters will also carry those memories with them. Unsurprisingly, photographs and video footage often serve as the trigger, with the American Psychiatric Association setting new guidelines in 2013 on post-traumatic stress disorder to recognize that immersive work with traumatic imagery is a “specific risk factor for journalists.”

To reduce the trauma load, the Dart Centre has drawn up a list of practical steps that media workers can take to ease the pressure, including eliminating needless repeat exposure and never passing on potentially shocking material to a colleague without a warning. They also recommend frequent breaks and creating “distance” from the images being viewed by focusing on certain details, such as clothes, instead of faces.

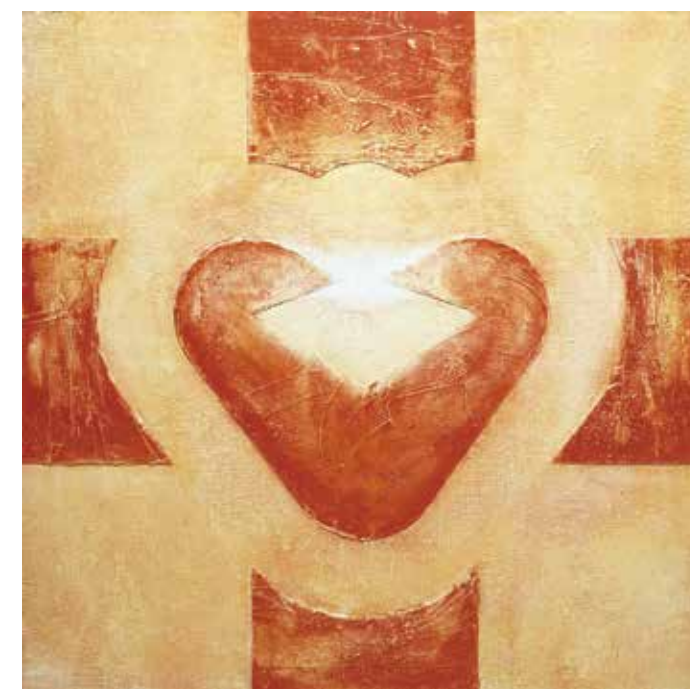
Ironically, given Japan’s experiences in March 2011, the Dart Centre suggests that journalists “think of traumatic imagery as if it is radiation, a toxic substance that has a dose-dependent effect. Journalists, like nuclear workers, have a job to do: at the same time, they should take sensible steps to minimize unnecessary exposure.”



Goodwill of Animart ANIMA + ART = ANIMART by Takehiko Kamei

AT A TIME WHEN the world is confronted with numerous disasters, we should look back over our national histories to revive memories of what I call ANIMA, which has been shared by humanity since ancient times and expresses its desires and hopes for peace through art. In my capacity as an artist – and as a member of the human race – I have carried out a variety of creative activities, both in Japan and abroad that I call ANIMART. For this exhibition, I show works that present an image of spiritual peace and prayer. ●

After working for Suntory, **Takehiko Kamei** was one of the founding members of SUN-AD Co., Ltd, where he worked in advertisement production. In 1965, he moved to Toronto to concentrate on anime and painting. He was also the art director for *Art Canada* magazine. Kamei then traveled the U.S. and Europe exhibiting his art, which has received various awards internationally.



The FCCJ 70th Anniversary Party



THE FCCJ'S 70th ANNIVERSARY PARTY WAS HELD AT THE PALACE HOTEL TOKYO [4] ON FRIDAY OCT. 30 TO GREAT SUCCESS.

In pictures:
The 430-some attendees enjoyed the celebration [1]. Club President Suvendrini Kakuchi opened the event with remarks and a toast [2]. 1st Vice-President Peter Langan had the first dance with Guest of Honor, Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado [3], who also gave an address on the occasion [10]. 70th Anniversary committee co-chair Yoshio Murakami, Suvendrini Kakuchi and ex-officio Lucy Birmingham with HIH Princess Takamado [11].

Among the guests, tattoo maestro Horiyoshi III (left) and his son Souryou [5]; a couple who believe in introducing their baby to society early on [6]; Princess Takamado was the center of attention from many attendees [7]. FCCJ staffers Chung Hyon Suk (left) and Reiko Saito sold raffle tickets [8] while music was provided by the Mike Price Band and its singer Arge Fine [9] and harpist Kaoru Arai-Colucci [12].

More over the page . . .

photos by MARTIN HLADIK



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Cont'd from previous page: guests took to the dance floor with the music of the Mike Price Band [13]. TV personality Tetsuko Kuroyanagi was there – here photographed with Turkish Airlines Tokyo GM Mustafa Dokmetas [14], whose company provided the top prize of 2 economy-class tickets to anywhere Turkish Airlines fly, won by John R. Harris [15]. Among other prize winners were FCCJ Members Larry Cisar [16] and Kunio Hamada, seen here with compere, Committee Member David Satterwhite [17]. And a good time was had by all [18].



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For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.



Vellayappa “Chuck” Chokalingam

by MONZURUL HUQ

OUR BELOVED CHUCK LINGAM breathed his last peacefully at home on Sept. 23. He had been hospitalized from a bout of pneumonia but had recovered and was released on Sept. 9. He would have been 101 years old this month.

Those who had become close to Chuck during his long tenure as a member of the FCCJ will all remember him fondly and feel his absence in their hearts. He departs us after

the part that he had spent in Japan, provides us with convincing evidence in support of this presumption.

He was born to a South Indian merchant family with business interests in Malaya and Singapore. Many of the male family members of the well-established clan had been sent to Europe for higher studies and Lingam, too, was offered that opportunity. Instead, after completing

high school in Singapore he decided to travel in the opposite direction – and sailed for Japan with the dream of becoming an engineer specializing in power generation. He hoped to eventually put into practice the knowledge acquired in Japan to expand the family business in the power sector. But destiny had something else in stock for him.

His first encounter with Japan was at the port city of Nagasaki on a sunny morning in the spring of 1935. The 21-year old Lingam had not the slightest hint that his stay in the country would be a long and eventful one – full of exciting encounters at a turbulent time of Japanese history. That first encounter also exposed his youthful eyes to a few contradictions of Japanese life. As his ship

approached Japan from Singapore, he was pretty sure that he was going to encounter a country preserving its oriental traditions, which he had seen being appreciated in other parts of Asia. People he met at Nagasaki, however, were all dressed in Western attire; he had an initial sense of relief, convinced that the dress code was a sign that Western languages were equally at home. To his surprise, nobody spoke a single word of English and he had to find the way to the station himself, with much difficulty. In Tokyo he enrolled at Kogyo

University and rented a place near Shinjuku. It was a time when exiled Indians in Japan were organizing a liberation movement that would free India from British colonial domination. After the beginning of the war, as the imperial Japanese army started moving westward from Burma, the movement received the patronage of the Japanese government. It was sometime during the period that the leader of the movement, Rash Behari Bose, asked young Lingam to become his private secretary. Though he was a bit hesitant at first, believing that accepting the offer might disrupt his study, he decided to join Bose – and his close association with the leader continued until Bose's death in early 1945.

Japan's defeat placed Lingam in a difficult situation as he was essentially a part of the losing side. But he was eventually able to overcome that difficulty with the help of friends and acquaintances in Japan. The second phase of his life took him into the world of business where he eventually established himself as a successful Japanese businessman of Indian origin. India had always been close to him, but deep in heart he was much closer to his adopted country that he thought had given him so much. Joining the FCCJ in 1965, he gradually became a familiar figure who would spend much of his free time surrounded by his friends at the Club, which honored him with a life membership on his ninetieth birthday in 2004.

In an interview with *No. 1 Shimbun* last year, on reaching the milestone of 100 years, Chuck was asked how he felt being a centenarian. His quick reply was “nothing changes.” Yes, Chuck, nothing overtly changes as we pass our ordinary days and get on with the difficulties of life. But we also know that there are times when a vacuum appears somewhere deep inside, a void that nothing can fill-up. This is exactly what many of us feel right now as we realize we will no longer share your presence. ❶

Monzurul Huq represents the largest-circulation Bangladeshi national daily, *Prothom Alo*. He was FCCJ president from 2009 to 2010.



ANDREW POTHECARY

Chuck Lingam pictured last year, after turning 100

travelling a long road stretching over a century that made him a living witness to events shaping modern Japan. Born in Nov. 1914, Vellayappa Chokalingam, known to fellow Club members as “Chuck” or “Lingam,” came to Japan in the 1930s and joined the Club half a century ago in 1965. As a result, remembering Chuck is like remembering the many years of the existence of the FCCJ, as well as Japan's war-time and post-war history. In some ways, Lingam's history mirrored Japan's. A quick glimpse at the duration of his life, particularly



REGULAR MEMBERS

WATARU SAWAMURA is editor-in-chief of morning edition of the *Asahi Shimbun*. Born and raised in Tokyo, he joined the paper in 1986 and has held various positions including New York correspondent, London correspondent and Paris bureau chief. From 2009 to 2011, he served as foreign editor, supervising the company's 30 foreign bureaus and 50 correspondents. From 2011 to 2013 he was appointed as European editor (in London) responsible for covering European issues and the London Olympic games. From 2013 to 2014, he was a visiting professor at Tsinghua University's Journalism School in Beijing.

PATRICK WELTER has served as economics editor, reporter and editorial writer for the German daily *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, since 2002. From 2007 till 2009 he was based in Tokyo, and after five years in North America, he returns to Tokyo for a second term. He began his journalism career in 1995 with *Handelsblatt*, the German financial daily, after researching economic policy at Cologne University. As Northeast Asia correspondent he covers politics and economics from Japan, Korea and Taiwan. He also contributes to the Swiss daily newspaper *Neue Zuercher Zeitung*. Besides his work as journalist, Patrick has published scholarly articles on economic policy seen from an Austrian point of view, and published a book on the IMF in 2004. He collaborated with the German economist Clemens Fuest on several studies on economic freedom.

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. . . at 6:30 pm on Thursday, Dec. 3, for a sneak preview screening of *Persona Non Grata*, the story of Chiune Sugihara, the brave diplomat whose singular act of defiance against his superiors in the Foreign Ministry saved the lives of close to 6,000 Jews during the Holocaust. In the sumptuously shot international coproduction, we first see the multilingual Sugihara (Toshiaki Karasawa)

negotiating Japan's acquisition of the vital Manchurian railway link that enables the establishment of Manchuko. For this, he is declared "persona non grata" by Russia and forbidden re-entry to the country. On the eve of war in 1939, Sugihara arrives in still-independent Lithuania, and by July 1940 has made the historic decision that he can no longer ignore the hordes of Jewish refugees who are fleeing the Nazis. Abetted by two Dutch diplomats, these brave men of conscience refuse to just follow orders, and provide unapproved transit visas through Japan to the Dutch Caribbean island Curaçao – a heroic act that has finally received a big screen treatment. (Japan, 2015; 139 minutes; English, Russian, Japanese with Japanese subtitles.)

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