

広人文学

Sunshine
陽光
CONSTRUCTING POSTWAR LITERATURE &
RECONSTRUCTING NATIONAL LITERATURE:
RURAL MAGAZINES AND ARCHIVAL SCALES, 1945–1955

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Ito Campus, East Zone D-107

The collapse of Japan's imperial project in 1945 brought about a rapid decentralization of intellectual and cultural production. Rural writers, and the independent print capital that supported them, entered a golden age of magazine publishing. This burst of print production was short-lived, however, as Tokyo rebuilt presses, publishing houses, literary prizes, and intellectual clout. Regional magazines shuttered their editorial offices in rapid succession and the mid-1950s veered toward modes of center-periphery exchange built on Tokyo-produced documentary and reportage.

Our concept of postwar literary history today has largely forgotten the rural print culture that defined the first years of the Allied Occupation. This presentation will introduce archival research that compares the holdings of the Occupation's censorship apparatus with materials that survive in rural libraries and booksellers. Attention to under-utilized regional texts can reveal the ways postwar literature became a literary history of Tokyo. In doing so, we can begin to critique the intellectual efforts required to scale postwar literature to the center, and central literature to the nation. And while this presentation takes northern Tōhoku as its object of study, it is intended to introduce critical methodological questions that could also prove valuable for studying the print culture in Kyushu.

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