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Journal of History for the Public, Vol. 2, 2005 Abstracts

Vivant Denon and the Expedition to Egypt

Yoshihiko SUGIMOTO

Baron Dominique-Vivant de Non (1747-1825), called Vivant Denon, was one of the key figures of the art world during the Napoleonic era: painter, man-of-letters and director general of museums, including the Napoleon Museum (today the Louvre Museum). He was also an author of an account of travels to Egypt: *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt, during the Campaigns of General Bonaparte*. This book was published in 1802 and forty editions were issued during the 19th Century. We found the newest one in 1990.

Denon joined Napoleon Bonaparte on his Egyptian campaign(1798-99), accompanying the group of scholars who sought comprehensive information about modern Egyptian society in order to govern and colonize it effectively. Denon's *Travels in Upper and Lower Egypt* is mainly characterized by its colonialistic discourse. It praised Bonaparte as military hero, and also as civilizing hero. It asserted that the current masters of Egypt, the Mamelukes, had forced the nation into a state of barbarism and ignorant superstition, and that French conquest would bring technology and efficient government, namely, civilization to Egypt.

Althought faint, Denon's works also comprised anti-colonialistic attitude, in which he was even freed from discriminative feelings against the Orientals. This attitude was ignored by all of the readers in the times of colonialism, but with the coming of the epoch of decolonization, the French have discovered it.

Woman Graduates who were admitted as Working Students: Hunting, Piano, Women's College, Feminism and Race

Takao FUJIKAWA

In this issue we focus on the woman graduate students who had been admitted as working students in the division of European and American History, Osaka University Graduate School of Letters. In the first section they freely talk about their experience at the entrance examination, academic life and problems they face in the university. They also mentioned the importance of the special program for working students. In the second section brief summaries of their current projects were presented for those interested in their research.

Whiteness and Empire

Takao FUJIKAWA

This forum is the reports of the symposium on 'Whiteness and Empire' held at the National Museum of Ethnology on the 26th September 2004. The first section consists of the brief summaries of seven papers presented on such issues as white race in Europe and Japan, whiteness in white colonies

and whiteness in the contemporary world. The second section records the general discussion on whiteness and empire as previsely as possible.

Hunting, books on hunting and the warrior class in the late Middle Ages

Junko Rai

This paper examines social and historical backgrounds of the appearance of three illustrious books on hunting in France in the late Middle Ages: *les Livres du roy Modus et de la royne Ratio* by Henri de Ferrières, *le Roman des déduis* by Gace de la Buigne and *Livre de chasse* by Gaston Fébus. There have been a number of literary and philological studies of these books, but they do not adequately explain their appearance in France in the late fourteenth century.

In Western Europe, the nobility, who as a warrior class had always hunted with hounds and hawks, became recognized as a legal class in the thirteenth century. Hunting or hawking became ritualized, and came to be regarded as status symbols of the nobility. While ritualizing the process of hunting, the warriors compiled manuals, and these manuals in turn became status symbols for them. By the latter half of the fourteenth century, the lords made splendid manuscripts on hunting for themselves or as gifts for other influential lords.

On the other hand, the clergy began to guide the laity on moral conduct following the Fourth Lateran Council (1215). Clergymen wrote many manuals and educational books for laymen in Latin, telling them how to conduct their lives. After the late thirteenth century, these books were written in vernacular as well. The laity also began writing manuals for themselves on chivalry, tournament, housekeeping and hunting. While trying to reconcile the clergy's view to theirs, these books reflected their own morality. The authors of the above three books, who all were from the warrior class, justified hunting from a religious viewpoint and expressed their own sense of beauty both about hunting and the behaviour of hunters.