

People In Town

David McGrogan

David McGrogan is living in the Naka-Kaigan district of Chigasaki. He is twenty-five years old and is a student of the IAC Japanese language class being held on Sunday every month. He came from Liverpool, England, to Kichijoji, Tokyo, 3 years ago and moved to Chigasaki several months later. He is working at an English conversation school as a teacher and the move to Chigasaki was due to his job



What caused David to come to Japan was his lost love with a Greek girl in his home country. He was so disappointed that he decided to leave for someplace overseas. In the meantime he had happened to study Japanese history in university where he learned the story of the Portuguese who landed in Japan some hundreds of years ago. The history interested him so he chose to come to Japan.

Soon after he came over to Japan, the only Japanese he could speak was "Eigo-o-hanasemasuka (Can you speak English?)" and a few greeting words. So, whenever he had lunch or dinner, he used to go to restaurants where he didn't need to speak Japanese. He even used to get lost when he bought train tickets or sent parcels to England as the train route map was written only in Kanji characters while there is no guidance in English at the post office.

Actually, the reason he wanted to study Japanese was to communicate with the girl who is now his fiancé, who couldn't speak English well. It's been only 3 years since he started to study, but now he speaks fluent Japanese. His speaking is so correct that it is comparable to the written form.

He likes Chigasaki very much as it is located close to the beach because it resembles his hometown, Liverpool. He finds the view from the beach is so nice, so he goes to the harbor everyday to enjoy watching people fishing on the bank. He visited the city library a few times but not the museum as it had been closed when he went there.

Regretfully though, David McGrogan is returning to England in the next two months to study international law in university. His desire is to find a job in the future some place where he can make use of the Japanese he mastered while in Japan. He has also suggested that he may return to Japan in a year or so.

IAC ACTIVITIES



A Speech to enhance mutual understanding by a young lady who visited 25 countries in the past 10 years.

One of IAC's groups called *KOKUSAI RIKAI* or International Understanding has a plan to host a speech by a primary school teacher who has traveled 25 countries in the last 10 years. They include countries in South America, Middle East, Central Asia, etc. where not so many Japanese people probably would have traveled. What surprised us about her is her courage. For example, she drops by school on her way to her original destination, tries to get in touch with young students and or teachers there, and exchange communication if she is unable to speak the local language adequately, and she even does home-staying at a place offered by local people she met for the first time. **She believes people are all same wherever you go.**

IAC wishes her speech will help young people better understand what international exchange and understandings are and to learn how she contacted and talked with people even if her capacity of speaking local languages wasn't so great. Hopefully, many younger generations here in Chigasaki will listen to her and study how Japanese should behave in the environment of different countries and cultures of the world.

Takeshi Kaiko and Chigasaki

Takeshi Kaiko (1930~1989) is a Japanese novelist who died in Chigasaki in 1989 at 59 years of age. He wrote many novels but he also released essays including issues on fishing, eating, drinking, and war. He loved fishing, was an activist visiting many countries overseas, and was thus a very unusual type of novelist for Japanese writer as well as so unique in his perspective within his writing fields.

He was born in Osaka. His father, who was a teacher, died when **Takeshi** was 13 years old. After the hardship of WW II was over, he went on to Osaka City University and studied law. While in university, he started to release his writings. When he was 21 years old, he had a daughter, Michiko. It was a year later when he married Yoko Maki who was a fellow writer. After graduating from university, he entered Kotobukiya, the present Suntory, as one of the advertising staffs, where he published promotional magazines, *Yōsyū Tengoku* (Western Liquor Paradise). While he was working for the company, **Takeshi** kept publishing pieces such as *Panic*, *Kyojin-to-Gangu* (a Giant and a toy), and *Hadaka-no-osama* (Naked King) which led him win the *Akutagawa* prize in 1958. The prize is one of two honorable gateways for young novelists. He left Kotobukiya in the same year so he could write full time.

Takeshi was also very much internationally oriented. He visited China, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Poland, France, Israel, Greece, the Soviet Union, Germany, Norway, Finland, Denmark, Indonesia, etc. In each country, **Takeshi** met many politicians as well as famous people, and attended political meetings too. One of his most remarkable commitments to society was his experience in Vietnam. He went to Vietnam as a war correspondent for the *Asahi Shimbun* (the largest newspaper publisher in Japan) to report what he experienced on the battle field. He was once strafed but he survived. After he came back to Japan he released *Vietnam Senki* (Vietnam War Record) in 1965.

After publishing many famous books such as *Kagayakeru Yami* (Brightening Darkness), *Fish On*, *Natsu-no-Yami* (Summer Darkness), **Takeshi** moved to Chigasaki with his family and built a house near the beach. Today, the house is his memorial museum.

In 1989, he had an operation for esophagus cancer and soon recovered. Shortly after, however, he had an esophagus tumor again and caught pneumonia at the same time, so his condition worsened. Because of these complications, **Takeshi Kaiko** passed away on December 9th, 1989.

PEOPLE'S CULTURE FESTIVAL

Fall is a season when civic cultural meetings become active. At the Civic Culture Center (*Shimin Bunka Kaikan*) there is a variety of entertainment and exhibitions that you can enjoy free almost everyday. These programs are all supported by the city Board of Education.

Large Hall (Second floor)

Oct. 8 (Sun) 12:00~15:55	Play by <i>Koto</i> (Japanese harp), <i>Shamisen</i> (three-Stringed musical instruments) and <i>Shakuhachi</i> (a bamboo flute)
Oct. 9 (Mon) 9:30~16:00	Japanese folk song and dance
Oct. 22 (Sun) 10:30~18:00	Traditional Japanese dance
Oct. 29 (Sun) 13:30~16:00	2006 Western dance

Small Hall (Third floor)

Oct. 9 (Mon) 14:00~15:55	Classic Vocal Concert
Oct. 15 (Sun) 17:00~21:00	Evening concert
Oct. 21 (Sat) 13:00~21:00	Classic concert
Oct. 22 (Sun) 13:30~16:00	Chanson & Canzone Day
Oct. 28 (Sat) 13:00~16:00	<i>Koto</i> (Japanese harp) concert



Exhibition (First floor)

Oct. 7~9 10:30~17:00	<i>Shodō</i> or Japanese calligraphy
Oct. 13~15 9:30~17:00	Photographs
Oct. 21~22 10:00~16:30	Flower arrangement
Oct. 26~29 10:00~16:30	Handicraft works

Note: The display room will be closed at 16:00 on the last day of exhibition.

These halls are known as the first class music halls, and there also are charged performances by the world musicians and players. This year, the Hungarian Opera "Tosca" (11/5), Latin Dance Carnival (12/8), and Poland's chamber music (12/15) are scheduled on top of the special concert by the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra (12/10).

For details, please contact the culture center on 0467-85-1123.

IAC Mission Statement

We will contribute to the peace in the world community through mutual understanding, friendship, cooperativeness, solidarity and human dignity so all people, as earth citizens, respect and live together beyond the borders of nationality.