FANNING THE FLAMES
Fans and Consumer Culture in Contemporary Japan
William W. Kelly, editor

A fascinating look at fans of a variety of popular culture phenomena in Japan.

Fanning the Flames examines the worlds of fans in the exuberant and commercialized popular culture of contemporary Japan. The works collected here profile denizens of all-night rap clubs; sumo stable patrons; passionate fan clubs of a professional baseball team; enthusiasts of traditional rakugo storytelling; a club of middle-aged female fans of a popular music star; youthful followers of Japan’s longest-running rock band; vinyl record collectors; and a thriving community of girls and women who produce and devour amateur comics. Grounded in close, often extended fieldwork with the fans themselves, each case study is an effort to understand both the personal pleasures and political economies of fandoms. The contributors explore the many ways that fans in and of Japanese mass culture actively search for intimacy and identity amid the powerful corporate structures that produce the leisure and entertainment of today’s Japan.

“This book is rich in ethnographic detail and presents a window on Japanese society that has not been explored in depth until now. It addresses the question of what constitutes a fan in cultural context along with the issue of identity formation, and does so by looking at particularly interesting groups of people.” — John W. Traphagan, author of Taming Oblivion: Aging Bodies and the Fear of Senility in Japan

William W. Kelly is Professor of Anthropology and Sumitomo Professor of Japanese Studies at Yale University. He is the author of Deference and Defiance in Nineteenth-Century Japan.

For a list of contributors, see page 66.
THE JAPAN THAT NEVER WAS
Explaining the Rise and Decline of a Misunderstood Country
Dick Beason and Dennis Patterson

Contests conventional wisdom on Japan’s postwar economic success and its economic and political problems in the 1990s, providing a new account of these conditions.

In this book, the authors address Japan’s economic crisis of the 1990s. They argue that most attempts to reconcile Japan’s past success with its current problems have been inadequate, primarily because scholars fail to fully understand how Japan’s political-economic system was organized and how it operated in the past. Revealing that certain long-term political and economic trends suggested in subtle but unambiguous ways that the crisis of the 1990s was long in the making, the authors offer an alternative explanation for Japan’s postwar political-economic trajectory and a better understanding of the challenges that Japan currently faces.

"Extremely well written and accessible, this book provides a nice review of the literature, and the authors do a good job of showing why the 1990s have perplexed so many scholars and analysts who had previously predicted the rise of Japanese economic hegemony (and the end of United States hegemony)." — Kenji Hayao, author of The Japanese Prime Minister and Public Policy

Dick Beason is Professor of Economics at the University of Alberta and the coauthor (with Jason James) of The Political Economy of Japanese Financial Markets: Myths versus Reality. Dennis Patterson is Professor of Political Science at Texas Tech University.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60911

CHINESE AESTHETICS AND LITERATURE
A Reader
Corinne H. Dale, editor

Featuring the work of renowned scholars, this anthology provides an introduction to Chinese aesthetics and literature.

This comprehensive introduction to Chinese aesthetics and literature includes the major modern genres of poetry, fiction, and drama. Featuring the work of renowned scholars in Chinese studies, the book provides an historical survey of Chinese literature and explains its philosophical and historical underpinnings in Daoist, Buddhist, and Confucian thought. The traditions of lyric poetry, fiction, and theater are presented as cultural practices. Modern responses to the political and social crises of twentieth-century China and on the avant-garde experimental literature of twenty-first century China are also examined.

"Dale has put together an impressive collection of essays by both Western and Chinese scholars in the fields of aesthetics and literature, filling an important need for the many teachers and students who are coming to the study of China and its culture for the first time. Interesting, informative, and readable, this is an important work." — Nancy G. Hume, editor of Japanese Aesthetics and Culture: A Reader

"The editor has done an excellent job of assembling readings that cover diverse topics, such as language, poetry, painting, cinema, drama, philosophy, nature, women, self, tradition, and change." — Julien Farland, Middlesex Community College

Corinne H. Dale is Professor of English at Belmont University and the coeditor (with J. H. E. Paine) of Women on the Edge: Ethnicity and Gender in Short Stories by American Women.

For a list of contributors, see page 66.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60903
THE TEACHINGS AND PRACTICES OF THE EARLY QUANZHEN TAOIST MASTERS
Stephen Eskildsen

Explores the religion developed by the Quanzhen Taoists, who sought to cultivate the mind not only through seated meditation, but also throughout the daily activities of life.

Stephen Eskildsen’s book offers an in-depth study of the beliefs and practices of the Quanzhen (Complete Realization) School of Taoism, the predominant school of monastic Taoism in China. The Quanzhen School was founded in the latter half of the twelfth century by the eccentric holy man Wan Zhe (1113–1170), whose work was continued by his famous disciples commonly known as the Seven Realized Ones. This study draws upon surviving texts to examine the Quanzhen masters’ approaches to mental discipline, intense asceticism, cultivation of health and longevity, mystical experience, supernormal powers, views of death and dying, charity and evangelism, and ritual. From these primary sources, Eskildsen provides a clear understanding of the nature of Quanzhen Taoism and reveals its core emphasis to be the cultivation of clarity and purity of mind that occurs not only through seated meditation, but also throughout the daily activities of life.

“The author brings the Quanzhen School to life through vivid stories and wonderful poetry, and does an excellent job of describing the richness and range of Quanzhen practices and beliefs.” — Sarah A. Queen, author of From Chronicle to Canon: The Hermeneutics of the Spring and Autumn, according to Tung Chung-shu

“Through lucid translations, the author allows the development of his topic to flow from the Chinese sources, supplying essential commentary and a useful framework. He introduces Western readers to extremely important texts for understanding the development of modern Taoism.” — Jordan Paper, author of The Spirits are Drunk: Comparative Approaches to Chinese Religion

Stephen Eskildsen is UC Foundation Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He is the author of Aseticism in Early Taoist Religion, also published by SUNY Press.

For more information on this title please visit http://www.sunypress.edu/details.asp?id=60909