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2010 KYOTO LECTURES

Tuesday, November 9th, 18:00h

Lim Beng Choo SPEAKER

Nobumitsu, Zenpō and "Furyū Noh" Re-examine the Late Muromachi Noh Theater

In *Nōgaku no rekishi* (1987), prominent noh scholars Omote and Amano presented a two-part, eight-stage periodization of noh history starting from the late Heian period and continuing down to the present. While this developmental model highlights the contributions of individuals and institutions to noh, it also underscores the fact that the late Muromachi period, sometimes called the "period of the furyū noh," has not received adequate scholarly attention even though many of the plays created in this period, such as *Funabenkei*, *Yugyō yanagi* and *Arashiyama* remain popular today.

In my talk I propose another historical trajectory to situate the late Muromachi noh theater in a more deserving position. I will be focusing on the times and works of Nobumitsu (1435–1516) and Zenpō (1454–1532?). Factors including the cultural-political environment and the evolving nature of the genre facilitate a noh theater different from earlier times. Even though "furyū" has been identified as the representative feature of plays from this period, it is by no means the only kind of play that was important. Understanding the significance of the late Muromachi period will provide an alternative perspective to better appreciate the complexities of noh.

Lim Beng Choo is Associate Professor at the Department of Japanese Studies, National University of Singapore. She teaches premodern literature, contemporary Japanese films, and translation. Her research interests include the noh theater and modern Japanese film. She is author of *Another Stage: Kanze Nobumitsu and the Late Muromachi Noh Theater* (forthcoming 2011). Her current research involves examination of the *kara* (Chinese and/or non-Japanese) elements in noh plays and translation of some of these plays.

This lecture will be held at the Institute for Research in Humanities (IRH), Kyoto University (seminar room, 1st floor).

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