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Lost in Seattle: What Does Nagai Kafū's Encounter with the American Northwest Tell Us about Japanese Travel and Immigration Accounts of the Early 1900s?

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Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association

Panel: Asian Literature

October 19, 2012



Tacoma and the Culture of the Two Seasons

Fall was coming to an end, and just about all the leaves – from those on the rows of maple trees (*momiji*) planted on both sides of the streets those that provided cool shade...had fallen after the previous night's dense fog (*kiri*). Not just here in Tacoma but all along the Pacific Coast...

...it would be the sad month of November (十一月) in less than a week. From then till next May it would be rainy and foggy practically every day, and it would be next to impossible to see clear skies. People said the day's cloudless weather might give us the last chance this year to look at the blue sky.

Asakusa Panorama “Cloudscraper”



THE TOWER "JUNIKAI" ASAKUSA PARK, TOKIO.

階二十草淺東京

Tacoma and the Culture of the Two Seasons

“At first I thought that if I worked as a schoolboy and listened to white guys speaking for three months or so, I would be able to understand an ordinary conversation, *but anticipation and reality are totally different things*” (232)

僕は最初、三月位スクールボーイでもして白人等（やつら）の話を聞いていたら、人通りの会話位分るだろうと思っていたんだが、**予想と実際はまるで反対だ。**(355)