

退職記念講義記録

「ヴァナキュラー文化の世界」への海外からのメッセージ

ウェルズ先生の定年退職を記念し、2022年12月から2023年2月まで衣笠キャンパス存心館ブックセンターふらっとで「ヴァナキュラー文化の世界」ブックフェアが開催された。ブックフェアでは先生のご著書に加え、国際言語文化研究所のヴァナキュラー文化研究会（代表：ウェルズ恵子先生）所属教員による推薦図書が陳列されたほか、ユタ州立大学のリサ・ギャバート教授、C・P・リカルド・アリコック前駐日ジャマイカ大使から寄せられた推薦図書とウェルズ先生へのメッセージも展示された。以下にこれらのメッセージを再掲する。（坂下史子）



ウェルズ恵子&リサ・ギャバート著

『多文化理解のためのアメリカ文化入門—社会・地域・伝承』（丸善出版、2017年）

This book offers an overview of some aspects of vernacular culture in the United States and provides research questions and study recommendations for people interested in studying it. It covers topics you won't find in other books on American culture, such as contemporary (urban) legends, monsters, everyday songs, children's games, and Halloween. I personally love studying vernacular culture because it helps me see deep meaning and significance in the things people do every day, both in the historical past and in contemporary life. It's also very fun!

It was truly a privilege and an honor to work with Dr. Wells on this book. She is a keen scholar, and wonderfully patient and insightful. Interestingly, I learned a lot about Japanese culture as we worked together on these American topics. The book was a little risky for both of us, as neither of us knew exactly what would happen. We have been certainly pleased with its success and encourage anyone thinking about collaborating internationally to know how rewarding it is. I am grateful and happy to have been able to work with her.

Lisa Gabbert (Utah State University)

フィリップ・M・シャーロック再話、マーシャ・ブラウン絵、小宮由訳

『クモのアナンシージャマイカのむかしばなし』（岩波書店、2021年）

Anansi, the Spider Man, is a foundational character in Jamaican folklore and vernacular culture. Stories about Anansi were brought to Jamaica in the 17th century from Ghana by people who were enslaved by the British to work on sugar plantations. While these stories initially provided strength and encouragement to Africans who were forcibly taken to Jamaica, over time they came to reflect the nature and thinking of the descendants of slaves who now form the vast majority of the Jamaican population. In these ordinary people, just like in the Anansi stories, it is easy to find examples of great wisdom and perseverance combined with grace and humour. In this sense, Anansi is a wonderful depiction of the resilience, resourcefulness and light-heartedness of the Jamaican people.

As I mention these qualities, I am compelled to also express my appreciation for Professor Keiko Wells. She is an academic possessed of extraordinary talent, discernment, geniality and dedication to her craft and it has been my privilege to work with this treasure of Kyoto. Additionally, having entered professional collaboration with her more than seven years ago, it has also been my true privilege and delight to simultaneously grow in friendship with Professor Wells. She has brought the same sense of wonder to Jamaican vernacular culture as she has invested in all her other similar work, and she has blessed me and my family through affectionate and enduring relationship.

Professor Wells' intellectual curiosity and capacity for work appear to have no limits and, consequently, Japan and the world have benefited tremendously from her research and translations. I am the better, too, for having been given the wonderful opportunity to move from professional cooperation to personal friendship with her and am delighted to join Professor Keiko Wells' colleagues, students and friends in recognising her noteworthy contributions and celebrating the beginning of a new and promising chapter of her exciting life.

With high regard and warm affection,

C.P. Ricardo Allicock
Former Ambassador of Jamaica to Japan (2013-2020)