

Some Approaches to the 1920s

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As the title of this paper shows, we consider the various phases of the 1920s through each speciality.

The three American novelists such as Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald and Theodore Dreiser published one of their most important novels in the 1920s. Being backed by a decade emancipated from the old tradition immediately after World War I, they might produce it. In the twenties the stronger the light gets, the darker the shadow does, and there is no cross between them. Both Hemingway and Fitzgerald depicted the bright and dark sides of the twenties while Dreiser seized only the dark one. However, it may be the last irony of the decade that Dreiser forecast the critical thirties which Hemingway and Fitzgerald failed to do.

In Germany the twenties called "the melting pot of modern thoughts" were very productive. During this decade studies on Goethe were fruitful too. Oswald Spengler published the sensational work, which has been known as the fatalistic prognoses about world history. And Rudolf Steiner conceived the artistic plan building Goetheanum. They originated the new style of human science in association with Goethe. However, it seems that their views on culture and spiritual intuition are not equivalent to Goethe's morphology. Nevertheless, in their scientific thoughts there are adventurous ideas projected into the traditional image as Goethe the poet. It is worthy of note that they insisted such a new recognition about human beings in the twentieth century when intellectualism became the main current.

In America rapid industrialization after the Civil War caused drastic changes in socio-cultural form and the number of juvenile delinquency rapidly increased. G. S. Hall conducted researches in these youth problems and his study has been widely known as the origin of modern adolescent psychology. In Germany, the same problems as ones in America were the most urgent political issue after World War I. Many psychologists represented by Ch. Bühler, O. Tumlriz and E. Spranger met the strong public demand to acquire psychological techniques for controlling "raging youth" and established some classical theories. Their theories depicting normative and romantic image of adolescence still produce a powerful effect on our view on the younger generation.

In Japan javelin throw was devised in the Taisho period when track and field made rapid progress. Since then, javelin throw, especially its technique, has been improved and developed.

Among the poets of the 1920s Mizuho Ôta's work deserves special notice. In opposition to the *Araragi* group which held the *Manyoshu* in great esteem and relied on realistic description in their poetry, Mizuho deferred to Basho and defended a more symbolic approach to poems.