Webinar: Yokohama Yankee: A Conversation with Author Leslie Helm

Bibliography created by Beth Maiorani

Books:
A unique situation of foreigners living in Japan prior and during WWII and the American soldiers they met during the occupation.

In relating the story of his life on the island of Deshima and in the port of Yokohama during the late 1850’s, Dutch merchant C. T. Assendelft de Coningh provides both an unprecedented eyewitness account of daily life in the Japanese treaty ports and a unique perspective on the economic, military, and political forces the Western imperial powers brought to bear on newly opened Japan.

This abridgement of the unique journal of Francis Hall, America’s leading business pioneer in nineteenth century Japan, offers a remarkable view of the period leading to the Meiji Restoration.

Describes one of the worst natural disasters of the twentieth century: the earthquakes, fires, and tsunamis of September 1923 that destroyed Yokohama and most of Tokyo.

The authors explore how Japanese society views adoption.

Describes Japanese society from 1600-present day.

Similar to Leslie Helm, George Lavrov was born and raised in Yokohama. During 1975-1986, he was based in Tokyo where he represented American insurance interests. This is his personal story of his experiences in Japan.

A Japanese man meets with someone new to Japan every Thursday afternoon on the Bluff in Yokohama for coffee and conversation. (Fiction)

First hand account of the disaster told by a survivor written immediately after the earthquake.

Analyzes the dynamics of historical change, discussing the major forces in Japan's development from 1600 to the present day, including samurai officialdom, industrialization, militarism, and social values.

*Tackles the existential issues of living in a radically foreign culture.*

**Articles:**


**Online Resources:**
http://Lesliehelm.com
Includes additional articles, blog posts, and photos

American adoption of Japanese children:
http://www.japantimes.co.jp/community/2014/04/21/issues/adopting-child-japan-one-u-s-couples-story/#.U4917BYb6DU

**Curriculum ideas and lesson plans:**
Outstanding curriculum unit on Yokohama Boomtown:

Yokohama Boomtown unit wood block prints:

Earlier Japanese history unit -
Black Ships and Samurai (Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan 1853-1854):
http://ocw.mit.edu/ans7870/21f/21f.027/black_ships_and_samurai/