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8

William Griffis

1843-1928

教育者であり宣教師であったグリフィスは招聘されて日本に来る前、アメリカで勉強していた最初の日本人に英語を教えた。日本に来てからは福井県のいなかで暮らし、多くの著書や記事を通して明治時代の日本を海外に紹介。後に東京帝国大学で科学を教える。旭日賞を二度受章。

CD
Track 15

William Elliot Griffis was a U.S. educator, Christian minister, and author of many books and articles on the Meiji Era. His early, firsthand accounts of life in Japan as an *oyatoi gaikokujin* contributed greatly to the West's understanding of the country.

Griffis was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. At the age of 20, he fought in the U.S. Civil War for the Union forces (North). After the war, he attended Rutgers University from 1865 to 1869. During this period he had his first contact with Japan by tutoring several Japanese students. These students were among the first Japanese ever to study in America.

In 1870 Griffis went to Japan as a teacher. This was a period in Japan when the Meiji reformers were attempting to establish schools based on Western models of education. Griffis initially went to the province of Echizen (present-day Fukui), which made him one of the first Western interpreters of Japan to experience life in a rural area before the end of the feudal era. There, he established the first chemical laboratory in the interior of Japan. Writing about his students at Fukui, he described the average Japanese student in 1871 as "bright, quick, eager, earnest, faithful, polite, and obedient."

In 1872, he was called to Tokyo to help set up the first official

Notes

firsthand account 実体験 U.S. Civil War 南北戦争 tutor 個人教授をする feudal era
封建時代 interior of Japan 日本の奥地 earnest まじめな obedient 従順な

schools along Western lines. He taught science at Tokyo Imperial University from 1872 to 1874. One day in May 1872, Emperor Meiji visited Griffis's classroom to observe experiments in physics and chemistry. Among his students were two future prime ministers and several future ambassadors and foreign ministers. Griffis said his best pupil was Jutaro Komura, who twice later became foreign minister and represented Japan at the Portsmouth Peace Conference in 1905.

Both during and after his stay, Griffis wrote extensively on Japanese customs, history, myths, and the future of the country. In an article titled *Japanese Folk Myths* (1874) about folk beliefs, he described the Japanese as superstitious and insinuated that they were backward compared to Westerners. He thought the Japanese needed Christianity for "enlightenment."

Griffis left Japan in 1874, but he continued his writing, eventually publishing eighteen books and many articles. His most popular book, *The Mikado's Empire* (1876), was a history of Japan that was the most widely-read book on Japanese history around the turn of the century, and its popularity lasted for more than fifty years. It covered not only history, but also geography, myths, cultural achievements, and social life of the Japanese—subjects that most readers in America were able to learn about for the first time. In addition to writing and lecturing on Japan, he studied theology and became an ordained minister in 1877. He served as pastor at churches in New England for about ten years.

Among the books he authored are titles such as *Guide to Tokyo and Yokohama* (1874), *Japanese Fairy World* (1880), and *The Life of Matthew Calbraith Perry* (1887). For his achievements in explaining Japan to the West he was twice awarded the Order of the Rising Sun by the Japanese government.

Notes

Western lines 西洋の方針 Portsmouth Peace Conference ポーツマス講和会議
superstitious 迷信的な insinuate 遠回しに言う enlightenment 啓蒙 myths 神話
ordained minister 叙任された牧師 pastor 牧師

Exercises

Reading Comprehension

1. Who was William Griffis?
2. When Griffis came to Japan, what were the Meiji reformers trying to do?
3. How did Griffis describe the average Japanese student in 1871?
4. What kinds of things did Griffis write about?
5. After returning to the U.S., what did he do in New England for about 10 years?

Vocabulary Development

1. () Christian minister [1. 1]
2. () province of Echizen [1. 14]
3. () to observe experiments [1. 23]
4. () wrote extensively [1. 28]
5. () about folk beliefs [1. 30]
6. () but also geography [1. 39]
7. () he studied theology [1. 42]

- a. covering a wide range of ideas and topics
- b. belonging to the traditions of ordinary people
- c. a person who is the head of a church
- d. study of countries, including land, seas, climate, etc.
- e. large section of a country having its own administration
- f. a scientific test done under specific conditions
- g. the study of God, religion, and religious beliefs

Listen, Write, and Circle T or F

1. Griffis fought in the U.S. Civil War on the () side. T F
2. Griffis was impressed by the many () qualities of Japanese students. T F
3. In 1872, Griffis' science classroom was visited by (). T F
4. He believed that Westerners were more () than Japanese. T F
5. Griffis wrote about aspects of Japan that () didn't know about. T F

Grammar and Usage Practice

1. Griffis' writing on Japan contributed to () understanding of the country.
a. West's b. Western's c. West d. the West's
2. He came to Japan before the feudal era was ().
a. finish b. over c. ending d. completed
3. Griffis was asked to help establish Western-() schools.
a. style b. line c. model d. type of
4. He was an expert () explaining Japan to the West.
a. of b. for c. at d. by
5. Griffis continued writing in America after he () Japan in 1874.
a. exited b. leaving c. went out d. departed from

Translate Into English

1. ウィリアム・グリフィスは松平春岳に招かれて日本に来た。
2. 松平は改革的な考え方の越前藩の藩主であった。
3. 東京でグリフィスは東大の前身である開成学校で教えた。
4. グリフィスの妹は1872年来日して彼と一緒に暮らした。
5. マーガレット・グリフィスもまた東京の女学校で教えた。