

Email Newsletter from Mayor of Okayama (100) May 9, 2018 Issue

【Let's Read Books!】

Hello, I'm Masao Omori, Mayor of Okayama.

This time, the e-mail newsletter I started when becoming Mayor of Okayama has marked the 100th issue.

I have been wondering what I should tell in this memorial issue. And for a change, I decided to introduce my favorite books.

Why I started the e-mail newsletter is because of Mr. Shoichi Washizawa, a former mayor of Nagano. He sent his e-mail newsletter after we exchanged business cards when I was working at Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. That was very informative.

Especially, introduction of his favorite books was fun to read and very interesting to me also being a person who engaged in administration.

However, when I try to organize the books to introduce, I need to apologize that I had to partially rely on my past memory as I have scattered books every time I moved (more than 10 times) since my school days. Also, my reading style has no unity as I just read what I get interested in then, although it tends to be historical novels.

In my younger days, I enthusiastically read the following books. I guess that myself of those days might be eager to go forward;

-Ryoma ga Yuku (Ryoma Goes His Way) by Ryotaro Shiba

-Saka no Ue no Kumo (Clouds Above the Hill) by Ryotaro Shiba

-Nanohana no Oki (The Offing of Field Mustard) by Ryotaro Shiba

-Tokugawa Ieyasu by Souhachi Yamaoka

As getting older and becoming interested in historical dramas where both winners and losers have their own policies, I often read the books written from the viewpoint of losers as well as those from the winners' viewpoint.

All of the below are fantastic;

-Homura Tatsu (On Fire) by Katsuhiko Takahashi

-Kaen Kitano Yosei Aterui (Fires of Rage, Aterui the Shining Star of the North) by Katsuhiko Takahashi

-Sokyu no Subaru (The Firmament of the Pleiades) by Jiro Asada

-Chugen no Niji (Rainbow of Zhongyuan) by Jiro Asada

-Wild Swans by Jung Chang

These historical novels are also good;

-Shi Min Li by Ryo Komae

-Shinran by Hiroyuki Itsuki

-Mominoki wa Nokotta (The Fir Tree Has Been Left) by Shugoro Yamamoto

Also, I have read a lot of books authored by Saburo Shiroyama, Taichi Sakaiya, Jyugo Kuroiwa and Kitakata Kenzo. Recently, I often read the books of Michifumi Isoda, who is from Okayama City.

For casual reading, I would recommend the following books. You will be definitely fascinated;

-Onihei Hankacho (Onihei's Crimes Note) by Shotaro Ikenami

-Shitamachi Rocket (The Downtown Rocket) by Jun Ikeido

-Issyun no Kazeni Nare (Be a Momentary Wind) by Takako Sato

-Books of Miyuki Miyabe and Jiro Akagawa

For business novels, Ryo Takasugi is good. Essays of Masahiko Fujiwara, Terumasa Nakanishi and Takeshi Yoro are also my favorite.

What I recently found fantastic was 'Shigoto ni Kiku Kyouyou to Shitenno Sekaishi (World History as Education that Works for Business)' by Haruaki Deguchi and 'Yokubou no Shihon Shugi (Capitalism of Desire)' by Shuichi Maruyama.

In addition, I can't forget 'Chiruzo Kanashiki Ioujuma Soushikikan Kuribayashi Tadamichi (Sad to Die, Tadamichi Kuribayashi the Chief Commander of Ioujima Island) by Kumiko Kakehashi.

Finally, I would like to introduce some interesting historical stories that relate to Okayama:

-Okayama Han Monogatari Kibi no Kazeni Fukarete (The Story of Okayama Domain, In the Wind of Kibi) by Atusko Asano

-Ukita Hideie no Matsu (The Pine Tree of Hideie Ukita) by Nanae Shimada

-Kyouho ni Saku (Blossom in Kyoho Era) by Jyuzou Kurokawa

During Golden Week holiday, I looked back on my reading history, but it seemed to end up being imperfect one. Why don't you read books in this comfortable spring season?