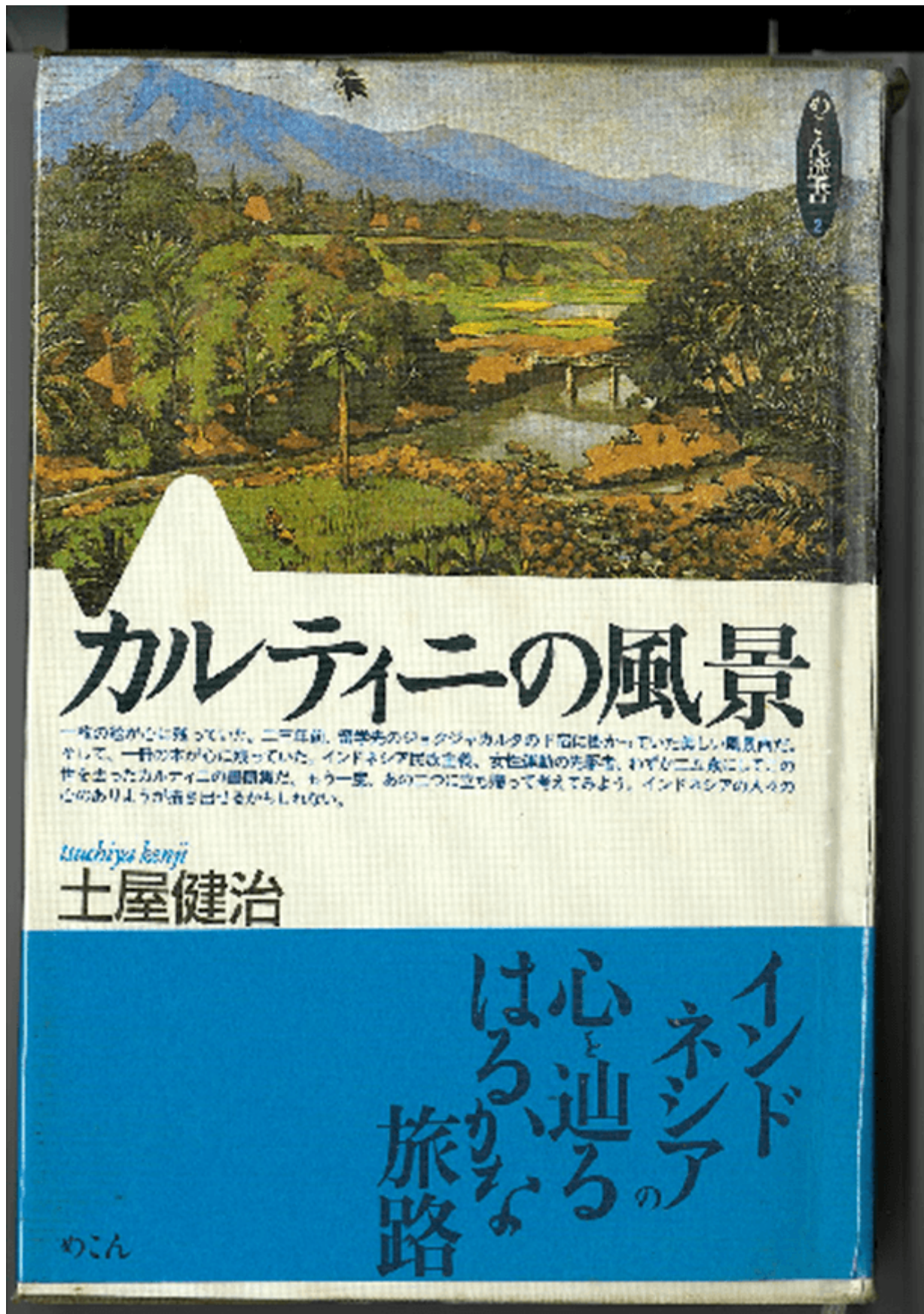


Tsuchiya Kenji, Kartini's Image of Java's Landscape

Kim Yujin

Tsuchiya Kenji's *Kartini's Image of Java's Landscape* illustrates the dawn of Indonesian Nationalism during the first half of the 20th century through his portrayal of Kartini, an advocate for female rights in the late 19th century. The landscape of the times written in this book is the image of a beautiful landscape painting of the tropics hanging on the wall of a living room, a scenery as such being shared among members of society, and *kroncong* music becoming popular beyond time and space. On the eve of "Indonesia" emerging as a political community, cultural phenomena as such overlap with Kartini's psychological landscape and together create the bass line, or the basso continuo, for nationalism.

As a scholar of Indonesian music, I am tempted to criticize Tsuchiya's examination of *kroncong* music. Having said that, the important thing is how he portrays painting and music, which seem unrelated to nationalism, as cultures that form the foundation of it. There's a limit to verifying this because the book revolves around the idea of "nostalgia." It's the nostalgia that permeates Indonesia, and the nostalgia Tsuchiya himself embraces. While writing this "love letter," Tsuchiya takes the sentiments emanating from Kartini, a landscape painting, and *kroncong* music, and combines them with the feeling of nostalgia toward "homeland Indonesia." Tsuchiya's masterly and brilliant piece of writing is a work of art that transcends mere storytelling.



Source:

- Tsuchiya Kenji, *Kartini's Image of Java's Landscape*, Mekong Publishing, 1991

Related Links

- A collection of essays written by individuals who were closely associated with Tsuchiya, based on his lifelong research themes and interests.

"The Formation of the Indonesian Nation : In Memory of the Late Professor Kenji Tsuchiya," *Southeast Asian Studies*, Vol.34 No.1 <https://kyoto-seas.org/2011/02/southeast-asian-studies-vol-34-no-1/>

- A written memorial by Shiraishi Takashi who deeply admired Tsuchiya Kenji.

Shiraishi Takashi "To the Memory of Professor Kenji Tsuchiya," *Asia Studies*, Volume 41 Issue 4, 1995 pp. 119-120

https://www.jstage.jst.go.jp/article/asianstudies/41/4/41_119/_pdf/-char/ja