

# VORTRÄGE / LECTURES

## **Staying On : Reminiscences of Early Post-Occupation Japan**

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### I. ARRIVAL

My wife, Janice, and I set foot in Japan for the first time at the end of February in the year 1953. For each of us, it was the first time out of the United States. We were still within the first year of our marriage. For some people, it was perhaps of greater importance that Japan had not yet celebrated the first anniversary of return of sovereignty (except for the Ryūkyūs and some flyspecks of islands off Hokkaido). Before landing in Yokohama that dank February afternoon, between us Janice and I had experienced social intercourse with a grand total of three Japanese nationals, one being a teacher with whom I had studied Japanese language during the Second World War at the University of Chicago, the other two being Makoto and Kazuko Saito whom we had met in Cambridge where he was studying at Harvard on a GARIOA grant and I was enrolled in a doctoral program for the Ph.D. in Social Science on a grant from the Social Science Research Council. We had driven across the States with the Saitos and made the 13-day crossing of the Pacific on a Japanese freighter together. Janice and I went to Japan on a

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\* This constitutes a modest emendation by way of expansion of an article, under the same title, which appeared in: *International House of Japan Bulletin*, No. 23/1 (Spring 2003). Here a fuller explanation is given of the factors which led up to our decision to go to Japan in the first place.

\*\* The editors thank the *International House of Japan* for their kind permission to reprint the extended version.