

Anne of Green Gables

「赤毛のアン」

The characters that appear in my narration: 話の中に出てくる主な人物

Anne Shirley,
アン・シャーリー

Matthew Cuthbert
マシュー・クスバート

Marilla Cuthbert
マリラ・クスバート

Diana
ダイアナ

Gilbert
ギルバート



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You can appreciate pictures and writings
at my website. The URL is follows.
<http://homepage2.nifty.com/donky/>



20090626 『赤毛のアン』講演 最初の言葉

ご紹介いただきました清水でございます。今晚はようこそ集いに参加していただきありがとうございました。昭島の市民会議の方からお話があり、『赤毛のアン』について話させていただくことになりました。

『赤毛のアン』は昨年、出版100周年を迎えました。「世界文学紀行」を定年後のライフワークとしている私は、この機会にということで、昨年の6月、ちょうど今ごろ、その舞台・カナダのプリンスエドワード島を訪れました。

今日はそのときの写真を紹介しながらアンについての話をさせていただきたいと思います。参考までに日本語でお渡ししています資料は、実は婦人公論に昨年、投稿した原稿です。残念ながら掲載とはなりませんでしたが、物語のエッセンスをまとめたつもりですので、今日の話は基本的にはその英語版としました。ときどき日本語でも解説を入れますが、時間の関係上、すべては無理ですので原稿の方をご覧ください。

写真100枚をパワーポイントで編集しましたが、まだメカに弱いため少々おかしなところが出てくるかも知れませんが御了承ください。

それではこれから『赤毛のアン』の舞台を訪ねて——プリンスエドワード島からのレポート」をプレゼンテーションさせていただきます。

(パワーポイントの写真は重すぎるため、ここに含んでおりません。「名作の舞台を訪ねて」のアルバム「赤毛のアン」をご覧ください)

I am Takeshi Shimizu. Thank you for participating in tonight gathering. The other day, I received a request from a member of Akishima Shimin Kaigi, to offer a presentation about the novel “Anne of Green Gables”.

“Anne of Green Gables” celebrated 100th anniversary last year. Making use of this occasion I visited the setting place of this novel, Prince Edward Island in Canada, in June, last year.

Tonight let me share with you the pictures and reports about Anne. The copies delivered tonight are the report that I contributed to Fujin Koron last year. Though it was not printed regrettably, it contains the essence of the story. So I would like to utilize basically the English version of this report tonight. I intend to add some explanation in Japanese now and then but it is impossible to do all because of the limit of time, so I would like to ask you cordially to read the copy in Japanese.

I edited just 100 pictures by Power Point. However, I am not good at handling machine, so it is possible that some errors will happen during my presentation. Please forgive me if it happens.

Then, let me proceed the presentation. “The setting place of Anne of Green Gables; A report from Prince Edward Island”.

(It's impossible to include 100 pictures in this page. Please appreciate pictures on the page, “Album: A report from Prince Edward Island”.

June 26, 2009

A report from Prince Edward Island

Last year, 2008, “Anne of Green Gables” celebrated its 100th anniversary of its first edition. The novel has been especially popular among young female Japanese readers since the end of the war.

I, a man in his 60’s, endeavored to read “Anne of Green Gables” again and flew to Prince Edward Island, the setting of the novel last year.

Prince Edward Island is the smallest state in Canada. It is located in the bay of Saint Lawrence at the northern part of the continent. I am becoming old both in body and mind. Traveling to Prince Edward Island was tremendously exciting and my youthful spirit was refreshed.

.....
Frankly, at first I felt a bit embarrassed when I started my quest. “Why you, such an elderly person, are going all the way to visit the setting of the story of a young girl?” It seemed that some of my “bad company” would ask me teasingly.

When I read the novel again to prepare for the trip, however, I keenly noticed that the novel is written for everyone, not only for young girls. It is also for men and women and people of all ages. I recommend it especially for seniors who may feel stagnant, whether in body or in mind.

Many events referring to Anne have been organized in Japan. Beginning with a TV program of NHK, travel agencies engaged in competing to offer trips to Prince Edward Island.

Under such circumstances, however, I was very surprised to find out that the curiosity level about Anne among Canadians was not as high as that of the Japanese.

Being that, there are no direct flights from Narita to Prince Edward Island, I stayed at Toronto for one night to catch a connecting flight. On the way to the hotel, the taxi driver, after hearing the purpose of my visit to Green Gables, asked me, “What is Green Gables?” I had come all the way from Tokyo to visit, I was a little discouraged.

During the 19th century, in the State of Prince Edward, in Avonlea village (actually known as Cavendish village), at the east northern coast of Canada, there was a farm house called “Green Gables”.

Prince Edward Island is described as being in the shape of “A cradle drifting on the wave”. It takes about 40 minutes by car from Charlottetown, the capital city of the State, to go to Cavendish village where Anne was brought up.

You can appreciate the beautiful and peaceful land, the red soil and the green fields on both side of the road on the way there.

The government of the State has assigned last year, “Year of the 100th Anniversary of Anne of Green Gables”. You could find guide maps and guidebooks about Anne wherever you went, at the airport and at the corners of the town. In bookstores there were many kinds of books referring to Anne.

It was mid June. Apple tree flowers were in full-bloom. It was also in June when Anne, an orphan, arrived at Green Gables for the first time. On that occasion, white flowers of apple trees also welcomed her.

I met many visitors at the Green Gables House. They were from various regions in Canada, the United States of America, European countries (mostly Eastern Europe), and Asian countries including Japan, Korea and China.

Most of the visitors from Japan were young girls and middle-aged ladies in groups. They must have been fascinated by the stories of Anne, of whom they had read in their youth, I imagined.

“I’ve always heard that Prince Edward Island was the prettiest place on world, and I imagined I was living there, but I never really expected I would. It’s delightful when your imaginations come true, isn’t it?”(The 2nd chapter, The Surprise of Matthew Cuthbert)

Anne described and gave names to whatever she encountered, one by one: trees, woods, flowers, roads and lakes, utilizing her imagination.

Summer comes late in the northern country. The “Lover’s Lane” through which Anne would pass along with Diana, her “bosom friend”, was covered with fresh green leaves. The light of the sun passing through the leaves was moving to and fro over the road.

In the “Haunted Wood”, some of the trees had fallen down and thereby was making the surrounding areas even more horrifying.

The house of Green Gables is the original location of the “Anne tour”. The house is the one in which relatives of Montgomery had actually lived one hundred years ago. The house has been reconstructed to exactly as it is mentioned in the novel.

In the novel, brother Matthew and his sister Marilla Cuthbert, both single, in their 60s and 50s lived in Green Gables. They had no child. So they were expecting an orphaned boy to come to help Matthew in his farm work. But, instead, a lean, red haired, much freckled little girl arrived.

Her name was Anne Shirley. She was 11 years old.

At first, Marilla wanted to send her back thinking that a girl would be of no use for the work in the field. But, Matthew was attracted to Anne's vivid, brilliant way of living and her lovely talkativeness.

Marilla, also, sympathized with the history of how Anne had been brought up and was attracted to her charming character little by little. Both of them finally decided to raise Anne in the farm..

'Well now, no, I suppose not-not exactly.' stammered Matthew, uncomfortably driven into a corner for his precise meaning. **'I suppose- we could hardly be expected to keep her.'**

'I should say not. What good would be expected to keep her?'

'We might be of some good to her.' said Matthew suddenly and unexpectedly. (The chapter 3, The Surprise of Marilla Cuthbert)

"We might be of some good to her"-----What a warm heart Matthew has! Soon after that, Marilla grew to love Anne also from the bottom of her heart and her affection for Anne deepened day by day.

Getting through with her 'ohs' Anne cast herself into Marilla's arms and rapturously kissed her sallow cheek. It was the first time in her whole life that those childish lips had voluntarily touched Marilla's face. Again that sudden sensation of startling sweetness thrilled her. (The 13th chapter, The delight of Anticipation)

Marilla, who had no experience in bringing up a child, endeavored to teach discipline to Anne, sometimes embarrassed, facing at a loss.

Anne would never stop chattering when she begins to talk. Marilla loved Anne dearly but simply could not behave gently because of her clumsiness. Under such circumstance, the words which Marilla used to throw at Anne were interesting too.

'There's one thing plain to be seen, Anne,' said Marilla, **'and that is that your fall off the Barry roof hasn't injured your tongue at all.'** (The 23rd chapter, Anne comes to Grief in an Affair of Honor)

Anne grew up healthily under the affection of Matthew and Marrila in the beautiful nature of the island. Anne developed her friendship with Diana, her classmate in the school, and kept at odds with Gilbert, a male classmate who teased her, especially about her red hair.

Anne's teachers, a couple of ministers and a lot of people around her influenced her. Thanks to them Anne grew to become a clever and kind 16 years old young girl.

While, Matthew and Marrila, who were hard to deal with people and community, had lived alone by themselves until then, began to realize the happiness from loving others and to be loved by them in return. They began to change and grew into more rich hearted adults.

Anne had a girl's mind that adores beautiful things. She made countless mistakes and had failures. Even facing these situations, however, she used her power of imagination and never gave up. She lived bravely to pave her way. The readers of this novel are encouraged by Anne's attitude and her way of living.

During our Green Gables tour we saw Anne's room, on the second floor of the Green Gables House. In the room, there was displayed a bed covered with white sheets and a puff-sleeved dress that Matthew presented to Anne hanged in the room,.

In the storehouse, separated from the main building, tools for the farming were displayed and a cart in the garden reminded us of the life one hundred years ago.

There were four tourist buses and about 30 family cars in the parking area. "The numbers of the buses and cars will be doubled when the summer season arrives", a receptionist told us.

The typewriter that had been used by L.M. Montgomery, author of this book, was displayed in the room of the house. During their visit at the reception area, visitors could appreciate some movie clips about Montgomery's life.

The house where Montgomery was born and the post office where Montgomery worked for were still there.

Ms Montgomery's grave is also in Cavendish (Avonlea) village.

There is a small lake that Anne named "Shining Lake" situated to the opposite side of the Green Gables Museum. The lake was shining in the midst of the green leaves.

Before visiting the island, I listened to the NHK Educational TV program “A trip to Anne of Green Gables”, It was an English Conversation piece that focused on topics for three months. The title read “Let’s enjoy the world of Anne through the reading of the English original book”.

I also participated in the seminar held in Tokyo lead by Miss. Matsumoto, translator of the novel.

In addition, I experienced the musical “Anne of Green Gables” presented by Gekidan Shiki in Tokyo.

On the second day of my arrival at Prince Edward Island, on June 14, I saw a presentation of the Musical which began at Charlotte Town, the very setting place of the novel.

The musical in Charlotte Town had been held during the summer season every year and it was the 44th show this year.

Being the 100th anniversary, there were evidences of a special effort in this year’s performance. The actress who had played the role of Anne for 10 years from 1968 (who is currently living in London) was visiting the island.

Before the initial of public performance, we were offered an interview and photo taking session with the attendance of the actors and actresses.

I was able to have an interview with Anne and Matthew, principal actress and sub-principal actor respectively. I transmitted my impression first about the pre-presentation held the day before and referred to the “Anne boom” in Japan. I received the following remarks:

Anne (Amy Wallis). “It is a great honor for me to be able to play as principal actress in this special year. Anne is a very talkative, charming and brave little girl. She never abandons her hope to the very end. I believe that she is the model of how we should live.”

Matthew (Sunday Winsbee). “We see many people who wither not only in their bodies but also in mind when they become old. It is very important, I think, to maintain a fresh and youthful spirit just like Anne. I would like to appeal to the world that this novel should be read not only by young girls, but by all people, including seniors.”

After taking a commemorative photo with me, Anne wrote a message with two

heart symbols on the back cover of the book “Anne of Green Gables” that I offered to her.

The message reads: “To Takeshi: Much love from Anne Shirley, Amy Wallis”.

It seemed to me that both the musical in Japan and in Canada were almost alike. The singing ability of the actress who played the role of Anne and the performance of the actor who played the role of Matthew, a poor talker and shy man, were both outstanding in both locations.

Life shows its contrast in the story that while Anne has grown up healthily under the affection of Matthew and Marilla, the two adults who fostered Anne have become older.

When Matthew died, Anne gave up going to the University and decided to stay in the village to support Marilla. Every spectator was moved with tears at the dramatic last scene in which Anne intended to pave her way again after this sorrowful incident.

I believe the greatness of the Anne musical lies in the uniqueness of its adorned stage, its background music, the play and the singing by the actors and actresses. They heighten a feeling that could not be otherwise obtained by reading the printed words in a book.

On the other hand, the musical cannot always fully express the inner emotions of the characters in the novel. I believe this is inevitable and we may never resolve this conflict. I would therefore urge you to read the original book.

In summary, I think the novel “Anne of Green Gables” is one of the most appropriate works to fully appreciate the characteristics of the musical and that of the movie.

By the way, what are the reasons that have attracted so many Japanese to read the novel, “Anne of Green Gables”? I would like to express my opinions as follows.

First of all, the content of the work is magnificent; the character of Anne is especially charming to everyone.

Secondly; the changes depicted by Matthew and Marilla are enlightening in that the story revealed how the Cuthberts grew to become rich and humanistic through raising Anne;

And finally, the detailed descriptions of the scenes on Prince Edward Island are extremely beautiful.

When it comes to the charming personality of the heroin, I dare say it's her cute chattering and her power of imagination that is so captivating..

“I’m so glad it’s a sunshiny morning. But I like rainy mornings real well too. All sorts of mornings are interesting, don’t you think? You don’t know what’s going to happen through the day, and there’s so much more room for our imagination!”(The chapter 4, Morning at Green Gables)

“It’s been my experience that you can nearly always enjoy things if you firmly make up your mind that you will. Of course, you must be firm!”(The chapter 5, Anne’s History)

“.....Anne, bedrooms were made to sleep in.”

“Oh, and dream in, too, Marilla. And you know one can dream so much better in a room where there are pretty things.”(The chapter 16, Diana is invited to Tea, with Tragic Results)

These words make us imagine how Anne takes everything positively. She enjoys life and extends her dreams to the future.

“It gives you a lovely, comfortable feeling to apologize and be forgiven, doesn’t it? Aren’t the stars bright tonight?”(The chapter 10, Anne’s Apology)

“Marilla, isn’t it nice to think that tomorrow is a new day with no mistakes in it yet?”(The chapter 21, Anne is invited out to Tea)

Anne’s heart is so pure that she expresses her apology for her own mistakes. She makes many mistakes now and then but then she tries to conquer them with her fresh and kind spirit.

The readers of this book will surely sympathize with Anne’s way of living brightly and they will apply them in their own lives.

Furthermore, I would like to comment on the book’s title. If we translate the original title “Anne of Green Gables” literally into Japanese, it will be “Anne of Green Gables”. The person who translated this book into Japanese for the first time was Ms. Hanako Muraoka.

At first, she intended to use the title “A girl at the window sill”, “A girl lying against the window” and “A dreaming girl”.

Finally, with an earnest proposal by Ms Muraoka’s daughter, who was a student at the university, it was decided that the title “Anne with red hair” would be most suitable.

What an exact and appropriate translation this is!

If the translation had been direct and literal as “Anne of Green Gables”, I can imagine the book might have not attracted Japanese readers as much.

“Red hair” could be interpreted as “blond” and something adorable. Also, the repetition of the “A” sound in “AKAGE NO AN (Anne with red hair)” has a nice

ring to Japanese, I think.

It was in 1952, just after the World War II, when the translation of the book was first published in Japan.

During war time, Muraoka received a copy of the English original version from a missionary from Canada. She endeavored to translate the novel into Japanese.

I was told that when she heard an air-raid warning, she would shut all the doors of her house so that not even a slight beam of light would emit from the house so she could continue to translate under the electric light.

Furthermore, at that time English was considered as an enemy's language. I think her courage and this dreamy title have surely combined to become the main factors toward creating the "Anne's boom" in Japan.

My first encounter with Hanako Muraoka, the translator, was through the book "A prince and a beggar". This is her very first work as a translator.

It was very difficult to live in Japan during the time just after the war. My family could not afford books and foreign books were particularly very scarce at that time.

Fortunately, a cake company "Kabaya caramel" made a wonderful offer to children. The company sent one book to each child who returned empty caramel boxes back to the company to recycle.

"The prince and the beggar" was one of those books that I received through the program.

I was fascinated by the interesting and fantastic stories depicted in the book. This book might have prepared me to become somewhat of a "literary youth" at that time.

As soon as I made up my mind to write an article about Anne two years ago, I paid a visit to Kofu Literature Center in Yamanashi prefecture where Muraoka was born.

Many of her works were in exhibition there. The place where she dedicated to translation actually was in Ota-ward, Tokyo. Now, there is a Center of works of Hanako Muraoka where her two grand daughters are actually taking care of it.

The novel, "Anne of Green Gables" has been translated by several writers. Among them I can recall Yuko Matsumoto, who made the latest translation.

She tried hard to include the minute details of the passages cited in the novel. By reading the annotations written by her, we can appreciate how Montgomery cited uncountable passages from works written by authors in Europe, including Shakespeare, Byron, and from the Bible (the original base of Christian culture).

In addition to this, the description of the lives in Canada 100 years ago helps us senior people affectionately recall our childhood years almost half a century ago.

The first episode:

Anne, an orphan, arrived at Green Gables from an orphanage. Matthew and Marilla were fortunate to adopt Anne and managed to send her to school.

An incident happened on the very first day of the school. Gilbert, a young boy teased her. He called her “Carrot!! Carrot!!”, pointing at her red hair. Anne was particularly sensitive about the color of her hair. In furious rage, she took her slate and used it to hit Gilbert’s head.

Regarding the slate, three years after the war, we would use slate in our primary school class in Nagano prefecture. Because of the rampant shortage of everything we would make use soiled colored paper as notebook. I would even use the old textbooks which my elder brother had used one year ago.

We commonly wore clothes with patches. There were classmates who could not afford to bring lunch to class because of poverty. Even under such miserable situations, we enjoyed our school life. For example, during our breaks, we would draw on the blackboard a couple sharing an umbrella. Such kind of class life is very similar to what Anne experienced in Avonlea. I am familiar with such scenes and I do miss them.

Gilbert is a student of good character. He is smart and handsome. Anne kept the distance from Gilbert for a long time but finally, at the very last chapter of the story, she reconciled with him.

In the beginning part of the novel, Montgomery provided clues about Gilbert’s relationship with Anne. Montgomery continued to follow Anne after her school days and developed her character later and indeed Anne married Gilbert toward the middle of the series.

They live a happy family life. What a marvelous conception Montgomery used! In addition, her writing style is interesting. She wrote: “The one thing which ended broken was the slate and not his head. It split to two pieces.”

The second episode:

The recklessness of Anne that appears on and off in the novel reminds us

of the novel “Bocchan” written by Soseki Natsume, one of the most important novelists in Japan.

The leading character of the novel “Bocchan” had a strong sense of justice and an unyielding spirit. Bocchan was also reckless like Anne. Once, Bocchan, being teased by his comrades, jumped down from the second floor of the school building and was wounded.

Similarly, Anne was irritated and mishandled a situation after a tea party at Diana’s house. She walked on the roof, fell down from it and broke her ankle.

There are many more episodes like these. For example, by an innocent mistake, Anne served Diana alcohol.

Once, she almost drowned when she was lying on a small boat in the river. Then, her enemy in heart, Gilbert rescued her; further adding tragedy and drama to the story.

These episodes of suspense drew me to Montgomery’s work..

During my trip to Prince Edward Island, I met a woman in a wheelchair. Her name was Kawashima. She arrived at Charlottetown from Miyazaki prefecture in Kyushu. From the southern-most island of Japan she passed Haneda airport, Narita airport and Toronto airport in order to reach her final destination.

According to her, her two daughters offered her this trip to celebrate her 60th birthday. She suffered from rheumatism in her legs and has difficulty walking. So one of her daughters accompanied her to Canada. It was the very first trip abroad for her in her long 60 years of life.

Mrs. Kawashima related to me:

“I had thought that the trip would be pretty strenuous for me because I am in a wheelchair. I was so surprised and moved, however, after arriving, at the Canadian’s courtesy and hospitality toward a handicapped person like me.

I have had a dream to visit the setting of the novel for 40 years since I read “Anne of Green Gables”, translated by Ms. Muraoka. I have also read another work of the series on Anne. I feel refreshed here by the scenic beauty in Prince Edward Island.

The air is pure and fresh. I needn’t care so much about my chronic rheumatism here in the island. The way of living of Anne, who never gives up before any kind of hardships, has become my trampoline to live strongly for these 40 years.

I am very grateful now to my daughters who prepared this trip for me and I appreciate the people in Canada who treated me so kindly and politely.”

It is generally said, “Travel is the best rehabilitation for handicapped people”. Because we can deepen the conviction in the power of our body by moving to and fro and thereby stimulate our heart and acquire palpitation of the mind.

Those of us who keep our dreams in our hearts and continue our effort will surely be able to realize our dreams some day. Ms Kawashima is a prime example of this.

Whereas, Matthew in the novel was a single man of 60’s, was a poor talker and he was hard to deal with the people in the community.

Marilla was also a single woman of 50’s who stick only to substance. These two adults converted dramatically, in the novel, to become adults who were merciful and rich in mind, under the influence of Anne.

It seems to me that the fact that these two people (who were of similar ages to us) were able to expand and deepening their minds as human beings gave us clues as how we should live!?

“I’m beginning to realize what is the worst about growing up. The things you wanted so much when you were a child don’t seem half as wonderful to you when you get them.”(The chapter 29, An Epoch in Anne’s Life)

“Oh, it’s delightful to have ambitions. I’m so glad I have such a lot. There never seems to be any end to them-that’s the best of it. Just as soon as you attain one ambition you see another one glittering higher up still. It does make life so interesting.”(The chapter 34, A Queen’s Girl)

We had dreams when we were boys and girls. We challenged the dreams when we were youths. However, as we become older, we are likely to give up our dreams and wither not only in body but even also in mind.

How we would like to maintain palpitation and ambition! The older we are, the fresher and more youthful in spirit we should be, just like Anne.

Now is the time. “Seniors be ambitious!!”

A trip like this fills us with impetus and palpitation. A book is also filled with impetus, palpitation that offer us the way of living as human beings.

Reading books doesn't cost much. But we can enjoy, many times, such exciting palpitation of our hearts. The contents of a novel can rejuvenate us in many ways.

I believe that reading a book that we have read in our youth again (even though we have already read it many times) when we are older will revive our fresh and youthful spirit. The same goes for reading a new book at our age.

“I shall give life here my best, and I believe it will give its best in return. When I left Queen’s my future seemed to stretch out before me like a straight road. I thought I could see along it for many a milestone. Now there is a bend in it. I don’t know what lies around the bend, but I’m going to believe that the best is still to come.”(The chapter 38, The Bend in the Road)

In the last chapter, Anne could pass a very difficult and competitive examination for scholarship. With this, it seemed that her future would be completely victorious. But at this crucial time, an incident occurred.

Matthew died suddenly from a heart attack. The economical situation of Green Gables changed totally.

Marilla intended to sell out Green Gables to pave the way. Hearing this, Anne made up her mind. She was aware that she owed so much to Matthew and Marilla. She gave up going to the University and decided to stay in the village to support Marilla.

Anne kept her promise as a grown up and she became a wonderful mature lady.

The road to Cavendish from Charlottetown was a continuing series of gentle uphill roads, gradual downward slopes and winding curves.

It is as if the landscape is telling us that while we cannot foresee the future, while we never know what will happen in the next moment, even though everything is going well, there are also possibilities to encounter unexpected obstacles or difficulties at the crucial moments of life.

“When this happens, please pave your way, take everything positively like Anne”. I believe that this is the message Montgomery wished to transmit to us readers.

Prince Edward Island

This smallest state of Canada is located in the northern part of the coast of the Atlantic Ocean. The name of the island comes from the Prince George

Edward III, King of England. It is also a historic place where the conference to establish the Federal Government of Canada was held in 1864. What makes the island more famous is the novel “Anne of Green Gables”. This is the hometown of Montgomery, author of this book and there are many places here where she uses as the setting of the novel. The island has a pastoral landscape.

The backdrop of the stage of my trip

Now, I am 68 years old and in the eighth year of my retirement. At this juncture, I work 3 or 4 days a week, arranging bicycles in order at the parking lot in front of the JR Akishima station and work 2 days a week at the office at Shinjuku where I had worked when I was in active duty. Anyway, I had to be careful not to waste money. I needed to keep my expenses down.

As it is said generally that Anne of Green Gables was written mainly for girls, I had intended to take my wife with me to the island. Unfortunately, the additional travel expense was prohibitive to me.

I did not expect the prize hike. I managed to get the flight ticket at the lowest price but the additional cost, 40000 yen called “Surcharge of petroleum” was added to it. The cost for two passengers would be 80000 yen in total. (The surcharge went up further to 56000 yen per person in July, but now, happily, it is zero.). Under such a situation, only one person, in this case, I came to visit Canada.

The flight to go back to Toronto from Charlottetown is only once a day. It leaves at 6 o'clock in the morning. When I arrived at the airport in the dark to go back to Japan, unexpected news was waiting for us.

The operator announced, “Last night, the Toronto airport was attacked by a big thunderstorm and it is closed. Today’s flight to Toronto is cancelled. We apologize we don’t know when we will resume service again.”

“Oh! What a serious problem for me!” The fact that I could not go back to Japan that day would cause me added trouble. The airline said that because natural disasters were inevitable, the additional cost of the hotel would not be paid by Air Company”.

The following morning, we boarded the flight and we arrived at Toronto airport safely. The seats for Narita from Toronto had been totally booked, but they had to get us all on board after all. To our surprise, the airline managed to offer us business seats. This unexpected upgrade was a pleasure to behold. The level of food and drinks rose up. The seats were wide and long enough to relax

and sleep.

Thanks to this change, I could include something more enjoyable to write my draft of the report about Prince Edward Island! Feeling hopeful, I believe words from Anne of Green Gables could include something like this:

“When life hands you a “cancellation” notice, do not despair. It surely will mean that an unexpected good fortune will come your way!”

The pictures taken in these years.

Left side of top:

With the statue of Don Quixote and Sancho Panza, in front of the house of Cervantes, author of this novel in Spain.

Left side of bottom:

With a street performer at the riverside of Mississippi River in New Orleans, one of the setting of the novel “Gone with the Wind”.

Right side of top:

With my friends in Panama who played folk dance.

Right side of bottom:

With a friend in Egypt in front of Pyramids.

- In the first year of my retirement, I went to a cooking school and now I have more than 100 menus.
 - I began to practice guitar 8 years ago and I play sometimes also at the interval of a lecture like tonight.
 - I also started to play golf from the very beginning after the retirement, though I occupy generally BB or BB maker.
 - To save money for the trip abroad, I work as a member of Silver Jinzai Center, arranging in order bicycles at the parking lot near the JR station.
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