



Column Kijimun's Monologue

"Some mysterious secrets hidden in the University of the Ryukyus"

No.2 – Do you know the Biblio Literary Award?

Haitai & Haisai! I'm Kijimun! We are in the heart of summer, here in Okinawa. Please be careful of heatstroke!

Today, let me give some instructions about "the 13th Biblio Literary Award of the University of the Ryukyus*" for which we are now seeking participants.

*To international students: We are afraid that we accept only the articles written in Japanese for this Award. But this column is highly recommended to those who are studying Japanese or interested in writing. Please stay tuned!

1. What is "Biblio Literary Award?"

The University of the Ryukyus found Biblio Literary Award in 2007. In the beginning, this Award was intended only for the students of the University of the Ryukyus, but from 2013, we expand the candidates into all the undergraduates and graduates in Okinawa. Amongst the past recipients of awards, some are continuing to write aggressively.

We have already started to seek participants for "The 13th Biblio Literary Award of the University of the Ryukyus," the closing date for application is Thursday, October 31st 2019 for both novels and poems. Please check the website of the library or posters for how to apply for the Award.

2. Why don't you try to get the prize!

We'd like to introduce some useful tips for the better writing given by the members of the Award selection committee. You can check the past prize-winning works and the selector's comments on the Institutional Repository of the University of the Ryukyus.

Here's are the selector's comments for the works not chosen.

• Get conscious about the difference between "fiction" and "nonsense."

Mr. Sadatoshi Oshiro, who is a representative novelist in Okinawa Prefecture, said, "A novel without reality can't move readers. If you don't pay careful attention to details, your work will turn into just a play on words."

• Write as long as possible (within the guidelines.)

As for the novels, the selectors expect work worth reading. Even shortness of the story will not be a reason for being rejected, most of past award winners wrote as long as possible to the limit.

• Polish your work as much as possible.

In every year, the selectors point out that there are some works with many errors and omissions, or not elaborated enough. For example, the name of the hero/heroine is changed in the middle of a story, or, there is no consistency between the age of characters and the periods throughout the story.

We are waiting for a lot of challenges!

(Written by C.T., translated by C.S.)

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