

A vintage fashion display featuring two mannequins wearing colorful, patterned headscarves and neckerchiefs. They are adorned with multiple strands of pearls. In the foreground, several vintage handbags are displayed, including a large black leather bag with a gold clasp, a white leather bag with a gold clasp, and a purple leather bag. The background is a wall with a patterned wallpaper featuring stylized orange and yellow leaves on green stems.

wagzasshi

¥0

Adventures in Vintage

Events | Thailand | Fair Trade | Ninja Village

nagazasshi

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クツクボウシ (*tsuku tsuku boushi*) – it's the sound people are dying to hear, the sound that marks the beginning of fall. More precisely, it's the name of a certain kind of cicada (an onomatopoeia of its song) that comes out near the end of summer, symbolizing that fall is on its way. So if you hear this song, you'll soon be relieved of the summer heat!

Autumn in Nagasaki is nothing short of awesome. The air cools down, there are a variety of outdoor events in which to participate (p. 4), and the giant bugs start disappearing. On the Fall Equinox, September 22nd, people will start switching into autumn mode, which even includes changing wardrobes. If you're looking for some "new" fall duds of your own, there are a variety of thrifty options in Nagasaki City (p. 10).

Another fall custom in Japan is moon-viewing, or *otsukimi*. Grab some friends, *edamame* (soy-beans), *dango* (rice dumplings) and *yakiguri* (chestnuts) and party under the seasonally bright autumn moon – maybe throw in some fair trade coffee (p. 14) for good measure.

Congratulations, you have survived summer! Have a wonderful changing of the seasons!

Audrey Akcasu, Editor-in-chief



photo **Brandon Jean**

18

Contents

Events 4

Who's on Your Money? 6

A look at the face on the ¥5000 note

Fun in the Sun: Thailand 8

*Vacation recommendations for
the land of smiles*

Adventures in Vintage 10

A tour of Nagasaki City's vintage shops

The World Through a Cup of Coffee 14

Roasted beans and fair trade

Got Ninja? 18

*Are you a bad enough dude for
Saga's ninja village?*



10

photo **Jean Davis**



8 photo **Rose Mason**

Event of the Month

Onikitanada Festival/Hasami Walk ***September 23, Hasami***

While Hasami is well known for its beautiful pottery, the countryside scenery and bizarre scarecrows should not be overlooked. This is a great chance to experience all three, with a walk of roughly 5 km course through fields and villages.

Events

Hill Climb Challenge

September 9, Unzen

Climb from sea to mountain to sky all in one day! Unzen offers beautiful scenery to soak up along the way, but more importantly, beautiful hot springs to relax in afterwards.

Nonnoko Festival

September 15-16, Isahaya

Isahaya's oldest festival will be sure to impress you with over 6,000 dancers parading through the streets and on stage. Enjoy with lively festival atmosphere and "hometown" traditions.

Hirado South Night Wind Festival

September 15-16, Hirado

Watch dance troupes from all over Japan perform on a special stage set up at Hirado Koukouryuuhiroba. Enjoy exciting dances and a festive fall atmosphere.

Chinatown Fall Lunar Festival

**September 27 - October 10
Nagasaki City**

The Lunar Festival, similar to Japan's moon-viewing festival, honors the moon, as a symbol of harmony between friends and family, with one-thousand hanging lanterns lighting up the streets of Chinatown.

Fukue Minato Festival

September 28-30, Fukue, Goto

Head out to the Goto islands for this folklore-centered festival. You can experience local history, view extravagant lanterns and parades.

Hirado Two-Day Walk

September 29-30, Hirado

If you like beautiful scenery and nice walks, Hirado will be sure not to disappoint with its two-day guided walking tours. There are several courses of different lengths to choose from.

Sasebo Sunset Jazz Festival

October 7, Sasebo

Two weeks of live performances throughout Sasebo culminate in a heart-pounding festival of jazz, blues, and salsa music at the Arkas Music Hall.

Nagasaki Kunchi

October 7-9, Nagasaki City

In 1634, two poor women sang outside of Suwa Shrine to honor the gods, starting one of Nagasaki's oldest and most famous festivals. People come from around the world to see dragon dances and performances.

Hirado Autumn Kunchi Festival

October 20-27, Hirado

Come check out the mini-concerts and events in Hirado's version of the Kunchi Festival. Be sure not to miss the traditional Kagura dances at the Kameoka Shrine.

Nagasaki International

Cultural Festival

October 28, Nagasaki City

The Nagasaki International Cultural Center is putting on a cultural festival where you can experience food, performances and other cultural activities from around the world.



Who's on your money?

*For this installment of “Who's on Your Money?”, **Katelyn Schwartz** takes us behind the five thousand-yen note.*

It is well known that in most parts of the world during the 19th century, women were often treated as second-class citizens, and Japan was no exception. Women were expected to run the house and take care of the children, with formal education not often being an option for them. As we learned in the last issue with Lady Murasaki, it often took a supportive male relative to light the path to higher education. And so it was for Ichiyo Higuchi, whose academically inspired father encouraged her love of reading and writing.

Ichiyo Higuchi was born on March 25, 1872 to the middle-class family of a low-ranking government employee. Higuchi was lucky to live a childhood filled with

books and encouragement from her father. After completing primary school, following her mother's wish, but to the disappointment of her father, Higuchi quit school to learn the womanly arts of sewing and housework. Yet, she never lost her love of the written word. Through constant support from her father, three years later she enrolled in a poetry school.

Unfortunately, just one year later, the comfortable life Higuchi once knew was lost forever. When she was fifteen, her brother died and her father passed away a little more than a year after. Higuchi was plunged into the role of family breadwinner at the age of 17. Struggling through extreme poverty, she managed to support her mother and younger sister while continuing to write. As is the case with most great authors, these struggles helped to guide and form her writing and subject topics.

After rejecting her mentor's advice to change her writing style and themes



The ¥5000 note features a Meiji-era feminist poet

to more popular ones, Higuchi began to write about topics that had touched her life intimately: poverty, social class, woman's roles, and societal expectations. By rebuffing the financial opportunities of commercially successful compromises, Higuchi basked in critical acclaim despite never being able to live comfortably.

Her most acclaimed work is the novel *Takeurabe* (Child's Play). The story


centers on a group of adolescents navigating street life in Tokyo's "pleasure quarter." Another work is *Wakare Michi* (Separate Ways), which is about an impoverished laundress contemplating taking up life as a rich man's mistress and the social implications of such a decision. *Jusanja* (The Thirteenth Night) explores the obstacles and social conventions that made it so difficult for women to leave abusive relationships.

The themes and topics of her novels are of women who experience a great deal in their lives; one may imagine they were written by a woman twice her age. Unfortunately, Higuchi was never able to live to a ripe old age. Her life was cut short by tuberculosis and she passed away on November 23, 1896, at the tender age of twenty-four.

“ **Higuchi was lucky to live a childhood filled with books and encouragement from her father** ”

Higuchi is often referred to as the most influential female author of the Meiji Era. She

was able to write with a lyrical prose that harkened back to times gone by, while also discussing contemporary themes that many were afraid to discuss. She was a fearless feminist in a Japan on the brink of change.

Check back next issue for the final installment of “Who’s on Your Money?” 

Thailand

*Looking to get away? **Rose Mason** offers her personal vacation recommendation for sunny Thailand*

Thailand is a destination hot spot for those looking to escape Japan's winter chill. This Southeast Asian country is well known for its white, sandy beaches, awe-inspiring temples and its bustling capital, Bangkok.

If you want to spend a week or two relaxing in one country, then Thailand is the place for you. Northern Thailand is a good place to interact with Thai people and experience the traditional culture firsthand, whereas in the south you're likely to find more tourists and backpackers. There are also some real cultural and scenic treasures found in the south. No matter where you go in Thailand, you are sure to find what you're looking for.

Bangkok is the busy, famous capital of Thailand. While it has been made famous by movies such as *The Hangover Part II*, there are plenty of activities to partake in that don't include memory loss. The Grand Palace is a site like no other with

its intricate mosaics, towering spires and intimidating statues. One site within the Grand Palace that should not be missed is the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, which dates back to the 14th century. Make sure to cover up from neck to toe before you go because there is a very strict dress policy.

Some other noteworthy sites in Bangkok are Chinatown, with its assortment of spices and goods, and the Temple of the Reclining Buddha, which houses an enormous Buddha statue. All of these sites are easily accessible with taxis and tuk-tuks. Always be sure to negotiate a price before you start your journey; haggling is a very common practice in Thailand.

While there is a variety of nightlife in Bangkok, a must-see is the Calypso Cabaret. This show features some of the most talented lady-boys in Thailand dancing to hit songs with their own original routines. You won't want to miss it!

Heading south, Koh Tao is a gorgeous island getaway located in the Gulf of Thailand, just east of the mainland. It is easily accessed by a night bus and ferry combo from Bangkok. There are plenty of things to do at the ferry port, but if you're looking for a beach with some space, then the

Fun *in the* sun

Montalay Beach Resort, with its snorkeling and diving, is your best bet.

Another island, Koh Phangan, is the place to party. There's a myriad of places to shop and eat on this large island that's just a ferry ride south from Koh Tao. The biggest attraction of this island is the Full Moon Party, one of the largest beach parties in the world with up to 30,000 attendants. Drinks come in sand buckets, music is blaring and just about everything is lit on fire. Make sure to plan your accommodation well in advance, as most hotels will be completely booked on party nights.

Once the party's over, you can head to Phuket, a top tourist destination. Relatively the same size as Singapore, it is the largest island in Thailand and accessible by both bus and plane.

While in Phuket, there is never a dull moment. There are many smaller neighboring islands that are good for day trips. One in particular is James Bond Island. The island received its name after its use in the 1974 James Bond movie "The Man with the Golden Gun." A trip here often includes guided kayak tours through caves (both with and without monkeys) along with plenty of opportunities to swim. Often

your hotel or hostel will have a tour group deal that you can set up upon arrival. If you take a bus into Phuket, they will most likely stop at a travel agency with special day trip deals on the way to your hotel. However, the prices for day trips to the surrounding islands usually will be more expensive than those offered at your hotel or hostel.

Aside from beaches and temples, Thailand is known for its elephants. If you're looking for some good, humane elephant trekking, then the Siam Safari just outside of Phuket is the place to go. They have many different options, but even with the 45-minute trek, you will get your money's worth. This trek also includes a show performed by baby elephants that you can feed afterwards. It's best to reserve your elephant trek online in advance, as they are pretty popular. As an added bonus, Siam Safari will pick you up and drop you off at your hotel for free.

Thailand is a great place to meet new people and experience new things. Whether you're into expansive temples or a lively nightlife, there's something for everyone in Thailand. So why not take a tuk-tuk and explore this fascinating country? 🐘

Adventures in Vintage

Jean Davis takes us on a tour of hidden vintage shops around Nagasaki City

In this day and age, when some Japanese fashion tribes are so extreme that they resemble Lady Gaga, Japan is the perfect place to experiment with less conservative fashion choices. The economy being as it is, vintage shopping has never been so attractive. Keeping this in mind, I started asking the question: Where are the best places to buy vintage? It led me on a journey down dark alleys and to places I never knew existed. From these adventures, I bring you some of the best second-hand clothing shops Nagasaki City has to offer.

Originally a small stall open only on “sunny days,” **Gotetsu** moved to more permanent premises in January this year. Run by the lovely Izumi-san and echoing her own wardrobe, it stocks bright printed vintage women’s dresses, skirts, shirts, cardigans and accessories from the 60s and 70s. Look out for the display at the front of the store; there are often good bargains to be had. Make a day of it and visit the homemade sweet pastry stall and the open-air coffee shop 珈琲人町 (coffee-hitomachi) across the street.

五鉄 (Gotetsu)

Hours 12:00 – 20:00 (closed Tuesdays)
3-11 Kajiyamachi, 850-0831
Prices from 1,000 Yen
<http://ameblo.jp/usedgotetu/>



photo Jean Davis

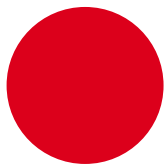


photo Jean Davis



Swinging clothes and accessories from one owner to the next, **Buranko** (from the Portuguese word for “swing”) claims to be Nagasaki’s oldest clothing recycle shop. It stocks everything from summer dresses to winter coats, many of which are designer brands. Of particular note are the shoes; not only do they take up a whole wall, but you can find them on any available floor space.

ぶらんこ (Buranko)

Weekdays and Saturday 12:00 -19:00,
Sunday 12:00-18:00, closed Tuesdays
2-2 Kajiyamachi, 850-0831
Prices from 1,000 Yen

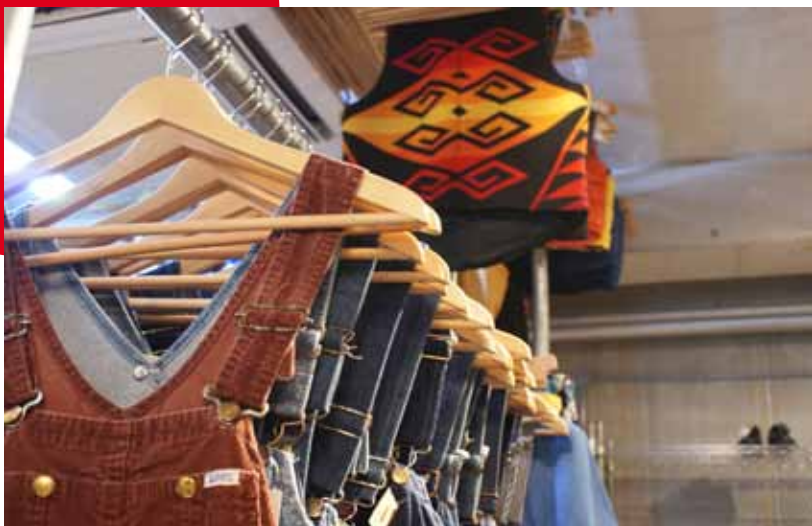
古着屋アワグラス (Furugiya HOURGLASS)

Hours 12:00 - 20:00
11-6 Hamanomachi, 850-0853
Prices from 1,000 Yen

This tiny but jam-packed secondhand store, **Furugiya HOURGLASS**, is located in a back alley in Hamanomachi and stocks mainly American-style menswear, though there is a small women’s section. Ridiculous quantities of used jeans in all styles and sizes, baseball jackets and festival happi coats are the bulk of the stock.



photo Jean Davis



photos **Jean Davis**

SAL

Hours 12:00 - 19:00

1-37 Aburayamachi, 850-0832

Prices - Children's: 790 - 4,095 Yen

Men's: From 1,995 Yen

This spacious shop, selling recycled and new vintage-style clothing, is a very professional affair. At **SAL**, expect rows of neatly folded sweatshirts, military-style jackets, shirts, overalls, and shelves of leather army boots. There is also a large children's section full of cute motif T-shirts. 



Nagasaki International Festival

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クイズラリー
引換券

The World Through a Cup of Coffee

A Nagasaki local, **Ayaka Nakamura**, brings to light an important issue just starting to gain footing in Japan

Many people, including myself, love coffee and some drink as many as five to six cups a day. This has made Japan the third largest coffee importer in the world. Nowadays, wherever you go, it is not hard to find a coffee shop. That means the coffee culture has blended completely into the everyday lives of Japanese people, just as it has in Nagasaki. Most of you have probably tried a cup of coffee in Dejima in Nagasaki City. Historically, during the Edo period, Dejima was the very first place in Japan where coffee was imported, so for a long time there has been an interesting connection between coffee and Nagasaki.

Think about the coffee in your hand right now. You might be having it at a fancy coffee shop with your friends or maybe you're drinking it to wake up in the morning. Have you ever wondered about the

story behind it? While I think Japanese people do tend to be concerned about where a product was made or where it is from when they are at the supermarket, most of them do not think about the actual life of the people who created it.

In reality, there are many places around the world where people cannot receive

needed medical treatment, cannot receive a proper education, and are forced to work at a very young age. What if the coffee

“What if the coffee you are drinking was produced by people living in these terrible conditions?”

you are drinking was produced by people living in these terrible conditions? How would you feel? The weakest societies of the world are a cog in the wheel of price competition, breaking their backs for an unrealistic promise to better their lives. This thinking brings about the idea of fair trade: a new market-based approach which attempts to support the local social, economic, and environmental de-

photo Ayaka Nakamura

杯のコーヒーから 見える世界

velopment of small farmers and workers on plantations by ensuring minimum prices. If you want to help these countries, buying goods marked with the “Fairtrade” logo is a good place to start.

Fair trade products cover a variety of things such as clothes, coffee, tea, wines, and even handmade crafts. There are many options to choose from. Unfortunately, fair trade goods have not become popular in Japan yet as compared to other countries, such as those in Europe or the U.S.A. One of the reasons is that the fair trade movement tends to be regarded as a charity or a donation in Japan, so it has not yet been able to take root. However, there are still some shops where you can purchase fair trade products, like Charitable Trade (Nagayo, Nishisonogi-gun,) or Prawmai (Dejima, Nagasaki-shi), where you can easily find products that have the “Fairtrade” label.

Whatever your stance on this subject, the next time you have some coffee, please think for a moment about the world behind that cup in your hand. You may find that your coffee tastes better that way.

コーヒー 1 杯から見える世界
誰にでも好まれるコーヒ
ー。好きな人は 1 日に 5、
6 杯も飲むほど。私ももちろんその
コーヒー好きの中の 1 人。日本はコ
ーヒー豆の輸入量が世界第 3 位とも
言われており、今ではどこへ行って
もカフェを探すのは決して難しくな
い。カフェ文化は既に日本人の日々
の生活へうまく“ブレンド”されて
しまっている。

長崎在住の人なら、一度は出島近辺
でコーヒーを嗜んだことがあるだろ
う。歴史を振り返ってみると、出島
は日本で最初にコーヒーが輸入され
た場所であり、実はコーヒーと縁の
深い場所でもあるのだ。

ところで、あなたが普段飲むコーヒ
ーについてちょっと考えてほしい。
あなたは素敵なカフェで友人と楽し
い会話をしながらコーヒーを飲んで
いるかもしれないし、もしくは朝の
目覚めの 1 杯を飲んでいるかもしれ
ない。しかし、一度でもそのコーヒ
ーの裏側にあるストーリーについて
考えたことはあるだろうか？個人的
な意見だが、多くの人はスーパー
で買い物する時など、その製品を誰



“ Fair trade products cover a variety of things such as clothes, coffee, tea, wines, and even handmade crafts ”

がどこで生産したのかという点に関しては非常に気にするのに、多くの人がその生産者の実際の生活についてはあまり気にかけていない気がする。

実際、世界中の多くの地域で必要時に適切な医療が受けられなかったり、まともに教育も受けられず大人と同様に働かざるを得ない環境で日々過ごしている子供たちがたくさん存在する。100%自国で作られた食物・製品を探すほうが難しい時代。もしあなたの飲んでいるコーヒーがそのような環境で作られていたら？どう思う？これらの社会的に弱い部分にいる人々は、途上国の良き生活のための厳しい価格競争の歯車の一部になっている。そしてこの考えからフェアトレードという考えに結びつく。

フェアトレードとは市場に基づいて適正価格を保証しながら持続可能な社会、環境そして農家、生産者の発展を実現させる新しいアプローチ

だ。簡単に言うと、発展途上国にいる人々が安定して生活を持続的に送ることができるようにするために、私たちが適正な金額を支払って商品を購入するシステムです。まさにあなたにもできるお買い物で国際協力。

フェアトレードは洋服、紅茶、ワイン、手芸品など様々な商品を扱っており、選択肢はたくさんある。残念ながらフェアトレードは日本では一時的な募金活動や慈善事業と捉えられがちでヨーロッパやアメリカなどと比べてまだまだ知名度は発展途上。それゆえ、日々の日常生活にフェアトレードの概念は日本ではまだ根付いていない。しかし、長崎でもCharitable Trade (西彼杵郡長与町)やPrawmai (長崎市出島町)、のようなお店や他にもスーパーマーケットなどにはフェアトレードマークのついた商品は実は多く存在するため是非ともどれを購入しようか迷ったとき、フェアトレード商品をあなたの選択肢の中に是非とも加えていただきたい。

あなたがこのトピックに対してどのような考えであるかは別にして、次にコーヒーを口にする際、一瞬でいいので目の前にあるコーヒーの裏側に存在するストーリーについて考えて欲しい。きっといつもより、美味しいコーヒーが嗜めるだろう。☑

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Got Ninja?

Rafael Villadiego gives us a peek into what it's like to be a ninja for a day at Saga's original ninja village

Have you ever wanted to be a ninja? Now I know it seems like a strange question and with a name like “Rafael,” I must admit to some preconceived bias. I may in fact have been subconsciously pre-programmed to dream of being a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle from an early age, but who wouldn't want to be a master of martial arts, with a plethora of weapons at their disposal and the ability to disappear in an instant?

Alright, it may not exactly be everyone's cup of tea. Also, as I am neither a mutant or a turtle, and sadly, not as young as I used to be – I might finally have to admit that certain dreams may just not be possible...

Yet on an unheralded morning, on a random weekend, in an unremarkable little corner of countryside Japan, I was finally able to (partially) live the dream. For a single day, I donned my ninja-gear and drew my ninja-sword, as I ninja-battled down the ninja-street in a ninja-town full of ninja-buildings.

I am afraid I have to apologize for prefacing everything with “ninja.” It is one of the unexpected consequences of being one for a day; I have yet to completely get over it.

Now, let me be the first to admit that the park itself was no Disneyland – or even Huis Ten Bosch for that matter. The buildings were old and ramshackle, in a way that seemed more than a natural consequence of waning interest and neglect. As one of my fellow ninjas pointed out, it was as if someone purposely went out of their way to make it so. An odor of mildew and old ramen permeated the



photo **Brandon Jean**

air as the few attendants, in full garb and make-up, dutifully oversaw multiple booths and attractions. It seemed a place that time forgot. A remnant of the boom years that has stubbornly clung to life. An old samurai – or perhaps, more aptly, an old ninja – that refuses to surrender.

If you have a group of like-minded friends, who can think of nothing better than throwing shuriken, firing blowguns, shooting arrows, jumping off buildings and hiding in bushes for a day (-and, really, what self-respecting ninja could ask for more than that?), this could be your chance to become a not-so-teenage, non-mutant, non-turtle ninja for a day. Hey, beggars can't be choosers and one out of four ain't too bad. 🐢

忍者村 **Ninja Village**

Name: Hizen Yume Kaido
(Hizen Dream Road)

Location: Ureshino City, Saga
Prefecture

Cost:

Entry Fee – 1000 yen

Games and Attractions – 300-500 yen each

Free Pass – 2500 yen

Ninja Gear Rental – 800 yen

Being a twenty-something, non-mutant, non-turtle, ninja for a day... priceless!

*Nomihoudai
party plans
available*

*A short walk
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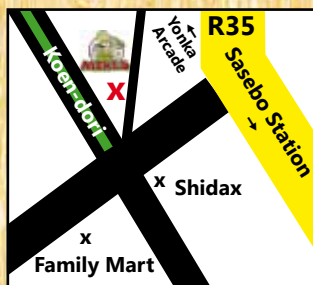
17.00-22.00
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