Annual Meeting
The Early Modern Japan Network will hold its annual business meeting at the AAS conference in Washington, D.C.
Date: April 7, 1994
Time: 6:30 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
Room: Chevy Chase Room, Washington Hilton

Architecture Symposium
The East-West Encounter: First International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture
The University of Hawaii at Manoa School of Architecture and the East-West Center will present the First International Symposium on Asia Pacific Architecture: The East-West Encounter March 22-24, 1995 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The purpose of the symposium will be to discuss the impact culture has on architecture and to identify a useful research agenda to ultimately effect a design environment in the Asia Pacific region that is more contextual in concern and culturally sensitive, reflecting the people and their ideologies.

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Women in Saikaku: Good, Bad, or Victims of Circumstance?

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Ihara (or Ibara) Saikaku (Kan’ei 19/1642-Genroku 6/1693) is generally regarded today as the premier writer of the late seventeenth century. A product of Osaka merchant and townsfolk culture, Saikaku singlehandedly transformed prose narrative from the vaguely-defined kana-zoshi forms that had dominated publishing through the first century of Tokugawa rule, creating a new (and commercially successful) genre called the ukiyo-zoshi (“floating-world books”) with his Tenna 2/1682 Kōshoku ichidai otoko (“A Single-Generation Promiscuous Man”). Western critics have also recognized Saikaku as a major figure, which we can see through the number of translations of Saikaku’s works that have appeared in English. We can safely state that Saikaku is the most heavily translated early modern Japanese writer into English.

This paper was first presented at the Washington/Southeast Region Japan Seminar, Williamsburg, Virginia, April 23, 1994, with an expanded version presented at the University of Virginia, April 26, 1994. The author expresses his sincere thanks to those at both sessions who asked questions and provided advice for improvement, especially Professor Paul Schalow, Rutgers University, who served as discussant at the Seminar.