

三木清のドイツ・フランス留学記

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(出版者 / Publisher)

法政大学社会学部学会

(雑誌名 / Journal or Publication Title)

社会志林 / Hosei journal of sociology and social sciences

(巻 / Volume)

70

(号 / Number)

2

(開始ページ / Start Page)

1

(終了ページ / End Page)

97

(発行年 / Year)

2023-09

(URL)

<https://doi.org/10.15002/00030535>

Kiyoshi Miki's Studying Abroad in Germany and France.

Abstract in English by Prof. *emeritus* Takashi Miyanaga at Hosei Univ., Tokyo, Japan

It has been nearly 80 years since Kiyoshi Miki (三木 清, 1897~1945, the ex-Professor of Hosei Univ.) died at the Toyotama Prison, suffering from chronic itching. While alive he was active as a philosopher and critic, however, he was arrested two times for giving money and protection to communists, violating the Maintenance of Public Order Acts. After graduating from the Daiichi Koto Gakko (i.e. the First High School, nowadays the Liberal Arts Department of Tokyo Univ.), he entered Kyoto Imperial University. The reason for choosing the University was that he wanted to study philosophy under Prof. Kitaro Nishida (西田幾多郎, 1870~1945). Miki was an able student with high expectations. While studying at the graduate school he was given a chance to study abroad by the Iwanami Shoten, a publisher located at Kanda in Tokyo.

Roughly this essay is divided into two parts. The first part deals with his student life in Heidelberg and Marburg, Germany. The second part treats his days in Paris, France. Spurred by the *Pensées* by Blaise Pascal (1623~62), Miki started writing six essays on it. Three of them were sent to Japan from Paris appearing in the *Shiso* (思想, the Thought), a technical magazine. The first essay was titled '*Pascal and ontological interpretation of living*'. The present author used the essay for research data analyzing his reading and understanding of the original text.

On 8 May, 1922, Miki was supposed to embark on the Hakonemaru (10420 t.), belonging to the Nihonyusen, at Kōbe, arriving in Marseilles, France, at the end of June. After spending a day in Genève, Switzerland, he headed for Heidelberg, Germany, arriving there probably on 24 or 25, June, in the same year. Since he didn't leave records of his travels, it's pretty difficult to document his travel.

Before living in lodgings in Heidelberg, he probably stayed in a pension for a few months until Ken Ishihara (石原 謙, 1882~1976, a historian of the Christianity) left the city for his journey home. Miki took Ishihara's room at Prof. Ludwig Lemme (1847~1927) living at Bergstr. 24, Heidelberg. Prices were soaring owing to hyperinflation after World War I in Germany. For those who had foreign money, Germany was a paradise, however, for the citizens there it was a hell on earth. People tried to take on roomers to help with family finances. Prof. Lemme was one of them.

After living in Heidelberg for three months and a half, Miki applied as a irregular student at

the University on 16, October, 1922, granting him admission. However on surveying *Anmeldung zur Immatrikulation* carefully, we find some false statements : 1) his birth date and place 2) his guardian's birth place and so on. The lectures he took were : 1) 'From Kant to Nietzsche' (?) by Heinrich Rickert (1863~1936) 2) On Nietzsche and Kierkegaard by Karl Jaspers (1883~1969) 3) On Greek philosophy by Ernst Hoffmann (1880~1952) 4) On German literature (?) by Friedrich Gundolf (1880~1931)

The wonder is that he did not attend these lectures. We see no reason why. The reason was most probably due to language difficulties. Even if he was rich in reading comprehension in German, he was unaccustomed to listening to it.

On the contrary Miki was a keen student at the seminars and the reading circles. He attended H. Rickert's seminar where '*Die Grenzen der naturwissenschaftlichen Begriffs Bildung* (by H. R) and *Wissenschaftliche Methode* (by M. W) were used for textbooks. He also attended the seminar of E. Hoffmann where he studied Greek Classics. Apart from the seminars, he attended private study meetings by Eugen Herrigel, Hermann Glockner, Robert Schinzinger, Karl Mannheim and Robert Winkler with other Japanese students. Miki was not a simple auditor but made several oral reports on his own themes and he once contributed to a leading newspaper in Frankfurt am Main by the good offices of H. Rickert. In his spare time he collected literature on philosophy which amounted to a few thousand volumes, sending them to Japan by ship.

Time passed swiftly. Miki moved to Marburg like a German vagabond student. Sometime in Autumn, 1923, he changed to the University in Marburg after spending a year and a half in Heidelberg. He seemed to have plans to study under Prof. Nicolai Hartmann (1882~1950) but disappointed at his classes, Hartmann transferred him to Martin Heidegger (1889~1976), then unknown Privat Dozent). Miki found something new in Heidegger's lectures and his seminars which drew him closer to him. Besides Heidegger, Miki asked Dr. Garatama and Karl Lövitte to read his technical books on philosophy.

In Marburg, Miki boarded first at Hr. Timme, the pastor, residing at Moltke Str. 21 and then he moved to Fr. Becker living at Schwanallee 41 by the Lahn River. Contrary to his expectations, Miki also found quite a few fellow countrymen in Marburg. Basically he preferred a solitary life to society, however, he enjoyed attending the 'Students Night' sponsored by Prof. Lage with Kankyo Moriya (守屋貫教, 1880~1942, a priest at Rissho Univ.) once a month. When he got tired of studying, he

took a stroll in the fields on the other side of the Lahn River which runs along Marburg.

During his stay in Marburg Miki seemed to see *the Pensées* by Pascal again. As a student of philosophy, some remarkable results were required for him to achieve. To attain his long-cherished desire, he thought he would study *the Pensées* in Paris collecting reference books. Actually he could collect what he desired, however, the only book he read with care was '*The Pensées* compiled by Victor Giraud, Les éditions G. Cres et C^{ie}. Paris, 1924.

As for the study of *the Pensées*, few people took good care of the humans appearing in the book. What Miki tried to clarify was the existence of the humans from the standpoint of a *philosophical anthropology* (i.e. science of man) using the method of M. Heidegger. The first result of his labour was '*Pascal and ontological interpretation of living*' which went in succession for five more essays. The present author entertained a doubt about his French ability. Because Miki said he learned French by himself except learning French conversation in Germany and France. In my view the original text of *the Pensées* is not easy to read. Even though Miki was a good linguist, doubts hang on his reading and understanding of *the Pensées*.

On 20, August, 1924, Miki left Marburg for Paris. He spent a night in Köln on his way to Paris arriving there on the 22nd of the same month. Ichitaro Kobasashi (小林一太郎, 1901~63, Kyoto Univ., alumni, studying art at Sorbonne then) found him a room at M^{ms} Gouillerot, 26 rue Le Sueur, 16 arr. Paris. The lodging was located on a noisy street near Place de Étoile. But he had to be contented with this. His original plan of staying in Paris was for a few months, however, the stay lasted as long as a year.

The time for returning home was approaching though, he had no travelling expenses. His sponsor, the Iwanami Shoten, lost everything due to the Kanto Earthquake Disaster (i.e. 1 Sep. 1923). So he borrowed 4500F. from Kōjiro Serizawa (芹沢光治郎, 1897~93, an ex-official of the government, then a student at Sorbonne) and still obtained five or six million yen from Mrs. Fujie, a widow (Miki's former lover). Sometime in September, 1925, Miki probably went on board the Hakusanmaru (白山丸), a regular liner of the Nihonyusen bound for Japan, arriving in Kōbe on 15, October of the same year. He was badly dressed wearing a soft hat, and carrying a trunk in his hand.

A careful examination of Miki's translation of *the Pensées* as cited in his first essay discloses the following points : 1) Miki misread the text here and there 2) Miki interpreted difficult lines in his own way, deviating from the original meaning 3) Miki's rendering is a word for word translation which is

not only hard to read but done in a bad style 4) Miki didn't fully understand *the Pensées*.

Though Miki misconstrued Pascal's word, he was a pioneer of breaking new ground of studies on Pascal in Japan.