

Civilization — Culture

*Bunmei — Bunka*

文明-文化

# Taisho Culture

- Cosmopolitanism
- Consumerism
- *ero-guro-nansensu*
- Cultural Particularism
- Proletarian literature

Where money is not itself the community, it must dissolve the community. In antiquity, one could buy labour, a slave, directly; but the slave could not buy money with his labour.... It is the elementary precondition of bourgeois society that labour should directly produce exchange value, i.e. money; and, similarly, that money should directly purchase labour, and therefore the labourer.... Money thereby directly and simultaneously becomes the *real community* [*Gemeinwesen*], since it is the general substance of survival for all, and at the same time the social product of all.

—Marx, *Grundrisse*, 1858

# Taisho Consumer Society

- New, fluid relationships
- Space of the city, Tokyo
- Cosmopolitanism
- Fashion
- Shopping





*Mobo-Moga*



*Marubo-Enga*

# 1923 Earthquake

- Police Murder of Koreans, Anarchists, Socialists
- Osugi Sakae
- Ito Noe



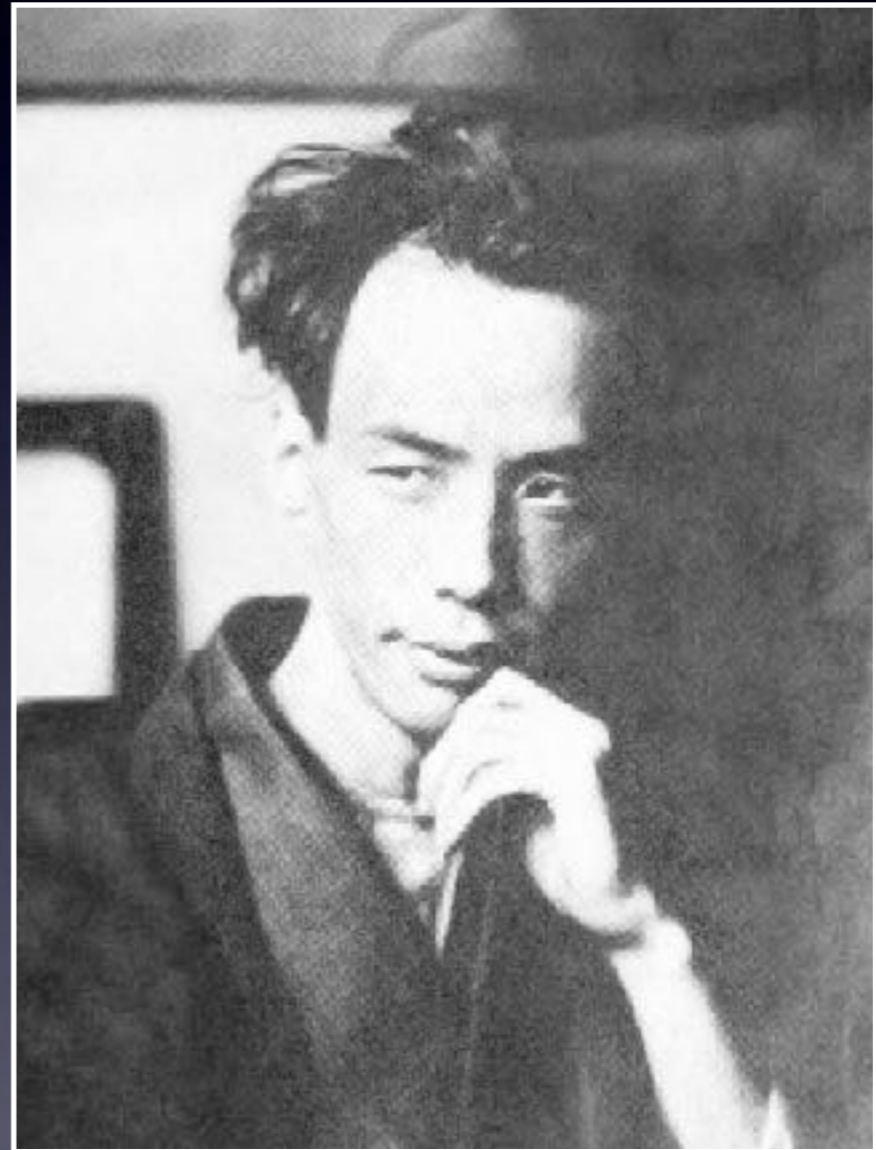
# Taisho Cosmopolitanism

- The “I”-novel (私小説)
- language of the psyche (言文一致)
- Universal, World Civilization
- Self-consciousness (内面性)



# Akutagawa Ryunosuke

- Fragmentation of the Self
- Crisis of Representation
- “In a Grove”
- “Rashomon”
- Suicide 1927



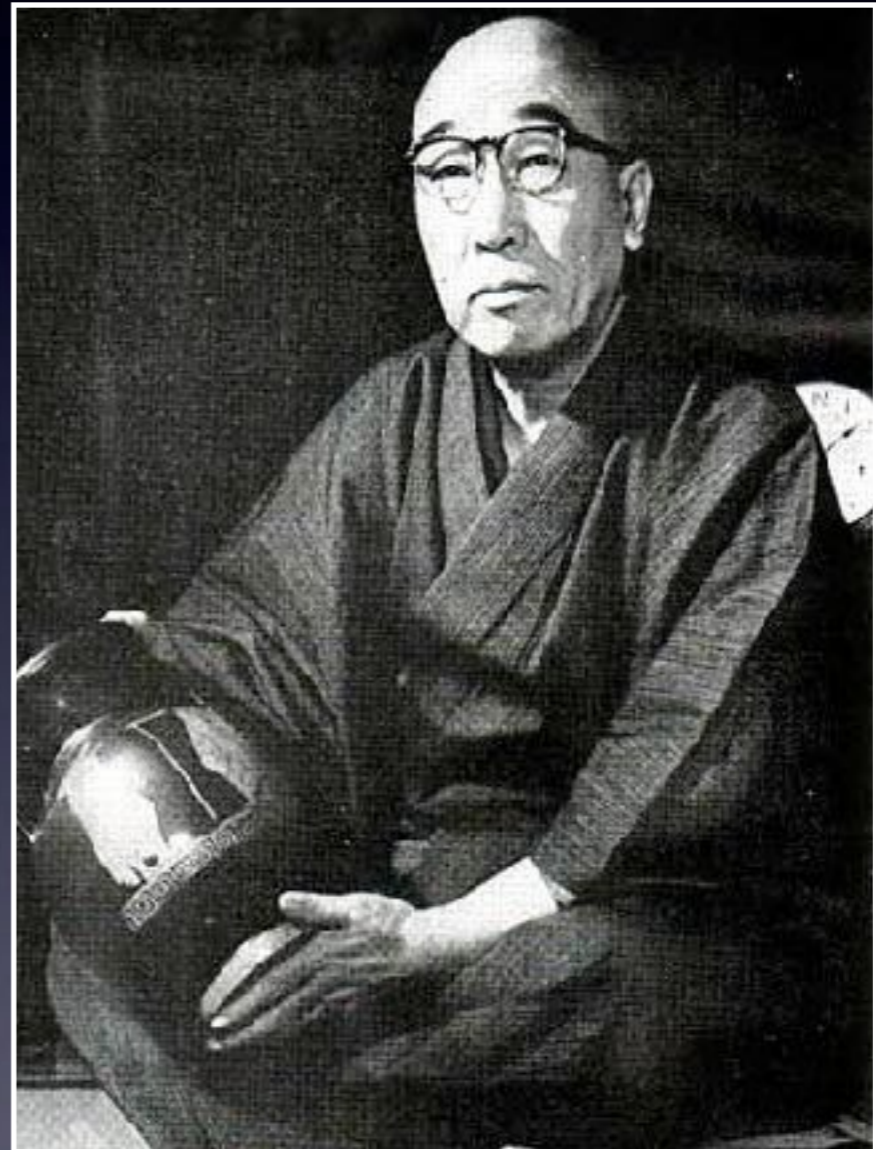
# Fragmentation

- Asakusa
- 1890s Paris, 1940s Times Square
- *Scarlet Gang of Asakusa*, Kawabata, 1930



# *ero-guro-nansensu*

- Edogawa Ranpo
- Detective Stories
- *The Blind Beast*, 1931
- *The Vampire*, 1930



Edogawa Ranpo

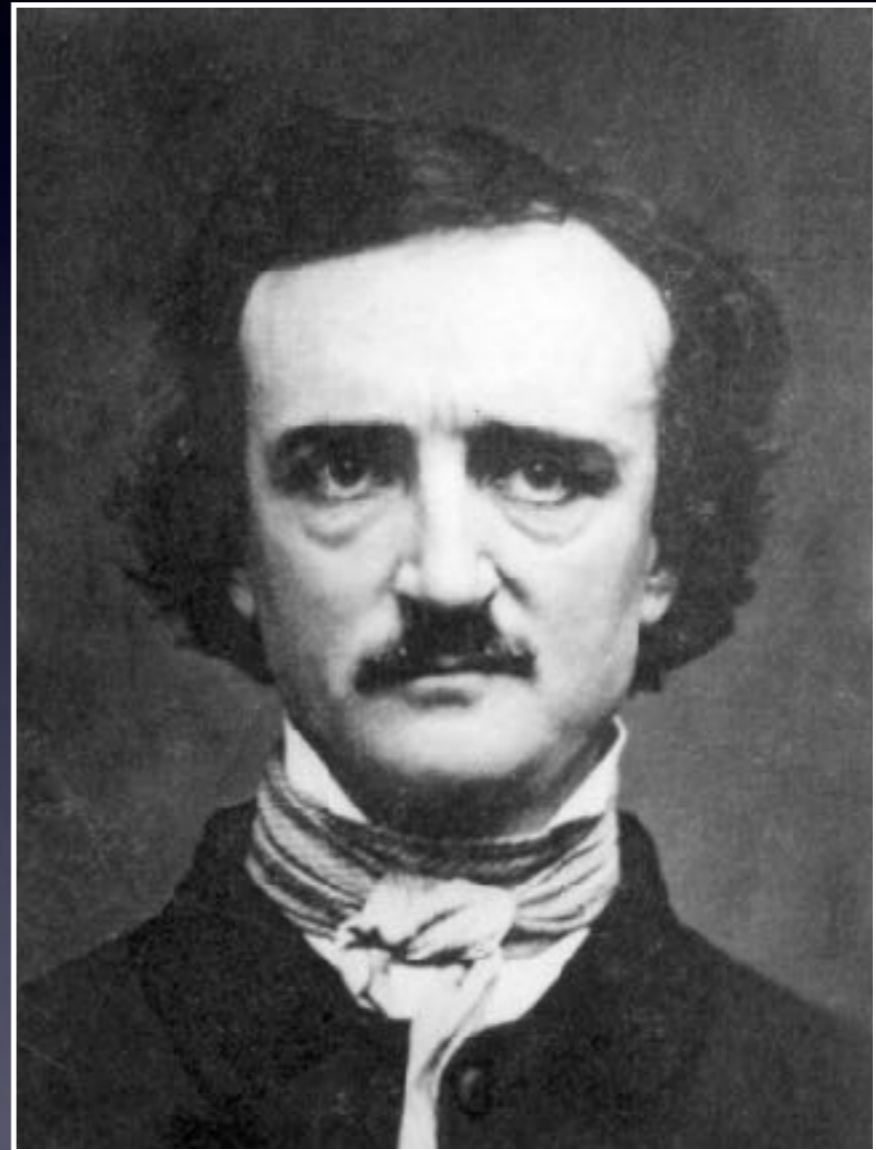
Edoga-waRan-po

# Ero-guro-nansensu

江戸川乱歩

Edogawa Ranpo

Edoga waran po



# “Daydream”

Edogawa Ranpo

“The mentality of Las Vegas is so grossly atavistic that a really massive crime often slips by unrecognized.”

**–Hunter S. Thompson**



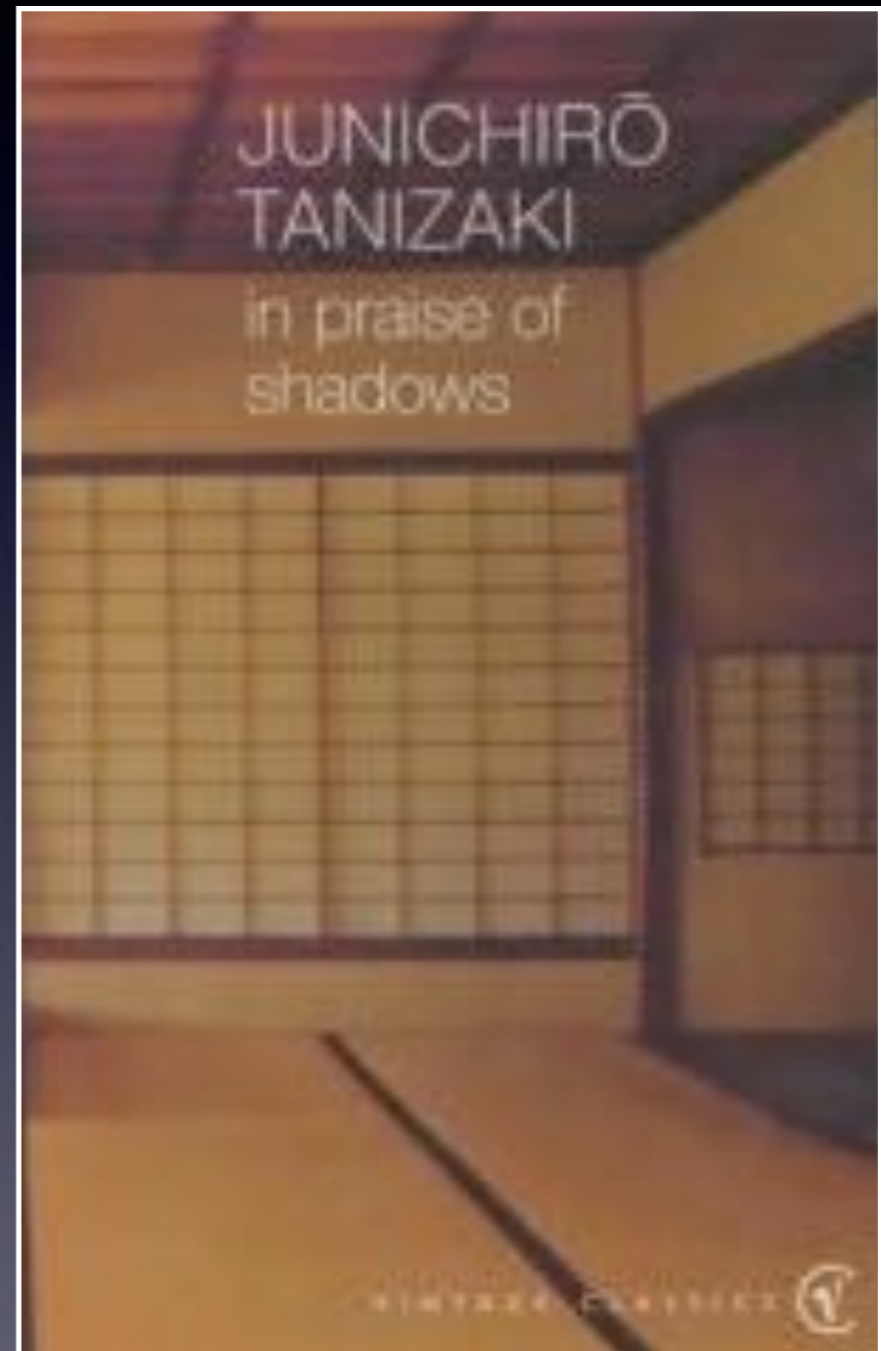
# Yanagita Kunio

- Folklore
- Ethnic Studies (*minzokugaku*-民族学)
- *Tales of Tono* (1910)
- Find that which has been untouched by the modern
- Japanese culture as bounded, enduring
- Mountain villages & Okinawa

*Jomin* - the “abiding folk”

# Tanizaki Jun'ichiro

*In Praise of Shadows (1935)*



# Watsuji Tetsuro

- East-West Encounter has not been a defeat
- *Climate* (風土) 1935
- Monsoon and Desert peoples
- Passivity and Passion
- Japan as higher synthesis

