

SPSIS-311.5-General

SPSIS-1

January 1, 1943

Mr. Curtis G. Benjamin, Vice President
McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc.
330 West Forty-Second Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

Receipt of your letter of December 18, in connection with Professor Yamagiwa's new book MODERN CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE, and receipt of the complimentary copy of the text is also acknowledged. I wish I were in a position to make worthwhile comments on the publication, but I find this difficult, because the pressure of business at the present time precludes all possibility of taking the time to give it the attention which it perhaps deserves.

I very much appreciate the courtesy shown in sending me a copy of the book, which will have a place in my library.

Very truly yours,

William F. Friedman
Director of Communications
Research

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December 18, 1942

Colonel William F. Friedman
Office of Chief Signal Corps Officer
War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colonel Friedman:

We are pleased to send you a complimentary copy of MODERN CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE, by Joseph K. Yamagiwa, Department of Oriental Languages, University of Michigan.

This is the most comprehensive textbook on spoken Japanese yet written by an American and published in America. Its purpose is to give the student an adequate conversational ability in the modern informal Japanese language, as used today by members of the middle class and higher than middle class in Tokyo - it is their language which is accepted as the standard in Japan. No Japanese characters are employed, and the forms of speech used are those of everyday conversation rather than the stilted ones used in writing.

The first section of the book deals with pronunciation and is the most extensive found in any textbook published so far in English. The second section attempts an over-all view of Japanese grammar. In the third section the various modes of expressing case, tense, voice, mood, and so forth are taken up one by one. The book is made especially usable for the student without supervision by the inclusion of English equivalents for all Japanese examples given.

For your information, the list price of MODERN CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE is \$2.50.

When you have examined the book, we shall welcome your comments on it. We shall be especially interested in learning whether you find it suitable to recommend to the various study groups with which you come in contact or are connected.

Very truly yours,

Curtis G. Benjamin

Curtis G. Benjamin
Vice President

CGB:HF

Benjamin