

Press Release

Consulate-General of Japan in Miami
Press Release
November 3, 2015

Conferral of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, upon translator William Scott Wilson

On November 3rd 2015 (Japan Time), the Government of Japan announced the recipients for the 2015 Autumn Imperial Decorations. Among the 89 foreign recipients selected, Mr. William Scott Wilson, a translator who lives in South Miami, will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in recognition of his significant contribution to promoting understanding of Japan through the introduction of Japanese Literature in the United States.

- Decoration: The Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette
- Services: Contributed to promoting understanding of Japan through the introduction of Japanese Literature in the United States.
- Name: William Scott Wilson
- Major Titles:
 - Translator
 - Former teacher of Japanese Language, Ransom Everglades School
 - Former teacher of Japanese Language, Miami Dade County Public Schools

Mr. William Scott Wilson, who translates books from Japanese to English, has over the years devoted his life to the introduction of Japanese culture. Immediately after graduating from the university in 1966, he travelled by kayak from Shimonoseki to Tokyo between June and August of that year, in a journey deeply connecting him to Japan. The group of ten members was warmly received during their visit through the Seto Inland Sea to the Pacific coast towns and villages along the route. This voyage was published in a National Geographic magazine feature, which included more than 30 pages of narrative alongside beautiful photos of Japan. At the end of this featured article, it is noted that former United States Ambassador to Japan Edwin Reischauer, acknowledged the group as “goodwill ambassadors” that accomplished “the greatest achievements in recent years”.

Becoming fascinated by his experience on the above-mentioned trip, Mr. Wilson repeatedly visited Japan over the years and, having learned Japanese, began translating Japanese books into English. Introducing Japanese culture internationally became his life’s work. For the past half century since that trip in 1966, he has consistently worked as a translator, and thus far has published 18 Japan-related books including two original works written by himself. In particular he has produced translations of many books about Japan’s Samurai Spirit and philosophy in such works as “The Book of Five Rings” by Miyamoto Musashi. Mr. Wilson has become a leading expert concerning this aspect of Japan, and his translated English works have been translated into 21 other languages. As such, they have played a decisive role in

deepening the understanding of the traditional ways of Japanese thought, not only in the United States, but around the world.

In addition, his translated books were recently published in manga style, a medium through which foreign readers can enjoy and understand Japan's Samurai culture easily, thus contributing to the promotion of an understanding of Japan to younger generations.

In 2005 Mr. Wilson was awarded the Foreign Minister's commendation.