The thesis examines the samurai image portrayed within the film 'Tasogare Seibei' by Yamada Yōji and three novellas by Fujisawa Shūhei, upon which the film is based. An historical outline of the evolution of the samurai and their ideals is provided as a background to the works studied, with emphasis placed on the Tokugawa period. It is demonstrated that through their depictions of samurai, the novellas and the film make a significant social commentary about modernisation and Japanese values concerning power, status and wealth in the postwar period. Two of Fujisawa's novellas relevant to this thesis, 'Hoito Sukehachi' and 'Tasogare Seibei', have been translated here from Japanese into English. As these works have hitherto not been translated, this will facilitate a degree of access for English readers to Fujisawa's literature, which, aside from a single existing selection of short stories, is to date available in Japanese only.
The Significance of the Typical Samurai Image: A Study of Three Novellas by Fujisawa Shūhei and the January 2007. Stephen J Albrow. The thesis examines the samurai image portrayed within the film 'Tasogare Seibei' by Yamada Yōji and three novellas by Fujisawa Shūhei, upon which the film is based. Two of Fujisawa's novellas relevant to this thesis, 'Hoito Sukehachi' and 'Tasogare Seibei', have been translated here from Japanese into English. As these works have hitherto not been translated, this will facilitate a degree of access for English readers to Fujisawa's literature, which, aside from a single existing selection of short stories, is to date available in Japanese only.

Seibei Iguchi is a low-ranking samurai of the Unasaka clan in Shonai Province of northeast Japan. His wife died of tuberculosis, a frequent cause of demise in those early years of hunger and malnutrition. With two daughters, Kayano and Ito, and an aging mother to support, he and his family must survive in austerity. As Seibei walks Tomoe home they encounter her ex, furiously determined to take her back. As fate would have it, Seibei, instead of Tomonojo who is a poor fencer, must duel with Toyotaro.