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私の本棚

My favorite books

Clathrate Hydrates of Natural Gases

This volume is a technical book authored by Prof. Sloan (Colorado School of Mines), the world-leading authority on chemical engineering research on clathrate hydrates. This book contains almost every aspect of scientific and technological characteristics of natural gas hydrates – from crystallographic and physicochemical properties of hydrates to the history of R&D into hydrates, to related engineering technology, and even to geological research on distribution of natural gas hydrates. This book is a must for those concerned with research into hydrates – undergraduate and graduate students as well as researchers and engineers.

Chemical and Engineering Thermodynamics

This textbook is a work by Prof. Sandler (University of Delaware, U.S.A.), the foremost researcher in the field of chemical and engineering thermodynamics. I chose this book from among the many thermodynamics textbooks mainly because Prof. Sandler is a teacher (thesis supervisor) for Dr. Sum (Associate Prof. of Colorado School of Mines), one of the few close friends of mine with whom I became acquainted through hydrate research activities. I refer to this book from time to time not only for preparing for a lecture but also for my own thermodynamic research on hydrates.

Thermodynamics (JSME textbook series – in Japanese)

As a publication from the Japan Society of Mechanical Engineers, this book mainly deals with engineering thermodynamics. At Keio University, it is used as a textbook for "The Introduction to Thermodynamics" – an obligatory subject for sophomores of the Department of Mechanical Engineering – and several other thermodynamics-related subjects. The fact is that thermodynamics is not a science of "mechanics," but a science of "energy." If you thoroughly study thermodynamics, you will come to understand many things that you formerly couldn't understand with knowledge of mechanics alone. This book is useful and easy to understand for both beginners and those concerned with the practical aspect of thermodynamics.

Shiga Naoya

Of the many master writers of modern Japan, I respect Shiga Naoya the most. In my parental home, my father had a complete collection of Shiga Naoya's works. I took advantage of this and read all of his works, from novels and essays even to diaries and letters. His works are characterized by vivid descriptions "as if you are on the scene" and compact, rhythmical sentences that minimize the use of punctuation. His finely-honed literary style is said to represent the culmination of Japanese expressions. Since clarity is an essential requirement of our scientific articles, I think we can learn a lot from Shiga Naoya.

Transport Phenomena

If literally translated into Japanese, the title of this book may be something like "Transfer Kinetics." But it's not a book about means of transportation. The field of science dealing with transfer speeds of energy and materials and fluid dynamics is known as transport phenomena. Together with thermodynamics that deals with energy balance, transport phenomena is a field of physical science that plays a fundamental role for solving energy and environment-related issues. The concept of transport phenomena was initiated in the 1950s by the author of this book and several others. Over a half century has passed since then, but the importance of this science is increasing more and more today.