

## Historical

### Zero Over Berlin, Sasaki Joh



#### *About the Author:*

**Joh Sasaki** is a writer of tales of adventure who has published close to fifty novels. Both the Japan Mystery Writers Association and the Japanese Adventure Fiction Association have recognized him for excellence in writing. He has also won the Yamamoto Shugoro prize, and over a dozen of his works have been made into films and/or stage plays. *Zero Over Berlin* is his richest historical work, demonstrating not only the breadth of Sasaki's research into World War II and fighter aircraft, but also the wealth of imagination fed by his personal obsession with wild energy and unknown possibility.

#### *Book Summary:*

1940. Hitler wants to rain death on London but he doesn't have the aircraft. Classified info about a new long-range plane — the Japanese "Type Zero" — intrigues Nazi generals who ask their Far Eastern ally for a few prototypes to study. But how to get the planes from Japan to Germany? Unable to fly over the Soviet Union or most of the vast British Empire, the Zeroes just might make it if they can refuel at the few secret pockets of resistance. An action-packed aviation novel that presents the geopolitics of WWII from the other side.

### The Battle of Lepanto, Shiono Nanami



#### *About the Author:*

**Shiono Nanami** is a Japanese author and novelist. Famous for her works on history of Italy, mainly concentrated on ancient Rome and Renaissance-age Italy. There are huge reputation on her in Japan and South Korea for her magnum opus, *Roma-jin no Monogatari* and other works.

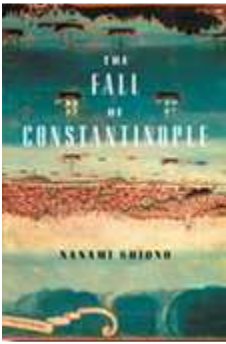
She was awarded the literary prize given by the Mainichi Publishing House for her work *Runesansu no Onna-tachi*. In 1982, *Umi no Miyako no Monogatari*, her work on Venice, won her the Suntory Literary Prize. She won the Kikuchi Kan Prize the following year. For *Roma-jin no Monogatari*, she was awarded the Shincho Literary Prize. The Italian government conferred upon her the Grande Ufficiale Order of Merit in 2002 for introducing Italian history and culture to Japan. She received other prizes including the Shiba Ryotaro Prize in 1999.

#### *Book Summary:*

For over a century after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the Ottoman Empire enjoyed an almost unbroken series of victories in Eastern Europe and throughout the Eastern Mediterranean. In 1571, the Republic of Venice and Pope Pius V worked together to assemble an alliance of European powers to confront the Ottoman navy in the Aegean and Mediterranean Seas. This "Holy League" was driven, and almost torn apart, by a set of diverse and often competing motivations, but for one brief moment it was able to put aside its differences and raise a unified front against the massive Ottoman fleet at the Battle of Lepanto. The outcome of that battle would have far-reaching consequences for

Europe, for the Ottoman Empire and indeed for world history.

### **The Fall of Constantinople, Shiono Nanami**



#### *Book Summary:*

The story of an empire begins the way history always does – with the end. Through the eyes of a Venetian doctor, Genoan monks, Greek sailors and love-lorn assistants, we witness the battle of two monarchs – Sultan Mehmed the Second, despotic leader of the Ottoman Empire, and Emperor Constantine, revered as much as he was feared.

### **The Siege of Rhodes, Shiono Nanami**



#### *Book Summary:*

By the early sixteenth century, Rhodes, the “Isle of Blossoming Roses,” had become a thorn in the Ottoman Empire’s side. Located only eleven miles from the coast of Ottoman Asia Minor, the island was controlled by the Order of the Knights of St. John (later known as the Knights of Malta), former crusaders who by then had two specialties: tending to ailing Christians and pirating Muslim ships. In 1522, Sultan Suleiman I resolved to put an end to it

and unleashed a force of a hundred thousand troops to besiege the island.