

JRC *News*

Newsletter of the Japan Research Centre, SOAS

No. 44

April 2001

JAPAN RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINARS

Wednesdays 5pm Room G50

25 April

Dr Rachel Hutchinson (University of Leeds)

Occidentalism in Nagai Kafu: Constructing the 'America' of
Amerika Monogatari

2 May

Dr Tadeusz Skorupski (SOAS)

Obsequies and Ancestral Worship in Japanese Buddhism from
the Perspective of Indian Buddhism

9 May

Professor Mari Sako (University of Oxford)

Between Bit Valley and Silicon Valley: Hybrid Forms of
Business Governance in the Japanese Internet Economy

Welcome back for the final term. We are delighted to welcome particularly the new recipients of Academic Hospitality, most of whom are visiting academics from Japan. They tend to arrive at the start of the Japanese school year when people's minds here are on other matters, but we are fortunate to have access every year to these scholars, who chose to spend their sabbaticals with us at SOAS, attached to the JRC. Also newly arrived is the second Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow, Dr Cynthia Bogel of the University of Washington, Seattle.

As usual, the JRC's seminar series is rather curtailed this term, with only three English-language meetings and no Japanese ones. This is to clear room for exam preparations. However, as this newsletter reveals, there is a great number of other events planned, fittingly, as the nationwide Japan 2001 festival is about to begin. Several of the events listed here and organised by the JRC or other SOAS bodies, are official Japan 2001 events.

The School has started to require all Centres to have written constitutions. The draft is available for any who wish to inspect it, and has already been circulated to all JRC members who are SOAS lecturers. The final version will be published in the next newsletter.

Before Christmas, readers were invited to unsubscribe from the hardcopy newsletter and to access it online. Very few replied, so in future, all those whose email addresses are known to us will receive notification when newsletters have been posted on the JRC website, and will be expected to consult it there. It can be downloaded by those who feel happier with real paper. Only those whose email addresses are unknown to us will receive the hard copy. Currently, printing and postage absorb a great deal of resources, and if this is saved this could be put to better purpose.

Timon Screech
Chair of the Japan Research Centre

Report on Sabbatical Leave, September-December 2000

I was fortunate to receive funding from the Daiwa Foundation and the Sasegawa Fund to pay for my four-month stay in Tokyo from September to December 2000. I was attached to Waseda University, and I was given the opportunity to teach an Introduction to Modern Japanese Literature to a mixture of students based in Waseda. These included regular Waseda students, as well as foreign students from a variety of countries. The course was enjoyable and took me away from my own research only a few hours a week. As always, the International Section at Waseda treated me very well and put me up in new university accommodation that was spotless, relatively cheap and very central. Waseda has an outstanding library, especially in my area of modern Japanese literature, and it is possible to browse through the stacks (unlike many libraries in Japan).

Like all lecturers on sabbatical leave, one of the greatest joys is to be able to devote oneself to research without the need to attend to time-consuming administrative duties. I took full advantage of this situation and spent a large part of my time in my room in order to write the last two draft chapters of my book. Now I am back at SOAS I am working on the book's introduction and conclusion and will need to re-write some parts of my earlier chapters. My expectation is that I should complete the manuscript by the end of this summer. My stay in Japan was of immense value in helping me realise this aim.

In addition, I benefited from making contact with everyday Japanese life after an absence of three or four years. I find this vital in keeping my knowledge of Japan up to date and in helping me pass on this knowledge to my students back in SOAS. I was also able to renew contacts with various Japanese academics and make new contacts. My experience is that it is precisely these unexpected meetings that lead to research into unforeseen and productive areas. Finally, my stay in Japan was helped by the fact that the weather was mostly sunny and pleasant, I completely missed the floods and fuel crisis in the U.K., and I experienced only one delay in a subway journey during my entire four-month stay. Strange, but true!

Stephen Dodd
East Asia Department

Conference Report

Beverages in Early Modern Japan and their International Context, 1660s-1920s

The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures organised a three-day conference in London from 9-11 March 2001.

During the conference, 12 speakers from Japan, England and America discussed drinking culture and practice in early modern Japan, as well as in China and Europe. A comparative approach to the subject matter, in particular art historical, historical and anthropological viewpoints were employed to give fresh light on 'Beverages', a subject fundamental to the understanding of the early modern period.

About 180 guests attended the conference opening held on the 9 March in the BP Lecture Theatre in the British Museum. Professors Ishige Naomichi (Director, National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka) and Jack Goody (St John's, Cambridge University) gave keynote lectures

addressing beverages in their international context. The lectures were followed by a reception in the Japanese Galleries where guests could view a small exhibition on beverage drinking in Japan and the export market that was specifically related to the conference.

The conference continued on the 10th and 11th in the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS. The subjects of the lectures ranged from Chinese tea customs and the Japanese literati, coffee culture in England, tobacco 'drinking' in Japan, gender and beverages in Japan and Europe, and beverage utensils in Japan and Europe.

The speakers were Yoshio Aoki (Tobacco Research Institute), William Gervase Clarence-Smith (SOAS), Aileen Dawson (The British Museum), Philippa Glanville (Waddesdon Manor), Akio Kobayashi (Sophia University) and Isao Kumakura (National Museum of Ethnology), Kôroku Ogawa (Ogawa School of Sencha), Steven Owyong (St Louis Art Museum), Timon Screech (SOAS/SISJAC) and Nicole Rousmaniere (SISJAC).

A Sencha tea demonstration and commentary was provided by Ogawa Kôroku, the 6th grand teamaster of Ogawa School of Sencha. In addition, sencha tea tasting was available on both the 10th and 11th to all participants at the conference.

Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

8A the Close, Norwich NR1 4DH.

Telephone 01603 624349, fax 01603 625011, email sisjac@uea.ac.uk

New Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow at the Sainsbury Institute

Cynthea J Bogel is a professor at the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington, USA (Assistant Professor of Japanese Art and Architecture, Division of Art History, School of Art). She previously taught at the University of Oregon (Eugene, Oregon) and Waseda University (Tokyo) and was curator of Asian and Ethnographic Art at the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design (Providence, RI). Dr Bogel received her Ph.D. and M.A. from Harvard University (1995, 1986) and her B.A. from Smith College (1980). Her primary research interests are Japanese Buddhist art history and culture and the historiography of Buddhist art. Her current research project is a book-length study of ninth-century Japanese esoteric (Shingon) Buddhist statues in the monastic ritual context. Other areas of interest include Japanese woodblock prints (*ukiyo-e*) and contemporary art and culture. She has co-authored *Hiroshige: Birds and Flowers* (with Israel Goldman, Braziller 1986) and articles and catalogues on Japanese Buddhist art and contemporary art. At the University of Washington she teaches courses on Japanese art and architecture, Japanese religious art and culture, and a survey of Asian art that includes India, China, Korea, Vietnam, Tibet, and Japan. She advises several Ph.D. students and many M.A. students. Dr Bogel serves on the Art History, Comparative Religions and Asian Studies Japan Program faculties at the University of Washington and is on the editorial board of *Studies in Central and East Asian Religions*. During the current year she is delighted to be a Research Fellow at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UEA, and SOAS. She will be based in London until March 2002.

The Minwaza Company
will perform Traditional Japanese Shadow Theatre of the Edo Period 'edo utsushi-e'

Tuesday 1 May, 7pm
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

The performance will last approximately 90 minutes
 FREE for SOAS Students

This amazing and colourful entertainment combines elements of Edo period shadow shows and nineteenth century projection effects. First developed in the late eighteenth century, 'utsushi-e' was the equivalent of the European magic lantern show, but on a far more energetic scale. Using hand-held projectors, ingenious animated figures and live music, Minwaza recreate the experience. Suitable for all ages.

OSAKA STORY: Layers of Identity

Tuesday 8 May, 5-6.30pm
Lecture Theatre 2, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ

This is a public event (free) and all welcome
 An official Japan 2001 event

Documentary film screening OSAKA STORY (directed by Nakata Toichi) and discussion on the issues of identity. The director Nakata will join the event.

The event will be followed by an informal reception.

Japan: Shinto Art and Ritual in the Land of God

Saturday 13 October, (11am – 5pm provisional time)
Elizabeth Fry Lecture Theatre, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ

(Applied for as a Japan 2001 event)

A one day seminar in the field of the Shinto art. Lectures will be on Shinto related art in various form. The seminar will include a viewing of the Japanese art collection at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts (University of East Anglia, Norwich), and the gallery talks on Shinto art objects on display in the Centre.

Dr Victor Harris, Keeper at the Japanese Antiquities Department of the British Museum and curator of the major Shinto Art Exhibition at the British Museum will be the keynote speaker and co-conference organiser.

The seminar will be followed by an informal reception.

Further information from SISJAC, 8A The Close, Norwich NR1 4DH
 Telephone 01603-624349, fax 01603 625011, email sisjac@uea.ac.uk

Lecture-Concert

Monday 21 May, 6.30pm

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Admission free, booking not necessary

The Music Department, SOAS, presents a lecture-concert of Tsugaru-jamisen, the dynamic shamisen tradition of the Tsugaru region of Aomori in northern Japan. What was once accompaniment to local folk songs has developed into a solo style centred on improvisation—the latter a rare trait in Japanese music. Tsugaru-jamisen was often played by blind itinerants such as the late Takahashi Chikuzan, and is often heard in competitions where the best improviser wins. Lately, often in various forms, it has found a following among young Japanese and on the World Music scene.

The evening centres on performances by the five-member ensemble Dadan, supported by lectures by Daijo Kazuo and David Hughes on the history and musical features of the tradition, with help from Melissa Holding, who has competed in such a contest in Japan.

Enquiries to the Music Department, telephone 020 7898 4680

David Hughes (dh6@soas.ac.uk)

Music Department

Cult of the Actor: Symposium on Kabuki and Kabuki Actor Prints

4-5 June 2001

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Registration not necessary, but please check for possible variations to the timetable and venue before attending (contact details below).

Two themes of the symposium will be the representation of theatre in art and a comparison of Edo and Osaka prints:

Symposium Day One, 4 June

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 10-11:30am: | Nakamura Ganjirô, Nakamura Kanjaku, Nakamura Senjaku
Kabuki Lecture/Demonstration |
| 11-30-12:00 | Break |
| 12-1:00pm | Professor Andrew Gerstle (SOAS)
Osaka Actor Portraits 1847-52 |
| 1-2:30pm | Lunch |
| 2.30-3:30pm | Dr Roger Keyes (Center for the Study of the Japanese Woodblock
Print, Cranston, RI)
Memorial Portraits of Actors and Commemorative Prints; <i>tsuizen surimono</i> , <i>shini-e</i> |
| 3:30-4pm | Break |
| 4-5:00pm | Mr Tim Clark (The British Museum)
Early Actor Prints |

Optional evening demonstration/performance by Nakamura Ganjirô at Shakespeare's Globe. Those attending the symposium will receive free tickets for the standing gallery, numbers permitting.

Symposium Day Two, 5 June

9:30-10:30am		Ms Hiroko Kitagawa (Ikeda Bunko Library). [in Japanese; English notes on slides] Osaka Actor Prints, 1813-1830
10:30-11am	Break	
11-12:00		Professor Ryo Akama (Ritsumeikan University). [in Japanese, English notes on slides] Actor Prints: Edo vs. Osaka 1820-1840
12-1:30pm	Lunch	
1:30-2:30pm		Professor Hideyuki Iwata (Atomi College) Mitate-e in Actor Prints: Anticipation and Juxtaposition
2:30-3pm	Break	
3-4:00pm		Dr John Carpenter (SOAS/SISJAC) Surimono Celebrating Ichikawa Danjûrô VII in Osaka
4-4:30pm	Break	
4:30-5:30pm		Dr Timon Screech (SOAS/SISJAC) Princess Pothead and the History of Actor Prints

Optional evening Kabuki Performance at Sadlers Wells Theatre. Tickets available through Sadlers Wells website: <http://www.sadlers-wells.com>

Kabuki is scheduled to perform in London from 30 May until 9 June 2001. The troupe will be led by Nakamura Ganjirô (Living National Treasure) and his sons, Kanjaku and Senjaku. The plays will be *Love Suicides at Sonezaki* and *Tsuri-onna*.

Actor Print Workshop**6-7 June 2001****Brunei Gallery, SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG**

Registration free, but necessary for participation

Day One, 6 June**Morning**

9:30am		Professor AKAMA Ryo Actor Print Database Creation
10:30am	Break	
11:00am		Professor IWATA Hideyuki Documenting Edo Prints
12-1:00pm		Ms KITAGAWA Hiroko Documenting Osaka (Kamigata) Prints

Day Two, 7 June**Morning**

10:00am		Ms Elizabeth Coombs Conservation of Ukiyo-e Prints
11:00am	Break	
11:30-12.30		Dr Roger Keyes Documenting and Exhibiting Actor Prints and Surimono

The symposium and workshop are sponsored by the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation, the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee (JFEC), the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC), the AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures and All Nippon Airways.

The symposium and workshop are events in the Japan 2001 Festival.

For up to date information about the symposium and registration for the workshop:

Telephone +44 (0)20 7898 4266, fax AHRB Literature Centre, +44 (0)20 7898 4239, email ahrblit@soas.ac.uk. Write to AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures, SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG
Web page: <http://www.soas.ac.uk/EastAsia/gerstle/symposium.html>

Kagura at SOAS

3 September, 6.30pm

Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

Two kagura troupes, one from Chichibu in the Kanto region of Japan and one from Buzen in Kyushu, Western Japan will be performing kagura sacred dance at SOAS on 3 September. Kagura is part sacred rite involving the summoning of kami deities to a sacred place; and part performance involving dancing and playing to entertain and propitiate the kami. Kagura is rarely seen in Great Britain; and neither of these two troupes has performed outside Japan before.

Sponsored by Japan 2001 and the Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions

Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, SOAS

CSJR Seminars

Thursdays, 5 -6:30pm, Room 336

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 10 May | Massimo Raveri (University of Venice)
The Search for the Perfect Body: Living Mummies and Ways to Utopia |
| 17 May | Sybil Thornton (Arizona State University)
The Last Word on Salvation: Religious Authority in the Yugyoha (14th century) |

Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, SOAS

Japanese Religions Forum

Thursdays, 5 -6:30pm, Room 336

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 3 May | Anna Schegoleva (Ph.D. candidate, Study of Religions, SOAS)
Taught to Fear : Ghost Stories in Japanese Schools |
|-------|--|

For further information contact Lucia Dolce (ld16@soas.ac.uk).
CSJR website: <http://soas.ac.uk/Centres/JapaneseReligions/>

JRC Members

Research and travel

John Breen, East Asia Department, presented a paper, Yasukuni: Land of Peace, in the CSJR seminar series; presented a paper Contesting the Dead and Challenging Memory, at Stirling University's Japan Centre on 2 April; convened the panel 'Power and Spectacle in Asia' at the Joint East Asian Studies conference, Edinburgh, 3-6 April.

John T Carpenter, Art and Archaeology Department, presented a paper, The Collaborative Art of Surimono: Kubo Shumman and Edo Poetry Circles, at an international conference on Ukiyo-e held at the University of Leiden, 11-13 January; presented a public lecture, Classical Literary Motifs in Surimono by Shumman: The 'Torikaebaya Monogatari' Series, at Columbia University, sponsored by the Donald Keene Center and the Ukiyo-e Society of America, 28 March; gave a series of public lectures on Japanese painting and calligraphy at the New Orleans Museum of Art, the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the Trammel-Crow Foundation, Dallas, in early April.

Phillip Deans, Political Studies Department, will be in Japan and Taiwan from 15 March-18 April on a research trip funded by the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee.

Stephen Dodd, East Asia Department, attended a workshop on Taisho Literature at the Reischauer Institute, Harvard University on 21 April.

Timon Screech, Art and Archaeology Department, visited Washington DC, 8-12 February, to survey the new collection on actor prints being donated to the Freer Gallery; visited Tokyo to address the College Women's Association of Japan, 28 February-8 March; lectured at University of California at Lakeside, Los Angeles Country Museum of Art, and University of Chicago, 22 March-5 April.

Publications

John Breen, 'Meiji shonen no ekken girei: Nichiei koryushi no ichidanmen', in *Atarashii Nihongaku no kochiku 2*, Ocha no mizu joshi daigaku, 2001.

Barbara Pizziconi, 'Some Remarks of the Notion of "Benefit" and the Japanese Communicative Style', SOAS Working Papers in Linguistics, SOAS, Vol. 10, 2000 (December), pp. 371-84.

Richard Wiltshire, 'Shimin Noen no Shorai: Eikoku ni okeru Rekurieeshon-teki Engai, Komyuniti Keisei oyobi Jizokuteki Hatten [The Future for Allotments: Recreational Horticulture and Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom]', in Noson Kaihatsu Kikaku Iinkai (ed.), *Eikoku Shimin Noen: Igirisu ni okeru Shimin Noen oyobi Komyuniti Gaaden*, Tokyo, Noson Kaihatsu Kikaku Iinkai [Rural Development Planning Commission], Kaigai Noson Kaihatsu Shiryo No. 51, March 2001, pp. 3-18.

Japan Research Centre

School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)

University of London

Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square

London WC1H 0XG

Telephone 020 7898 4210, fax 020 7898 4289 / 020 7436 3844

www.soas.ac.uk/Centres/Japan/Home.html

Administrator Barbara Lazoi (bl1@soas.ac.uk)

Chair Dr Timon Screech (ts8@soas.ac.uk)