

JRC News

Newsletter of the Japan Research Centre, SOAS

No 45.

October 2001

JAPAN RESEARCH CENTRE SEMINARS **Wednesdays 5pm Room G50**

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| 3 October | Roger Pulvers (Director and Playwright)
Miyazawa Kenji: rebel with a cause |
| 10 October | Dr Gaynor Sekimori (SOAS)
Shugendo art: new directions of discussion |
| 17 October | Janice Katz (Ashmolean Museum)
Botanical interest in Edo Period painting |
| 31 October | Dr Nicola Piper (Nordic Institute of Asian Studies)
Wife or worker? Settler or sojourner? Migration of Filipino women to Japan |
| 14 November | Professor Teruko Inoue (Institute of Education)
Equality in the consumer market vs. inequality in the labour market: gender situation in Japan since 1970 |
| 21 November | Dr Janet Hunter (LSE)
Institutions of wage payment in the prewar Japanese textile industry |
| 5 December | Dr Estelle Bauer (INALCO, Paris)
The Ban daïagon emaki, an exemple of production and reception of narrative painting in 12 century Japan |
| 12 December
<u>JRC and CSJR joint seminar.</u> | Dr Tadeusz Skorupski (SOAS)
Obsequies and ancestral worship in Japanese Buddhism from the perspective of Indian Buddhism |

Welcome back for the new term to all JRC members, and especially to new MAs and Academic Visitors.

This term will have an unusually wide range of Japan-related events in London with the continuation of the Japan 2001 festival. Major exhibitions are at the British Museum and Hayward Gallery. For full details, see www.Japan2001.org. There is also Asian Arts Week in early November.

As usual, the prime activities of the JRC are the seminar series, and all are encouraged to attend. The English-language seminars meet every Wednesday, but owing to the smaller number of Academic Visitors from Japan this session, the Monday Japanese-language seminars will take place only in the Second Term.

Over the vacation, the School has decided to set the Centres on a more formal footing, and we have been required to formulate a Constitution. This is printed in this Newsletter. As part of the Centre's organisation, four members who are also SOAS staff will form a management committee. They are nominated by the chair, and serve for the same term as her/him. One of these will normally be the previous chair. I have asked Drs Dodd, Martinez, Pizziconi and Prof Gerstle (previous chair) to serve, and they have kindly agreed.

This year, once again, one of the Ivan Morris Memorial Prizes was awarded to a SOAS student. Three prizes are given annually for outstanding MA thesis in the field of Japanese Studies. Constantino Pes took Joint Second Prize for his paper on 'Nikkeijin: Memory and Changes of Identity Between Two Worlds'. Congratulations. Theses are recommended by supervisors, and I would remind all staff who tutor MA students to submit outstanding theses for the competition.

Finally, anyone who is still receiving this Newsletter in hard copy but is also online, please let us know so we can remove you from the mailing list. This will save funds and also ensure news arrives faster.

Timon Screech
Chair of the Japan Research Centre

Japan Research Centre CONSTITUTION

1. The Japan Research Centre (hereafter 'the Centre') is one of several officially constituted regional centres of the School of Oriental and African Studies.
2. The principal role of the Centre is to promote, co-ordinate and disseminate information relating to the academic study of the Japanese archipelago, its languages, peoples and cultures, across disciplines. The Centre's interests cover the area of the modern nation of Japan, and also the people of its diaspora.
3. Membership is open to all staff and postgraduate students at the School with an interest in Japan. It is open to individuals outside the School who share an academic interest in the field, subject to the approval of the Centre Chair and inclusion in the formal list of Centre members held by the Centre and published in the School Calendar. All members of the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (hereafter 'the Sainsbury Institute') are eligible to become members of the Centre.
4. The Centre operates principally through a termly newsletter and weekly seminars. It extends Academic Hospitality to visiting research fellows, and engages in the organisation (or collaborative organisation) of conferences and other events.
5. The Centre is the collectivity of expertise on Japan within the School, and it will seek to make this expertise available wherever required.
6. As a SOAS Centre, the Japan Research Centre is responsible to the Academic Board (through the Academic Review Committee) and to the Director and Principal of the School for its activities and conduct.
7. The Centre is headed by a Chair, who must be a member of SOAS academic staff, (this may include those who are attached to SOAS by virtue of their affiliation with the Sainsbury Institute).
8. The Chair should normally serve a term of not less than three years, commencing during the summer vacation. This may be extended, but would not normally last for more than a total of two full terms, i.e. six years. A head will only continue beyond two terms where no other candidate is available.
9. The choice of Chair will be made through informal discussions among SOAS members of the Centre. Where more than one eligible candidate is proposed, a secret ballot will be held; only members of the academic staff of SOAS, or of the Sainsbury Institute, will have the vote.
10. If a suitable successor cannot be found and the incumbent does not wish to continue in post, the Centre can either be maintained by the Management Committee until a new Chair is found, or be suspended, pending the selection of the new Chair or the closure of the Centre.
11. An Annual General Meeting, open to all Centre members, and notified by email to all members at least three weeks in advance of the appointed date, shall be held during term time in each academic year. All relevant matters will be discussed. Formal minutes shall be taken and kept and made available for inspection by Centre members.

12. Subject to email notice no less than ten days in advance, the Chair (or, alternatively, at least three other members of the Management Committee), can convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to discuss and issues relating to the organisation, purpose and leadership of the Centre. Extraordinary General Meetings must be attended by the Centre Chair.
13. The constitution of the Centre is subject to approval and periodic review by the Academic Review Committee. Amendments to the constitution can be proposed by a majority of members present at a duly notified Annual General Meeting, but they remain subject to ratification by the Academic Review Committee.
14. The Management Committee shall be made up of the following: The Chair, the previous Chair, the head of the Japan Section of the East Asia Department, one member of the Sainsbury Institute and two other members of SOAS academic staff who are also Centre members. The Management Committee therefore normally comprises six persons. Where ex officio positions are replicated (such as a Chair who is also a member of the Sainsbury Institute) the Committee will have equivalently fewer members. Where a member of the Management Committee is absent for a protracted period (such as sabbatical leave) the remaining members will invite another member of the SOAS academic staff who is a member of the Centre to sit ad hoc. Members of the Management Committee who are not ex officio, shall be appointed by the incoming Chair and normally continue in post during that Chair's tenure.
15. This constitution comes into effect with the 2001-2 session.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be held on 24 October from 5pm in Room G50.

**Report on Conference/Workshop:
Cult of the Actor: Kabuki and Kabuki Actor Prints, 4-7 June 2001, SOAS**

More than 150 participants took part in the four-day programme, timed to coincide with the Chikamatsu-za Kabuki performances at Sadlers Wells. The first two days began with the Lecture/Demonstration of the Kabuki actors, Nakamura Ganjiro and his two sons, Kanjaku and Senjaku. This was followed by a range of presentations on Edo and Osaka actor prints by eight specialists: Drew Gerstle, Tim Clark, Roger Keyes, Hiroko Kitagawa, Ryo Akama, Hideyuki Iwata, John Carpenter, and Timon Screech. The final two days were workshops with about 50 participants, led by Clark, Akama, Kitagawa, Keyes, Elizabeth Coombs, and Shiho Sasaki, with sessions in the British Museum and Victoria and Albert Museum. The topics covered were documenting prints, conservation, colour, and databases. Curators from several museums in Britain, continental Europe, and North America also attended. A highlight of the programme was a special Kabuki performance at the Shakespeare Globe theatre by Ganjiro and his sons on the evening of the first day. The conference was supported by the Daiwa Foundation, JFEC, SISJAC, Japan 2001, and the SOAS/UCL AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures.

Drew Gerstle
AHRB Centre for Asian and African Literatures

**Report on the second International Convention of Asia Scholars,
Free University of Berlin, 9-12 August 2001**

Papers covered a wide range of topics in the area of Asian studies. Participants came from an impressive range of countries: in addition to the European contingent, scholars travelled from virtually every continent. As is usually the case, such a gathering gave us all the opportunity to renew acquaintances with academics from other universities and exchange new information and ideas. I myself took part in a panel on issues of Meiji nationalism in Japanese literature. Many interesting points were raised by both participants and audience. It was a shame that this panel, as well as many others, did not attract very large audiences. This was only the second convention of its kind and it is to be hoped that, when it becomes better known, more people will participate.

Stephen Dodd
Department of East Asia

Report on the 2001 Symposium on Japanese Language Education

From 7 to 9 September, the 2001 Symposium on Japanese Language Education was held at Kaetsu Cultural and Educational Centre in New Hall College, University of Cambridge. The event was organized by the British Association for Teaching Japanese (BATJ) of which Kazumi Tanaka of the Department of East Asia is the chair. There were over 170 participants from 21 countries, including from such countries as New Zealand, Singapore, Turkey and Estonia. The guest speakers, Professor Tazuko Ueno of Tokyo Women's University and Ms Robyn Spence-Brown of Monash University, focused on the main theme, 'Multi-dimensional Japanese Language Education — Developing Closer Links between the Tertiary and Secondary Sectors'. A panel discussion followed with the panelists from France, Germany, Australia and the UK, and there was a lively debate on how to bridge the gap between the sectors and the countries across Europe.

There were all together 31 presentations on various aspects of Japanese language education in three days. Professor Yoshikazu Kawaguchi of Waseda University gave a talk on contextualization of grammar on the final day. The symposium gave an opportunity for those involved in Japanese language education in the UK and Europe to come together, regardless of sector, to exchange information and ideas.

The symposium was held in collaboration with the Association of Japanese Teachers in Europe and Association for Language Learning and was generously supported by the Japan Foundation, the Sasakawa Foundation, the Daiwa Foundation, and Japan 2001.

Kazumi Tanaka
Department of East Asia

Grant awarded

I have received an Arts and Humanities Research Board grant as part of their research leave scheme to finish writing my book *One Hundred Years of Japanese Narrative Cinema: A Critical Survey*, Continuum International Publishing (spring 2003).

Also as part of the British Film Institute Education Programme I am taking a series of eight lectures on Japanese Cinema at the British Museum from Thursday 18 October to 13 December 2001. The lectures are part of the World Cinema at the British Museum series.

Isolde Standish
Department of East Asia

New Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow

After completing his B.A. in comparative literature with a focus on French and German, Keith Vincent earned his Ph.D. in modern Japanese literature at Columbia University. While researching his dissertation in Japan he helped organize an intensive workshop in queer theory together with Japanese gay activists. The co-authored volume *Gay Studies* was the result of this workshop along with an anthology of lesbian and gay studies and a new journal called *Practicing Sexualities (Jissen suru sekushuariti)*. His dissertation focused on the emergence of modern subjectivity and paranoid homosociality in late 19th and 20th Japan. He is currently revising the dissertation for publication and working on a book about the history of translation in modern Japan.

Japan – Quest For The New **Six lectures on contemporary Japan** **presented by Asia House and SOAS**

Lecture dates: 25 September, 4th, 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th October.
 Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS
 6.30 - 7.30pm. Admission free

Further information from Asia House, telephone 020 7499 1287,
 email: enquiries@asiahouse.co.uk, webpage: www.asiahouse.org

Concerts and Workshops, Autumn 2001, Department of Music, SOAS

The following Japan-related events at SOAS are being sponsored by the Department of Music. For further details, first contact the organizers named below (if any), see the Music events website (www.soas.ac.uk/music/events.html), or contact the Department of Music, telephone 020 7898 4680, email: music@soas.ac.uk

Tragic Women of Japan and Britain
An evening of Japanese classical dance and music by the Hisago-Kai ensemble
Tuesday 2 October, 7.00pm (doors open 6.45)
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Open to all, no charge, no booking.

Japan's Hisago-Kai troupe offer the traditional Kabuki dance 'Yamamba' (The Old Mountain Woman); 'Lady Macbeth', a new Japanese dance based on Shakespeare; an introduction to the music of the shamisen lute; and a question period at the end. (Workshop on 6 October.)

An official Japan 2001 event.

Workshop in Japanese Classical Dance
by members of the Hisago-kai
Saturday 6 October, 11am - 4.30pm
Room G2, SOAS

Room G2; fee £24 / £12 unwaged.

The Hisago-Kai troupe (see 2 October) will teach the basic postures, gestures and fan movements of classical Japanese dance, including a short nagauta dance entitled 'Ake no Kane' (The Dawn Bell). Aimed at beginners and those of modest experience. Limited to 25 participants.

To book, payment in advance (cheque payable to Japan Interlink, or cash) should be sent to the Department of Music along with your name and contact information. You will receive confirmation of your place, or your cheque will be returned if the class is full. Students should wear loose clothing and socks. Lunch is available in nearby cafeterias, but some participants may wish to bring theirs.

An official Japan 2001 event.

Short Course in Japanese Noh Dance and Song
Monday 22 -Thursday 25 October, daily, 10am-12.30 (dance), 2-4pm (singing)
Venue to be confirmed

Noh, a music-dance-drama, features a Zen-influenced restraint that contrasts with the populist, flamboyant Kabuki. Akira Matsui, a Master of the Kita school, has been training students overseas for nearly a quarter-century. He returns to SOAS for another short course of dance and singing.

Beginners welcome. Fees: £50 / 30 concessions for dance (10 hrs total); £30 / 20 concessions for singing (8 hrs); £70 / 40 for both classes; further discounts for SOAS Music or Japanese-language students. Payment in advance to the Department of Music (cheque payable to:SOAS

Noh Group, or cash). For venue and course content, contact Riko Sherratt (<riko.uk@japanglobe.net>; telephone 020 8993 9505, mob. 07850 995 008). Students should wear loose clothing and socks.

Songs and Rhythms of Okinawa: From the Islands to the Cosmos
Monday 26 November, 7pm
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS

Open to all, tickets IN ADVANCE £10 / £3 students

Featuring Naomi Maki (piano / voice), Joji Hirota (percussion), Robin Thompson (Okinawan instruments / voice), and the SOAS Okinawan Music Ensemble. Japan's southern island chain, Okinawa, has produced a music that has captivated not only the Japanese but many World Music fans. The evening will include traditional folk and classical songs as well as a range of pieces inspired by these. As always in Okinawa, the event will conclude with the up-tempo improvisatory kachaashii dance, audience participation definitely expected!

All profits go to the charity Free the Children. To book, send a cheque payable to Songs and Rhythms of Okinawa, to: Songs and Rhythms of Okinawa, 19 Highfield, Watford, Herts WO19 5DY. For further information, email <eritom@uk2.so-net.com> or telephone 020 7722 0539. ONLY SOAS STUDENTS should book via the Music Department.

An official Japan 2001 event.

2B1 Exploring bullying in partnership with Japan and England
performing at the Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre
10 October at 7.30pm

All welcome. Free admission.

Details from Tie Tours, Holloway School, Hilldrop Road, London N7 OJG. Telephone 020 7619 9115, fax 020 7700 3697, email: tie@tietours.com
 website: <http://www.tietours.com>

An official Japan 2001 event

Japan: Shinto Art and Ritual
One day conference on Shinto Arts
Saturday 13 October 2001
Lecture Theatre, Elizabeth Fry Building, University of East Anglia, Norwich

Organised by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in co-operation with the Department of Japanese Antiquities, The British Museum

Speakers include:

Carmen Blacker, University of Cambridge

Varieties of Shinto

Victor Harris, The British Museum

Three sacred treasures

Gregory Irvine, Victoria & Albert Museum

Masks in Japanese religion and performing arts

Simon Kaner, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

How can we know about prehistoric beliefs in the Japanese archipelago?

Yukiko Shirahara, Handa Fellow, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures

Shinto painting

The day includes gallery talks in the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts. There will also be an informal reception at the Centre.

The seminar is co-organised with Victor Harris, Keeper of Department of Japanese Antiquities, The British Museum.

For further information and registration please contact: Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, 61 The Close, Norwich NR1 4DW.

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

Admission free. Advance booking is recommended.

An official Japan 2001 event.

**Kyoto University International Symposium:
Changes in the Japanese Economy Facing the New Century**

Wednesday 28 November, 9am to 6pm, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

Admission is free but please send your name and affiliation to: london@kier.kyoto-u.ac.jp

**Kanji Aptitude Test
3 February 2002**

The next Kanji Aptitude Test will be held in London at the SOAS Language Centre.

Test date: Sunday 3 February 2002

Deadline for applications: Thursday 20 December 2001

Details of levels and fees, application forms, and samples of the different test levels can be obtained from the Test Co-ordinator: Mrs Yoshiko Jones, Language Centre, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG.

Telephone: 020 7898 4876, fax: 020 7898 4889, email: yj1@soas.ac.uk

www.soas.ac.uk/languagecentre/japanese

**The Sainsbury Institute for the Study
of Japanese Arts and Cultures**

is pleased to invite all members of the JRC to celebrate
the opening of new headquarters (64 The Close, Norwich)

and

the book launch of *Births and Rebirths in Japanese Art*

2.00pm, Sunday 14 October
Prior's Hall, Cathedral Close, Norwich

The opening talk is given by Ian Buruma
Ian Buruma is a journalist who has written extensively on
Japan with wit and perceptive insight

Further details at website: www.sainsbury-institute.org/

Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, SOAS
CSJR SEMINARS
Thursdays, 5 - 6:30pm, Room 336

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| 11 October | Matsuoka Hideaki (CSJR)
Beyond diaspora: Japanese new religions in Brazil |
| 25 October | Cynthea Bogel (University of Washington/SISJAC)
Material and immaterial functions of image in ninth century Japanese esoterics |
| 15 November | Ian Astely (University of Edinburgh)
Ancestors, predecessors and successors:some issues of lineage in Shingon Buddhism |
| 29 November | Bernhard Scheid (Austrian Academy of Sciences)
What's wrong with 'Shinto'? |
| 12 December
Room G50
<u>JRC and CSJR joint</u>
<u>seminar</u> | Tadeusz Skorupski (SOAS)
Obsequies and ancestral worship in Japanese Buddhism from the perspective of Indian Buddhism |

For further information on the seminar please contact the convenor,
 Lucia Dolce, on 020 7898 4217, ld16@soas.uk

JRC Academic Visitors

Mr Satoshi Inomata, Institute of Developing Economies, JETRO
March 2000 to March 2002

Dr Tokajiro Kubo, Doshisha University
March 2001 to April 2002

Dr Yumiko Mizuno, Toyo Gakuen University
April 2001 to March 2002

Dr Mugiko Nishikawa, Konan University
September 2001 to August 2002

Dr Mariko Sakurai, Chiba Keizai College
April 2001 to March 2002

Dr Mishio Sato, Keio University
May 2001 to March 2002

Dr Yasutami Suzuki, Kokugakuin University
June 2001 to January 2002

Professor Yuriko Takahashi, Sophia University
April 2000 to March 2001, extended to March 2002

Dr Kubo Tokujiro, Doshisha University
March 2001 to April 2002

JRC Members

Research and travel

John T Carpenter, Department of Art and Archaeology, has been reappointed as Donald Keene Lecturer in Japanese Art, as of 1 October 2001.

Surimono Celebrating Ichikwa Danjûrô VII in Osaka, presented at The Cult of the Actor: Symposium on Kabuki and Kabuki Actor Prints, SOAS, June 2001. Publication of proceedings forthcoming.

Copies of Copies of Copies: Inklings of a Japanese Style of Calligraphy in Middle-Heian Transcriptions of Ancient Chinese Epistolary Writing, presented at the History and Practice of Copying in Japan conference held at Oxford-Brookes University, September 2001. Publication of proceedings forthcoming.

Lucia Dolce, East Asia Department, attended the History and Practice of Copying in Japan conference, Oxford Brookes University, September 2-5 (chaired a session).

Attended the symposium Undiscerned Forms: Kami-Buddha Combination (shinbutsu shugo) and Japanese Religion, SOAS, Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions, September 20-21 (presented the paper Meanings of kami in medieval Hokkeshu).

Timon Screech, Department of Art and Archaeology, spoke at the Art in Asia/Asia in Art conference, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, September 2001.

Publications

John Carpenter 'The Subtle Textures of Antiquarian Imagination: Kubo Shumman and the National Learning Movement', *Proceedings of the First Hotei Publishing Conference* (forthcoming, autumn 2001).

Andrew Gerstle *Chikamatsu: Five Late Plays*, Columbia University Press, 2001.

'Japanese Traditional Theatre in the World', *Pacific Friend*, vol.29, no.4, August 2001, pp.26-27.

'Capturing the Essence of Performance', *Asian Art*, (Special Supplement, 'The Art of Kabuki') May 2001, pp. vi-vii.

