

JRC *News*

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

- 16 January Dr Kazuo Ueno (Archaeologist)
Evidence and its interpretation in Japanese New Stone
Age Archaeology
- 23 January Dr Toshiyuki Nishikawa (Surugadai University)
A comparative analysis of the electoral systems and
behaviour in Japan and Britain
- 30 January Dr Keith Vincent, (New York University, and Sainsbury Fellow)
Japan's homosocial modernity
- 6 February Dr Richard Wiltshire (SOAS, and King's College London)
Framing the plot: *shimin nouen* and recreational
horticulture in Japan

The seminars for the second half of term are to be announced at a later date.

Welcome back to the new term. The next few months will see the end of Japan 2001, which since May had provided so many events. The main SOAS contribution is still ahead, however, with the exhibition *A Garden Bequest - Plants from Japan* held in the Brunei Gallery from 30th January. This is organised by the Japan Society, but SOAS is glad to have provided the space. Also, in connection with the Early Ukiyo-e exhibition now at the Royal Academy, SOAS and the Sainsbury Institute will sponsor a two-day Symposium, *Early Ukiyo-e: New Perspectives*. Details of these events can be found in this newsletter.

There are congratulations and welcomes to be offered. Anna Schegoleva has won this year's Sanwa Fellowship. We are grateful to the Sanwa Bank for its continuing generosity. A new Handa Fellow has also arrived, Junko Muto, who has recently received her PhD from Gakushu-in University on early actor prints. The last Sainsbury Fellow for this session, Mikiko Hirayama, is also now here. She took her PhD at the University of Pittsburgh and specialises in modern Japanese art, criticism and theory. We also welcome new visiting academics, and say good-bye to those who will leave at the end of term, following the Japanese academic year.

After discussions the Monday Japanese-language seminars have been abandoned. This is a pity, but owing to pressure of other events these were poorly attended. However, we are likely to secure funding (pending as *JRC News* goes to press) for a special set of JRC seminars in the second half of this term. The intention is to invite speakers from further away than is normally possible, and to group the talks around a theme. These seminars only will be held on Mondays, to facilitate transport arrangements. This Newsletter only lists the seminars for the first half of term, but details of the special series will be sent out by email, and posters will also be put up around the School.

Finally, I shall retire as Chair of the JRC shortly, and we are now looking for a replacement to take over from this summer. According to the new Centre Constitution, any JRC member who is a SOAS lecturer is eligible and welcome to put their name forward.

Timon Screech
Chair of the Japan Research Centre

Sainsbury Institute

The Sainsbury Institute moved into its new headquarter premises in Norwich this October, and celebrations were held, including a lecture by Ian Buruma, held in the ancient Priory Hall. The Institute now occupies a fine Georgian house (with mediaeval undercroft and also Victorian additions), and has office and seminar space. The new Lisa Sainsbury Library within the premises has received important donations of books from Professor Masatomo Kawai (former Sotheby Fellow at the Institute), and Sir Hugh Cortazzi (who will be well known to all at SOAS). The Library aims to become a regional centre for study, concentrating on Japanese ceramics and applied arts.

The new institute address is: 64 The Close, Norwich NR1 4DN

Telephone and fax numbers are unchanged at 01603 624 349 and 625 011

The website has been revamped and can be found at www.sainsbury-institute.org

A Garden Bequest — Plants from Japan Portrayed in Books, Paintings and Decorative Art of 300 Years 30 January – 22 March 2002, Brunei Gallery, SOAS

This exhibition celebrates the wealth of plant material which has been introduced from Japan to the West over the last three centuries. A Garden Bequest — Plants from Japan puts the modern British garden into context through a wonderful array of traditional works of art dating from the 17th century, including porcelain, lacquer, paintings, prints, illustrated books and decorative papers.

Open Monday – Friday, 10.30am - 5.00pm, Saturday 1.00 - 5.00pm

Closed Sunday

Telephone 020 7898 4915 (Brunei Gallery) or 020 7637 2388 (SOAS)

Admission free

A Japan Society event

International Symposium EARLY UKIYO-E: NEW PERSPECTIVES Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS 2 – 3 February 2002

Organised by The Royal Academy of Arts, London and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in conjunction with the exhibition *The Dawn of the Floating World* (Royal Academy of Arts, 24 November 2001 – 17 February 2002)

The time is ripe for a completely new scholarly assessment of the origins and development of early ukiyo-e. Traditionally the approach has been based almost entirely on the study of individual artists. It is of paramount importance that this artist-based research continues, and the recent exhibition (Chiba City Museum of Arts, October– November 2000) devoted to Hishikawa Moronobu (d. 1694) provides a model for reassessing the oeuvre of ‘the founder of the ukiyo-e school’. But other developments in ukiyo-e and related studies also offer exciting potential for a re-examination of the ways in which the history of early ukiyo-e can be written.

Since the 1980s there has been a resurgence of interest in the study of ukiyo-e painting. The recent publication by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Kodansha of highlights from the

unparalleled Boston collections of *nikuhitsu* (3 vols., 2000) puts into place one of the final pieces of the jigsaw of paintings now scattered in collections all around the world. Early ukiyo-e prints rely almost entirely for their style, content and formats on pre-existing genres of painting. The early history of ukiyo-e is an exciting dynamic of mutual influence between paintings and prints. This is very evident in the arrangement of the exhibition at the Royal Academy and will be emphasised to the audience that attends the conference.

The 1990s have seen a relaxation of censorship in Japan, permitting for the first time the unapologetic appreciation and study of erotic paintings and prints (*shunga*). The frank depiction of explicit love-making in painted and printed form was one of the distinguishing features of early ukiyo-e. But much remains to be done to re-establish original contexts for the meanings and uses of the large quantities of erotica that was produced. Once again, publication by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston and Kodansha of highlights from the hitherto unknown Boston collection of painted *shunga* (1 vol., 2001) will assist scholars to map the parameters of Japanese erotic art.

The parodic re-working of traditional cultural themes into comic floating world pictures — a genre now known as *mitate-e* — also quickly reached epidemic proportions at the hands of entrepreneurs such as the author-artist-publishers Okumura Masanobu (1686–1764). Even if these were issued primarily with light-hearted intent, clearly at deeper level a much more profound process of cultural revamping was taking place. Recent research by historians of popular literature and the theatre will place this phenomenon in a much broader context.

This will be the first time that leading scholars from Japan, North America and Europe will meet in London to exchange New Perspectives on Early Ukiyo-e. The symposium is held to coincide with the major exhibition *The Dawn of the Floating World: Early Ukiyo-e Prints and Paintings (1650-1765)* from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston (Royal Academy of Arts, London, 24 November 2001 – 17 February 2002). It will reinforce the impact of the exhibition by sharing the results of new research into early ukiyo-e with the interested public and specialists alike.

Booking (via Education Department, Royal Academy of Arts): telephone 020 7300 5839.

Fees for the conference are as follows:

two days: £75 (£65 concessions/RA Friends, £25 students)

one day: £50 (£15 students)

Fees include tea, coffee, lunch, reception and private view of the exhibition.

For further details telephone 020 7300 5839 (Education Department, Royal Academy)

The symposium *New Perspectives on Early Ukiyo-e* has been made possible by The Japan Foundation, Japan 2001 and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures.

New Perspectives on Early Ukiyo-e inaugurates a colloquy series *Japanese Literature in Art*, sponsored by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in association with the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, which promotes an interdisciplinary study of Japanese visual culture. The colloquy series, to be convened annually, will support research and publications that take new approaches to text-image relationships in Japanese art, focussing especially on the interaction of literary or performing arts with calligraphy, painting and prints. Aimed at fostering closer relationships between scholars in Japan and the West, the colloquies will encourage international co-operation on research projects and mutual translation of recent scholarship in various languages.

Emeritus Professor William Beasley

Professor William (Bill) Beasley was awarded the prestigious Japan Foundation Award. Since 1973, the Japan Foundation has conferred the Award annually on individuals and organisations both in Japan and abroad for their substantial contribution to mutual understanding between Japan and the rest of the world. In 1983 Professor Beasley received the Order of the Rising Sun, Third Class from the Japanese Government and in 1996 he was given the Japan Festival Award for promoting a deeper understanding of Japanese culture in the UK.

Sanwa Grant Awarded

Ghost stories in Japan: re-constructing horror in modernity (preliminary thesis title)

My PhD thesis concerns spirituality and horror culture in contemporary Japan on the basis of research on ghost stories, or so called “new urban myths”. My research on Japanese new urban myths attempts to put into context the significance of ghost tales in modern Japan. I am interested here in formation and construction of the stories on the urban territory of Japan, their spreading (with the help of mass-media) and place in popular culture today. Besides, I plan to look at the ghost world from the point of space-time theories and try to decide whether *ikai* is an alternative term for the otherworldliness or another dimension of reality.

My fieldwork is oriented towards those who listen, remember and/or (re)tell the stories. I started my fieldwork in 2000 by distributing questionnaires in Kyoto schools and interviewing my respondents. Besides a series of follow-up interviews on encounters with ghosts, I will gain access to other possible sources of information (such as mass media databases, newspapers on CDs, latest research publications) and consult Japanese colleague researchers. Therefore I will be able to undertake thorough research supported by direct contact with the horror culture concerned.

Anna Schegoleva (anka@soas.ac.uk)

MA Japanese Studies

The following dissertations were submitted by students as part of the MA Japanese Studies programme, 2000-2001.

Paul Blackwell, Yakuza: Post war development of organised crime and the threat to Japanese identity. (Supervisor Dr D Martinez)

Mark Erdmann, Gunki Monogatari as literature and history: the birth and evolution of a common ‘Japanese’ cultural identity. (Supervisor Dr T Screech)

John Gibson, Take me to another place: the journey in the works of Murakami Haruki. (Supervisor Dr S Dodd)

Yuki Komatsu, Creativity in the traditional Japanese arts. (Supervisor Dr D Martinez)

Shang-Yuan Lan, The impact of Japanese colonialism on the economic development of Taiwan. (Supervisor Professor C Howe)

Miranda Ng, Japanese FDI in Singapore. (Supervisor Professor C Howe)

Joung-Won Park, Configurationality of Japanese and Korean. (Supervisor Dr H Hoshi)

- Erik Schicketanz**, The discourse on superstition and the modern transition of Japanese Buddhism. (Supervisor Dr R Sims)
- Junko Shimura**, How is the aesthetic sensibility on Japanese calligraphy assessed at a society? Aesthetic dialogue between Japan and the UK. (Supervisor Dr D Martinez)
- Howard Sills**, Okinawa 1995-98, the land-lease stand off, Futenma relocation and the fall of Ota. (Supervisor Dr L Connors)
- Lucy Swainson**, Urban nostalgia for a pastoral fantasy: how the city has been overlooked in the search for Japanese cultural identity. (Supervisor Dr D Martinez)
- Ana Trujillo-Dennis**, Perceptions of Tokugawa culture: three Spaniards in early 17th century Japan. (Supervisor Dr T Screech)

2001 Japanese Language Proficiency Test

Four hundred and thirty three candidates applied for the Japan Foundation's 2001 Japanese Language Proficiency Test which was held at SOAS on Sunday 2 December: Level 1: 46 candidates, Level 2: 125 candidates, Level 3: 154 candidates, Level 4: 108 candidates.

The results will be sent out in early March by the Japan Research Centre. Our thanks to staff and students for assistance on the day.

Japan Society Library

Due to ongoing work the Japan Society Library at Swire House will be open to members for a limited service only; the opening hours are Wednesday 16.30-18.30, Friday 11.30-14.00. Library books are available for consultation only and not for loan; a reading area is provided within the Library for the use of members. There is no need to contact the Society prior to a visit to the library during the above opening hours, but those with special requirements or particular areas of interest or enquiry may wish to consult Patrick Knill, the Library Assistant at the Society's offices Swire House, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ, telephone 020 7828 6330, fax 020 7828 6331, email ajhp@japansociety.org.uk

The Japan Research Centre is a Corporate Member of the Japan Society.

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; extended to 25 March 2003
- 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 Miho Shimohara, Kagoshima University

October 2001 to January 2002

Professor Yuriko Takahashi, Sophia University

April 2000 to March 2001, extended to March 2002

JRC Members

Research and travel

Lucia Dolce, East Asia Department, delivered the paper In the Name of the ‘True’ Dharma: Orthodoxy, Sectarian Legitimation and Religious Conflicts in Japanese Buddhism at the international conference *Le Religioni e La Pace*, 3-5 December 2001, Ateneo Veneto, Venice.

Dr Hiroto Hoshi, East Asia Department, gave seminars at Kyushu University, Fukuoka, Japan on 15th and 17th December.

Dr Barbara Pizziconi, East Asia Department, gave a talk at the international symposium *Issues in Beginners Level Japanese Language Teaching — An International Comparison*, in Tsukuba, Japan on the 23 December.

Dr Pizziconi also participated in the European Project for Japanese Language Teaching Material workshop held in Berlin 6-10 November. The project is an attempt to design and produce a publicly accessible database of Japanese Language Teaching material based on the needs of students and teachers of Japanese in European Institutions.

Dr Timon Screech, Art and Archaeology Department, attended the Body Image conference sponsored by the Kyoto National Museum in October.

Publications

Hiroto Hoshi, ‘Relations Between Thematic Structure and Syntax: A Study on the Nature of Predicates in Japanese’, SOAS working papers in linguistics and phonetics, 2001.

Reiko Tanimura (visiting academic), *li Naosuke: shuyo to shite no cha no yu.*, Kenbunsha, 2001.

Sainsbury Institute, *Births and Rebirths in Japanese Art*, Hotei Press, 2001, essays by **John Carpenter** and **Timon Screech**

Contributions to JRC News

Voluntary contributions towards the cost of mailing the *JRC News* are very welcome.

We would like to suggest the following guidelines:

Corporate subscribers: £50 Individuals: £10 Students/Concessions: Free

Please make your cheque payable to SOAS and send to the Japan Research Centre.

Subscriptions are for one year.

We would like to thank our readers who have already sent in contributions.

.....

JRC News mailing list

Please complete this slip and send to the JRC, or email details to <bl1@soas.ac.uk>

- I wish to de-subscribe from the postal mailing list
- Please include my new postal address on the mailing list

NAME

ADDRESS

.....

.....

.....

.....

Japan Research Centre

School of Oriental and African Studies

University of London

Thornhaugh Street

Russell Square

London WC1H 0XG

Telephone 020 7898 4892

Email bl1@soas.ac.uk

Fax 020 7898 4489

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

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