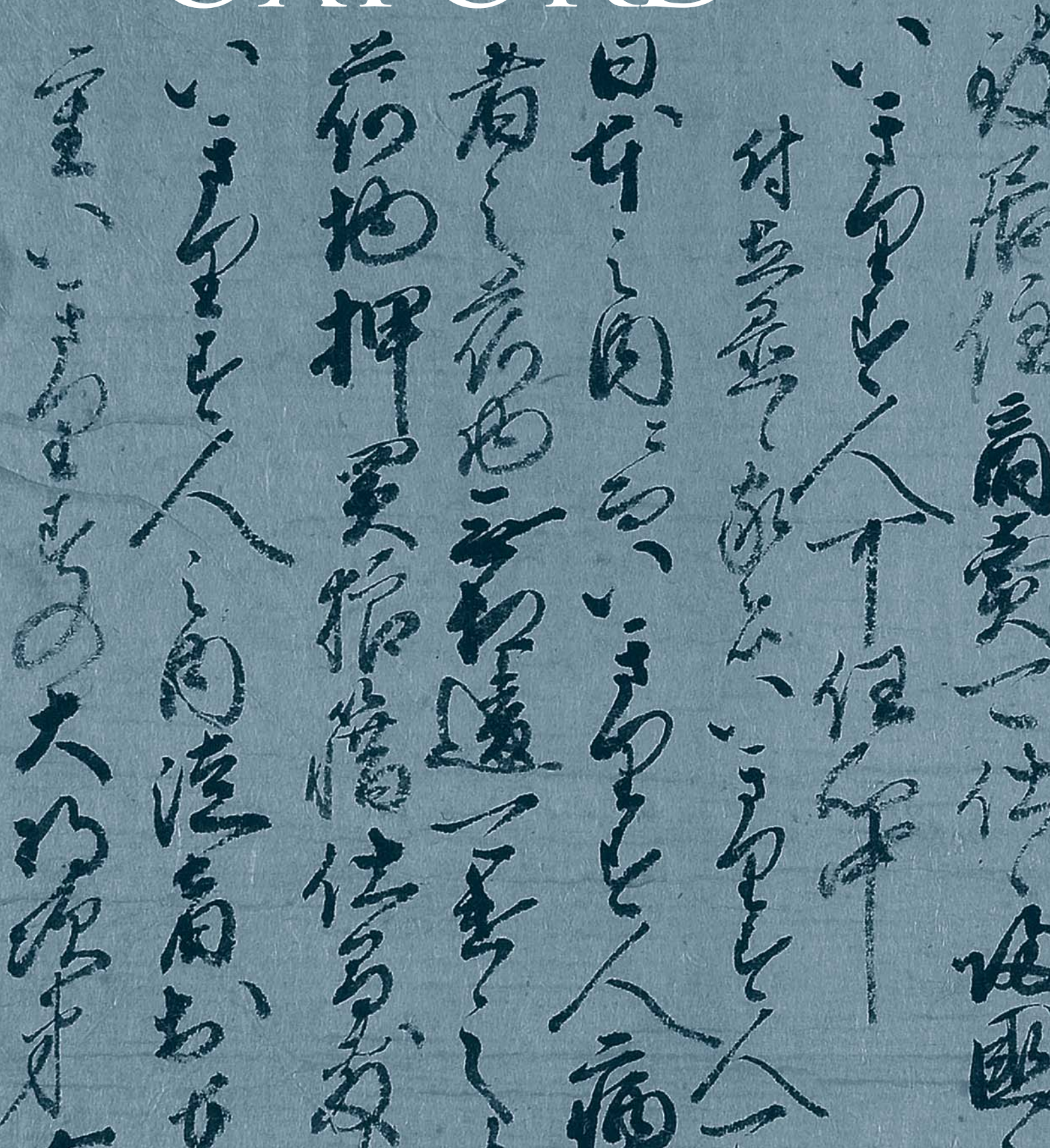


JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD



Japanese studies in the University of Oxford has been examining its roots this past year.

The Nissan seminar series held in autumn 2009 had two papers that in different ways traced the development of interest in Japan here from the early seventeenth century up to the late twentieth.

However there is much evidence – as is reflected in this newsletter – that the study of Japan is alive, active and busy re-inventing itself.

The Ashmolean museum, whose first Japanese artefacts were also acquired in the seventeenth century, has completely restructured its collection and displays. It is worth visiting Oxford just to see the new Japanese galleries.

As Japanese politics has entered a period of rapid and sometimes confusing change scholars such as Arthur Stockwin and Ian Neary are in constant demand to explain not only what is happening today but also to predict how it will turn out tomorrow.

Scholarship among the student body is moving in multiple directions as the brief reports on dissertations currently being written suggest.

The major research project on Japan's linguistic history has already attracted attention from scholars in Japan and elsewhere and has a programme of events that will make Oxford an international centre for this kind of work.

Meanwhile, and not reported anywhere in this newsletter, we are in the process of a complete restructure of the undergraduate Japanese programme. More details will appear in our next edition. Japan and Japanese has been the object of study in Oxford for several centuries but we are constantly aware of the need to reform and improve how we do it.

Bjarke Frellesvig and Ian Neary

Faculty teaching about Japan and doing research on Japan in the University of Oxford

Jenny Corbett (BA ANU, PhD Michigan)
Reader in the economy of Japan

Inge Daniels (BA Catholic University Leuven, MA Nara Women's University, PhD UCL)
University Lecturer in Social Anthropology (Visual and Material Culture)

Linda Flores (MA Washington, PhD UCLA)
University Lecturer in Japanese (Modern Japanese Literature)

Bjarke Frellesvig (MA, PhD Copenhagen)
Professor of Japanese Linguistics

Roger Goodman (BA Durham, DPhil Oxford)
Nissan Professor of Modern Japanese Studies

Junko Hagiwara (MA, Ealing College of Higher Education)
Senior Instructor in Japanese

Phillip Harries (MA, DPhil Oxford)
University Lecturer in Japanese (Classical Japanese literature)

Ekaterina Hertog (MA Moscow, MSc, DPhil Oxford)
Career Development Fellow in the Sociology of Japan

Stephen Wright Horn (MA Osaka, PhD Ohio State University)
Postdoctoral Researcher in Japanese Linguistics

Hiroe Kaji (MA Ulster, MA Brookes University)
Instructor in Japanese Language

Takehiko Kariya (BA MA Tokyo, PhD Northwestern)
Professor in the Sociology of Japan

Sho Konishi (PhD Chicago)
University Lecturer in Modern Japanese History

James Lewis (MA, PhD Hawaii)
University Lecturer in Korean History (Japanese diplomatic and economic history of the pre-modern period, Japanese relations with Korea)

Ian Neary (BA Sheffield, DPhil Sussex)
Professor in the Politics of Japan

Kaori Nishizawa (BA Tsukuba)
Instructor in Japanese Language

Gian-Piero Persiani (BA Rome, MA Leicester, MPhil Columbia)
Departmental Lecturer in Japanese Literature

Clare Pollard (MA Cambridge, DPhil Oxford)
Assistant Keeper at the Ashmolean Museum (Japanese ceramics)

Mark Rebick (MA Toronto, PhD Harvard)
University Lecturer in the Economy of Japan

Kerri L Russell (MA, PhD Hawaii)
Postdoctoral Researcher in Japanese Linguistics

Mari Sako (MSc, PhD London)
Professor in Management Studies (Saïd Business School; Japanese management and labour)

Izumi Tytler (MA London)
Bodleian Japanese Librarian (Bodleian Japanese Library)

M Antoni J Üçerler (DPhil Oxford)
Research Scholar (Campion Hall; Japanese-Western contacts in the 16th and 17th centuries)



Student Research

All Oxford degrees in Japanese include a dissertation, from the maximum 15,000 word dissertation in the undergraduate course to the doctoral dissertation. Some of our students present their ongoing work here:

Alex Bristow (DPhil candidate DPIR, St Antony's College)

'Gaiatsu': the role of US pressure in changes to Japan's security policy since 1945

My thesis is about the role of US pressure (gaiatsu) in Japan's security policy since 1945. I use official sources from the Foreign Ministry archive in Tokyo to assess Prime Minister Satō's foreign policy (1964–72) and contrast this period with existing accounts of the late 1940s and the early 1990s. Using Robert Putnam's theory of two-level games, I hypothesise that US pressure was only effective when it was coordinated with pressure from within Japan by sections of the Japanese state whose interests were aligned with those of the United States.

Muneto Ozaki (DPhil in Oriental Studies, Hertford College)

Comparative morphology of Korean and Japanese

I am comparing grammatical morphemes in Old Japanese and Middle Korean, and trying to identify those that share common origins. This process involves identifying earlier sound changes and reconstructing grammatical morphemes in pre-Old Japanese and pre-Middle Korean. My comparison covers verbal/adjectival stem formants as well as suffixes and particles.

Ian Rapley (DPhil in Modern Japanese Studies, Queen's College)

Internationalism in early 20th century Japan
I am studying Deguchi Onisaburo's journey to Mongolia in 1924. Undertaken whilst the movements of the leader of Ōmoto were restricted following official suppression of the religion, I think that the expedition and its subsequent representations provide an interesting perspective on the nature of Japanese popular (inter-) nationalism and conceptions of both Japan itself and its position in the world, on a non-state level.

Yumi Cho (MSc Modern Japanese Studies, Pembroke College)

On a journey through art: intercultural exchange and influence between Japan and the West

The relationship between Japan and the West has become increasingly dynamic and many aspects of Japanese society have been influenced by the West, including works of art. The creativity and efficiency with which the Japanese artists acquired and internalised elements of Western art fascinated young European artists such as Whistler and Van Gogh, ultimately resulting in a significant reciprocal influence: the style of *Japonaiserie*. I would like to devote my research to the theme of mutual influences between Japan and the West in the world of art by tracing the journey of influences across continents and to examine how art has served as a medium of communication between East and West.

Sara Chan (BA in Japanese, Pembroke College)

Are robots a feasible solution to Japan's labour shortage problem?

Japan is currently facing problems with recruiting and retaining workers in its agricultural and healthcare industries. My dissertation will examine robots as an alternative source of labour and whether they can feasibly make up for those shortfalls.

Matthew Fletcher (BA in Japanese, St Catherine's College)

Commodity price movements in the Tokugawa with a focus on the Osaka Dōjima market

The project will give a description of the workings and functions of the Osaka Dōjima rice market and by analyzing the relative prices of rice and cotton aims to identify trends of economic development throughout the Edo period. A leveling out of rice prices accompanied by a consistent and marked comparative growth in the price of cotton could indicate the birth of consumerism in Japan and support the theory that Japan was undergoing a period of 'Industrious Revolution'.

Feargal South (BA in Japanese, Hertford College)

Tōgyū by Inoue Yasushi: nihilism in *Tōgyū*

Despite its status as a classic of post-war Japanese literature and Akutagawa Prize-winning work (1950), Inoue Yasushi's novella *Tōgyū* (Bullfight) has never been translated into English, and has received scant attention

in western academic circles. English-language introductions to this author have described the nihilism of his works as 'basically Oriental'. This study uses close textual analysis of *Tōgyū* to re-examine Inoue's nihilism, and is supported by a translation of almost half of the novella. Inoue presents us with an active nihilism, whereby the mystery of man's existence is explored through the disempowerment of the protagonist. This study contributes to our understanding of this important figure in the modern literature of Japan, and questions some of the assumptions we have made about Japanese literature in the past.

New staff



Stephen Wright-Horn

I started my studies from the perspective of sociolinguistics, and more recently I have

been working to incorporate theories of formal syntax, semantics and pragmatics into a realistic view of natural language. After teaching for several years at universities in Japan I started doctoral research at the Ohio State University. I finished my degree with a study of the syntax, semantics, and pragmatics of the 'subject raising to object' construction in Japanese. Now, I am a postdoctoral researcher at the Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics, working on the project 'Verb Semantics and Argument Realization in pre-modern Japanese'. As a preliminary step, the project team is building an electronic corpus that samples Japanese from some of the earliest sources in its history. The work is proving to be demanding and fascinating, and I'm grateful to find myself in such a stimulating environment.



Gian-Piero Persiani

I am interested in large-scale, collective cases of cultural efflorescence, in both modern and

pre-modern contexts. My current project is a study of the *waka* boom of the mid tenth century. In addition to survey courses on classical and modern literature, I teach classes on translation and the classical Japanese language.



Arthur Stockwin

Political revolution in Japan

by Arthur Stockwin

One of the joys of Christmas and New Year is receiving cards from Japanese friends annotated with sharp and revealing comments about the state of their country.

Often these are pessimistic, reflecting on the 'lost decade' that has continued beyond its allotted span of ten years. But one, sent from Kyoto on a card picturing the garden of the Katsura Detached Palace, has the following annotation: 'The year 2009 will continue to carry a weight somewhat similar to that of the year 1989 in Eastern Europe.' This reminds me of an interview I was privileged to have last October in Tokyo with Mr Eda Satsuki, a progressive politician who is now President (Speaker) of the House of Councillors. 'Japan,' he said, 'has had three revolutions. The first was the Meiji Restoration of 1868 and its aftermath; the second was the American Occupation after 1945; and the third is from 2009. The third will prove to have been the most important of the three.'

What is it that has led to these breathtakingly upbeat forecasts? The simple answer boils down to two dates: 30 August and 16 September 2009. On 30 August a general election for the House of Representatives converted a majority of nearly 300 out of 480 seats for the long-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) into a majority for the neophyte Democratic Party (DPJ) of 308 seats. 16 September saw the formation of a brand new government enjoying a thumping majority. Nothing like this had happened since 1949. By contrast in Britain, there have been six complete changes of government from left to right, or from right to left, since 1945. The new government in Tokyo has come in with radical plans to root out the many vested interests that have distorted the economy, to wrest power from unelected bureaucrats and place it firmly in the hands of the elected representatives of the people, to provide adequate social welfare for ordinary struggling families, and to make Japan an Asian power, not just an appendage of the US. The DPJ is not a party of the far left, and it faces a huge challenges. But its structural reform programmes are radical, and the fact that the long-suffering electorate has finally spoken in favour of wholesale change to an atrophied system opens the floodgates to new thinking that may well transform Japan. Recently China has tended to overshadow Japan in the eyes of the mass media, though Japanese GDP remains the second largest in the world. Japan, however, has embarked on a new trajectory, so – watch this space!

At the Nissan Institute we have taught Japanese politics since 1982. When, in that year, I proposed a Japanese politics course for PPE students, I was told by one eminent political scientist that 'perhaps that might be possible for postgraduate students in about five years time,' but I managed to carry the day. Since I retired in 2003, the politics of Japan has been ably taught by Ian Neary, whose book on the founder of the Japanese Levellers Movement (Suiheisha) is now published in the Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies series. Nationally too, we have promoted the study of Japanese politics in annual meetings of the Japanese Politics Colloquium, which a bunch of us founded in 1992. One paper at each Colloquium is devoted to an analytical survey of Japanese political developments during the past year, and one paper to developments in Japanese foreign policy. It is crucial to keep up to date with what is going on, particularly now that such momentous things are happening.

The JET experience

by Alison Evans

After graduating from the Japanese course at Oxford in June 2009, I joined Kyotanabe City Hall in Japan as its first Coordinator for International Relations. Thankfully, Kyotanabe in Kyoto Prefecture is perfectly placed in the heart of Kansai; once on a train one can reach Kyoto, Nara or Osaka in about 30 minutes.

I am here thanks to the Japan Teaching and Exchange Programme, commonly known as JET. The vast majority of its approximately 6,000 participants are Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) who work almost exclusively in schools. Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs), on the other hand, are employed in local authorities and responsible for translation, international events, and sister-city relations, among other things.

Although jobs on the JET programme vary greatly depending on where one is sent without a predecessor I was unsure of what to expect. When I arrived at the beginning of August, it was the middle of Japan's economic year, and everyone around me was settled into their positions. My first few days of rigorous orientation were all one-on-one, and completely in Japanese. Many CIRs have supervisors who speak some or fluent English, but I have only recently met one person in the city hall who can hold a conversation in a European language.

Thus I experienced a steep learning-curve involving a vocabulary of words used and reused throughout the paperwork in the city hall during the first few months. Unfortunately this may have been at the expense of fluency in other languages (including English perhaps!) as I learnt while guiding and interpreting for 15 exchange students from Tübingen University in Germany. The language challenge I fear the most is the telephone, and although I am gradually mastering the many *keigo* phrases, keeping up with callers' eight or ten *kanji*-long workplaces still defeats me almost every time.

On one odd occasion when I went to give a presentation, I was perturbed to discover that I was part of a line-up including a magician, a ventriloquist, and an accordion player. But on the whole the theme of internationalisation has been respected and my various presentations have been listened to attentively by both young and old. The most serious speech I made was for the local Rotary Club where I spoke about being a Global Nomad. At the other end of the scale, I am often sent to kindergartens and pre-schools where I introduce the children to the UK and read such favourites as *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.

My department has also allowed me to plan and hold three different series of events. It is through these that I have learnt the most about the Japanese way of doing things. During the first few months, when I felt that no decisions or progress were being made, I thought Japan would teach me the heavenly virtue my mother always lamented that I lacked: patience. And to some extent it has, but more than that, working here has also taught me to trust the process and that relying on others is not necessarily a sign of failure. In a way never possible while an exchange student, working in local government in Japan has made all the language lessons and many social anthropology lectures a reality.

The people of Kyotanabe have welcomed me and invited me to all manner of events. I have visited the local temple and shrine, thrown beans at oni, and made kites, masks and more traditional British and Japanese food than ever before I feel like Japan has become one of my many homes in a way it never had been on previous visits. I look forward to putting the skills learnt here through the various tasks of translation, interpretation, making speeches, visiting schools, handling relations with foreign cities, and event organisation to good use in future.



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Photograph by Yukumo Itaska



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Noh in Oxford

'*Kiyotsune* and *Pagoda*, Getting to Noh', was a theatrical and educational project originally conceived by Jannette Cheong, a poet with much experience of international collaboration in education and the arts, and Richard Emmert, artistic director of a professional mixed nationality Noh company based in Tokyo and New York.

The Oxford section of the tour started in September 2009 with two schools-based workshops, in which Richard Emmert successfully engaged large groups of teenagers in *suriashi* and other aspects of Noh performance. The university programme, which was part of Oxford's contribution to the Japan-UK 150 Festival, began in December with Kitazawa Hideta's mask-carving demonstrations and workshops. These were held over three days at the Pitt Rivers Museum and attracted over 1800 people. Richard Emmert and Jannette Cheong were joint speakers at a special session of the Nissan Institute seminar entitled *Classical Noh Structures and Contemporary Noh Theatre*. The Oxford *Kiyotsune/Pagoda* events climaxed with Noh in a packed O'Reilly Theatre at Keble. The hero of the emotionally fraught classical play that was performed first, *Kiyotsune*, was played by Oshima Masanobu, the head of the Oshima Noh Theatre; *Pagoda*, Jannette Cheong's traditionally framed and heart-rending story of quest for a displaced loved-one, was performed by an international cast of male and female performers – the lead role was played by Oshima Kinue, the only professional female artist in the Kita school. Many in the audience felt that with this combination of classical Japanese and contemporary English-language Noh plays they had been enabled to approach closer to what is often perceived as a highly specialized theatre genre.



Ashmolean Museum

In November 2009 Oxford's Ashmolean Museum reopened after a £61 million redevelopment and ten months of closure. The new building has doubled the Ashmolean's display space, with thirty nine new galleries spread over six floors. These include two Japanese galleries, which focus on the arts of the Edo and Meiji periods.

The Ashmolean's new displays emphasize cultural connections, contacts and exchanges. This is reflected in the Japanese galleries, where export wares made specifically for the western market are displayed alongside objects for the domestic Japanese market – ceramics, woodblock prints, paintings, lacquer ware, *inrō* and *netsuke*. Highlights of the Japanese collection include world-class collections of Edo period export porcelain and Meiji decorative arts.

An exciting new feature of the Japanese galleries is a tiny tea house designed by the Tokyo architect Komoda Isao – just two *tatami* mats in size. Partially built in Japan by a master carpenter using traditional materials and techniques, the tea house was reconstructed inside the Japanese gallery. A selection of Japanese tea wares are displayed inside the tea house and regular demonstrations of the Japanese tea ceremony will be held.

Cultural legacies:

Japanese treasures from the Bodleian collections

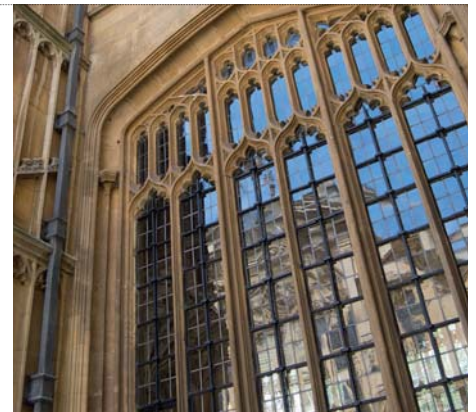
The Bodleian Library now enters its fifth century of continuous existence in the heart of Oxford. The opening of the Library in 1602 was followed by a brief period of activities by English traders in Japan.

As a result, books in the Japanese language made their first appearance in Oxford around that time. The earliest known examples are three volumes of *sagabon* which were acquired in 1629. These were probably brought back to England by employees of the English Factory. The *sagabon* were followed by several exceedingly rare *kirishitanban*, as well as Tokugawa Ieyasu's *Shuinjō* (朱印状), which also came to the Library during the seventeenth century.

As its contribution to Japan-UK 150, the Bodleian arranged a display of these unique treasures in November. The exhibition was curated by Izumi Tytler, Bodleian Japanese Librarian, and coincided with a talk entitled: *Cultural Legacies, East and West: Japanese Treasures from the Bodleian Collections*.

The first part of the talk, given by Antoni Üçerler of Campion Hall, concentrated on the Bodleian's holdings of *kirishitanban*, including the *Sanctos no gosagueo no uchi nuqigaqi*, a compendium of the Acts of the Saints printed at Kazusa in 1591. This was the first book ever printed with moveable type in Japan and it came to the library in 1659.

In the second part of the talk, Izumi Tytler highlighted other treasures, including the original *shuinjō* of 1613 which features as the front cover of this newsletter.



The document, dated to the 18th year of the Keichō period (1613), bears Tokugawa Ieyasu's seal in vermilion and was issued by the shogun to the English East India Company. Among other things, it grants the English merchants trade privileges in Japan.

Japanese Friends of the Bodleian (JFOB)

Japanese Friends of the Bodleian is one of several Friends' groups that support the Bodleian Library. These groups supply the Library with much needed additional funds to enrich our collections and enhance our services. Contributions to these groups provide a channel through which citizens the world over who have visited or used the Library can express their gratitude or maintain their association with it.

Established in Tokyo in 1990, Japanese Friends of the Bodleian provides a network of international friendship and support for the continuing work of preservation and acquisition, in particular its body of knowledge on Japan, carried on by the Library. The association welcomes all who have used the Bodleian or have an interest in its work as members.



Professor Masayoshi Shibatani (left) and Professor Zendo Uwano



Kaori Nishizawa

Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics

The Humanities Division established the Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics (Director: Bjarke Frellesvig) within the Faculty of Oriental Studies in March 2009. The Centre was created to function as an umbrella for research activities related to Japanese language and linguistics through the university. A major four-and-a-half year research project hosted within the Centre is *Verb semantics and argument realization in pre-modern Japanese*, which is funded by a generous award of almost £1 million from the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

The Centre will also serve as a forum for publicizing teaching, seminars, lectures, and other activities of interest to Japanese linguistics, and be a point of access to information for prospective graduate students interested in Japanese language and linguistics. In addition to its membership of nine staff and eleven graduate students within the university, the Centre also has a membership of fourteen external associate members who have a connection with the Centre.

On 15 May 2009 the opening of the Centre was celebrated with a drinks reception attended by approximately fifty guests

including students and staff from the Oriental Institute, Nissan Institute, and from Linguistics. At the drinks reception, two visiting scholars who came to conduct research at the Centre in 2009 were introduced to the Oxford community. The first, Masayoshi Shibatani (Rice University and Kobe University) was at the Centre from mid-March 2009 to mid-June 2009. Shibatani's research interests include language typology, language universals, syntax, Japanese linguistics, and Austronesian linguistics. The second, Zendo Uwano (Tokyo University) was in Oxford mid-May 2009 to mid-September 2009. Uwano specializes in dialects and phonology, and is the Chair of Linguistics at Tokyo University.

Bjarke Frellesvig states 'We were delighted with the successful launch of the Centre, and also to welcome formally our first two visiting scholars. The fact that we are attracting such high profile visitors, as well as the good turnout for the launch party, confirms that Japanese Linguistics is thriving in Oxford and demonstrates the timeliness of the establishment of the Centre.'

Among the Centre's regular activities are the *East Asian linguistics seminar (EALS)* and the weekly *coffee break*, both of which are extremely well attended. EALS takes place on Tuesdays during Hilary Term and features both invited and internal speakers presenting their research. The Centre's *coffee break*, from 11-12pm on Fridays during term time, gives staff and students the opportunity to socialize and discuss research related to Japanese linguistics in a casual, informal setting.

The first major event to be organized by the Centre is the *20th Japanese/Korean linguistics conference*, which is being co-organized with SOAS. This conference will be held in Oxford in early October 2010. The JK conference is a major annual international meeting which will be held outside of the USA for only the second time. Oxford is an excellent choice of location for this conference, as it will likely attract European scholars who are typically unable to attend. The conference will also result in a major publication, also to be organized by the Centre and SOAS.

Japanese language teaching for postgraduates at Oxford by Kaori Nishizawa

A core Japanese language course at postgraduate level has been offered since October 2007, as part of the MSc/MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies programme.

It currently offers three levels, ranging from intermediate to advanced/super-advanced level. The highest-level class may be the most advanced language class at postgraduate level in the EU, tailored for students who already possess excellent language skills (JLPT 1-kyu equivalent or more). This year, the total number of enrolled students is 15, including two MPhil candidates who successfully completed their MSc last year. The course also welcomed two doctoral students from other departments. Student constitution is nationally and culturally diverse, including seven from non-English-speaking backgrounds and four non-EU students.

The course is intensive and highly demanding, its broad aim being for students to gain knowledge and develop language skills and strategies for academic purposes in one or two (if proceeding to the MPhil degree) academic year(s). Materials include various academic works and texts on current issues, which are related to students' interests and research topics, so as to provide resources beyond language learning. Students are encouraged to gather information according to their interests and engage in class discussions. Online video-conferencing in Japanese with students at the Université Paris Diderot, lectures by guest speakers, and an oral presentation day, in which students present on their dissertation topics in a formal conference style with university lecturers and researchers, are also incorporated into the course curriculum to enhance their motivation and practice beyond the classroom.

New Books

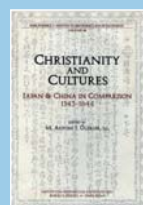


Linda Flores (ed., with Ogino Fuji and the Committee of the Oxford Kobayashi Takiji Symposium Essay Collection).

多喜二の視点から見た身体、地域、教育: 2008年オックスフォード小林多喜二記念論文集 / Bodies, Regions, and Education through the Eyes of Takiji: Report of 2008 Kobayashi Takiji Memorial Symposium at Oxford. Otaru Shoka University and Kinokuniya.



Ian Neary, *The Buraku Issue and Modern Japan: The Career of Matsumoto Jiichiro*. Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies.



Antoni J Üçerler (ed.) *Christianity and Cultures. Japan & China in Comparison, 1543-1644*. Rome: Institutum Historicum Societatis Iesu.

Visitors to the Nissan Institute 2009

In August 2009 we said farewell to John Maher, Professor of Socio-linguistics at ICU.

He and his family had been with us for a year during which time he had supported the graduate seminar programme with his regular attendance and helpful comments. He presented a paper to the Nissan seminar series on *The case for multilingual Japan: 1968-2008* and his wife, Aya Nishizono-Maher MD PhD, a practicing psychiatrist, also presented a paper, *The primary and secondary prevention of eating disorders: the interface between education and mental health*.

events



Mr Eda Satsuki



The Japanese Ambassador and Professor Ian Neary

The Nissan Seminar Series: celebrating 150 years of UK-Japan relations

Between summer 2008 and December 2009 many organizations in Japan and the UK organized events to mark the 150 years since the Treaty of Amity that was signed by representatives of our two countries in 1858. At Oxford we thought we could contribute to this celebration by organizing our seminar series in Michaelmas term around the theme of UK Japan relations. The seminar series got off to an excellent start with a lecture by Eda Satsuki, current president of the House of Councillors. He studied in Oxford in the late 1960s at Linacre College and the Department of Law and it was clear that it had left a deep impression on him.

We invited two papers from colleagues that focused on the connections between Oxford University and Japan. Izumi Tytler and Antoni Üçerler gave an illustrated presentation showing some examples of the collection of pre-modern publications that are held in the Bodleian Library. Brian Powell gave an overview of the direct links that were established between a modernizing Japan and a modernizing Oxford University from the 1870s onwards and finished with a description of the development of Japanese studies here since the mid 1950s. Presentations by Kikuchi Yuko on the *Trans/national legacy of the Mingei movement* and Princess Akiko of Mikasa on *A textbook of Japanese ceramics in Victorian Britain* demonstrated the inter-relationship between Japanese and British art and culture over the last century and a half.

We were also fortunate to have two presentations that examined the UK Japan diplomatic relations in the present and past. At the end of November H E Shin Ebihara visited Oxford. After discussions with the vice-chancellor and a visit to the Ashmolean museum, the ambassador provided us with a wide-ranging account of the recent developments in the political and economic

links between our two countries. Finally, Sir Sydney Giffard shared his experiences as ambassador to Japan and personal observations on Japan that encompassed almost sixty years.

East Asian Linguistics Seminar

The East Asian linguistics seminar is the university's main regular forum for lectures on East Asian languages, including Japanese. The seminar is held every year during Hilary Term in the Faculty of Oriental Studies. In 2009, the seminar had a number of talks on language in Japan, including Peter Sells from SOAS in London talking on *What Do Genitive Subjects Tell Us About Adnominal Clauses?* and Noriko Iwasaki, also from SOAS, on *Topic marking in Japanese and Korean: An empirical study*. Unusually, but gratifyingly, there were two very well attended talks on the Ainu language from very different perspectives: John C Maher (International Christian University, Tokyo) discussed *The Ainu Language in Contemporary Japan: from Language Death to Metroethnic Cool*, and Alexander Vovin (University of Hawaii) lectured on *Strange words in the Man'yōshū and the Fudoki and the distribution of the Ainu Language in Ancient Japan*.

Nissan graduate seminar

The Nissan graduate seminar has been running for many years now and aims, as its principal purpose, to create a venue in which graduate students working on Japan in Oxford, no matter what their department or college, can present their work to each other. This year our programme began with a presentation from William Kelly from Princeton University entitled *Why Japan? Why now? Thoughts on entering Japan studies in 2009*. During the first weeks of term there were further presentations from Ian Neary and Kariya Takehiko on the practical,

methodological and theoretical issues that students commonly encounter as they get to grips with their research topics. However the main focus of this seminar series is to discuss papers about the research in progress that is being undertaken by our research students. In the second part of Michaelmas term we heard papers on Japan's BMD policy, inter-ministerial decision making in Japanese government, ODA policy in Japan and characteristic features of Japanese rugby training.

Forthcoming events

April 2010 *Japan Month*, held by the Ashmolean Museum. There will be a number of events taking place, including lectures on illustrated books of the Edo period and *ikebana*, a number of lunchtime gallery talks, and tea ceremony demonstrations. More details can be found on the Ashmolean's website. (www.ashmolean.org)

1-3 October 2010 *The 20th Japanese/Korean Linguistics Conference* will be held in Oxford – the first time it will be in Europe. Jointly organised by the Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics and the Department of Linguistics at the School of Oriental and African Studies, the JK conference will have three keynote speakers; Taro Kageyama (Director, the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tokyo), Young-Key Kim-Renaud (Chair, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, George Washington University) and Beth Levin (Department of Linguistics, Stanford University).

Spring 2011 *At home in contemporary Japan: beyond the minimal house*: an exhibition at the Geffrye Museum in London by Inge Daniels. The project aims to 're-evaluate contemporary everyday life through an ethnographic lens', examining various aspects of the home through a number of different mediums.

See www.ingedaniels.com for more details.

Machines that changed their worlds: the social history of the sewing machine and the bicycle in Britain and Japan

A one-day workshop on this topic was convened at the History Faculty by Ann Waswo on 7 July 2009.

More or less simultaneously from the late nineteenth century into the early twentieth, two new machines spread to ordinary households in many countries of the world: the sewing machine and the bicycle. Workshop participants examined the transformative effects of these machines in Britain and Japan, giving particular attention to their impacts on women and business practices. Both machines were among the first in the world to be made available on instalment purchase plans, a new and contested form of consumer credit; both introduced their owners to the challenges of using and maintaining fairly sophisticated products of the industrial revolution, and both spawned a significant number of ancillary businesses.

Funding for the workshop was provided by the Nissan Institute and the Daiwa Anglo-Japanese Foundation.

The workshop was registered as a Japan-UK 150 event.

オックスフォード
日本研究

JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD

Oxford Thinking

The Campaign for the University of Oxford

In May 2008, the University of Oxford launched the biggest fundraising Campaign in European history, aiming to raise a minimum of £1.25 billion.

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The University of Oxford invites you to be part of this ambitious and deeply rewarding endeavour which promises so much for Oxford, for scholarship, and for the common good.

For more information, or to find out how you can support the campaign, please visit the website www.campaign.ox.ac.uk

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The Kongyūkai 紺牛会

Former students can keep in touch with each other and their teachers through *Kongyūkai* (dark-blue ox society) which is the name of two internet groups open to all those who have studied or taught for Japanese studies at Oxford University at any time over the past 45 years.

New members can join at:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kongyukai/>
or through Facebook (Groups: Kongyukai).

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