

オックスフォード
日本研究

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JAPANESE STUDIES AT OXFORD



How long will it take for the Tohoku region, or Japan as a whole, to recover from the economic and cultural devastation caused by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear meltdown? Will 11 March 2011 be seen as a turning point in the revival of Japan's fortunes after twenty years of stagnation? If not, will there be any aspect of Japanese policy that changes?

Only one year after the disasters, it is still too early to even start to answer any of these questions. However, as you can read elsewhere in this newsletter, we invited a range of speakers from Japan to attend a workshop at the Nissan institute to help us begin to think through these and similar problems.

At the same time we were talking about the disasters, colleagues from the Oriental Institute were meeting with those from Japan and North America to reflect on the *36 kasen* – the Thirty-six immortals of *waka*. This was a seminar that followed an exhibition, organised within the Bodleian library, of material linked to this tradition within pre-modern poetry.

Perhaps somehow unconsciously we were showing the two sides of Japanese studies here in Oxford. One of which enquires about the nature, impact and likely consequences of contemporary events, while the other reminds us, and the rest of the world, of the depth of Japan's cultural heritage.

Our teaching and research about Japan also ranges across the humanities and social science disciplines. In the seminars, workshops and publications we organise, we seek to make our answers to questions about Japan ancient and modern available to the wider world.

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 Leuven, MA Nara, PhD UCL)
University Lecturer in Social Anthropology

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

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-Korean relations)

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, PhD 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)

Pamela Wace (MSc Reading, DPhil Oxford)
Research Associate (The Pitt Rivers Museum; Japanese Archaeology)



Student Research

All degrees in Japanese at Oxford, including the BA include the writing of a substantial piece of research, from the undergraduate 15,000 word dissertation to the doctoral dissertation. Here we present some examples of the research done by our students:

Helen Bentley (BA in History, Queen's College)

Helen's paper explores the historical relationship between British perceptions of Japanese people, culture and economy and British acceptance of and interest in Japanese food. The increased number of Japanese food stores and restaurants in the UK during the late 20th century provides insight into a changing cultural landscape. Intermixed with issues of tastes and changing British attitudes towards Asian foods are questions about immigration and identity. In her research, Helen argues that the socio-cultural, political and economic connections between Japan and the UK have governed the British people's response to foreign food.

Jesse Bia (MPhil in Social Anthropology, St Antony's College)

Jesse is conducting research on the cultural taboos surrounding organ transplants in modern Japan, attempting to extend questions beyond the highly-publicised issue of 'brain death' to see the subtler elements and actors at work. Via a combination of case studies, anthropological theory, history, and statistics, Jesse is reaching new conclusions revolving around conceptions of personhood, body commodification, and ideas of 'unconscious' culture, all examined from a strong socio-historical perspective.

Genevieve Edwards BA in Oriental Studies (Japanese), Pembroke College

Genevieve's dissertation investigates Japan's 'youth crisis', from the perspective of young Japanese men, analysing submissions they have made to question-and-answer forums in the hope of understanding the obstacles they face in making the transition into adulthood.

She will be examining their approaches to overcoming these obstacles, and their sense of their own position and responsibility in relation to the rest of Japanese society.

Alice Freeman (DPhil in History, Christ Church)

Alice's thesis seeks to contribute to post-war Japanese religious history by examining the mutual relationship between Zen Buddhist transnationalism and Imperial Way ultra-nationalism. The thesis will investigate how 'Imperial Way Zen' – the association of Zen with Japan's wartime regime – sustained itself in the post-war world through the actions of Zen priests Omori Sogen and Yasutani Hakuun. It will examine how Zen practice and doctrine were used to perpetuate Imperial Way ideology after Japan's defeat in 1945 through a simultaneous engagement with domestic ultra-nationalist politics and with the 'Zen boom' which occurred in the USA and Western Europe in the post-war.

Michael Maher King (MSc in Japanese Studies, Pembroke College)

For his MSc thesis, Michael is researching the challenges that children living in Child Protection Institutions face in going to university. Only 11.9% of children start four-year courses, which contrasts starkly to the national average of 54.3%. When two-year courses are included the national average rises to 77%, and that of children from institutions to 23%. Critically, however, 46% of children from institutional care drop out, again comparing poorly to the national average of 15%. This spring, with the help of the Sasakawa Foundation and Pembroke College, Michael went to Japan to conduct interviews with those involved at all levels of this problem, from the children to the policy makers. Preliminary analysis results suggest that the conflation of structural flaws in the education and welfare system mean that children living in Child Protection Institutions are left with little real chance to escape low educational achievement and low socio-economic status.

Sebastian Peel (MSt in Oriental Studies, St Cross College)

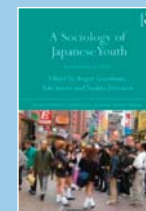
Sebastian is researching the foreign policy of Toyotomi Hideyoshi in the late 16th century, with particular emphasis on how it affected the legitimacy of his rule within Japan.

After he unified Japan in 1590, Hideyoshi pursued an aggressive foreign policy, which culminated in the invasion of Korea in 1592 in an attempt to invade Ming China. Sebastian will be examining Hideyoshi's diplomatic correspondence in order to understand the way in which he presented himself to foreign rulers and how these concepts were used to increase the legitimacy of his rule within Japan.

New Books



Bjarke Frellesvig
(editor with Jieun Klaer
and Janick Wrona).
*Studies in Japanese
and Korean linguistics.*
LINCOM Studies in
Asian Linguistics, 2012.



Roger Goodman
(editor with Yuki Emoto
and Tuukka Toivonen).
*A Sociology of Japanese
Youth: From Returnees
to NEETs.* London: Nissan
Institute/Routledge
Japanese Studies, 2012.



Takehiko Kariya (with
Akira Kurihara, Tessa
Morris-Suzuki, Shunya
Yoshimi, Atsushi Sugita
and Tarō Hagami).
*3.11 ni towarete: Hitobito
no keiken o meguru
kōsatsu (Facing 3.11:
Discussions over Individual
Experiences).* Tokyo:
Iwanami Shoten, 2012.



Takehiko Kariya
(editor with Takeshi Hori
and Ryō Uchida).
*Kyōiku kaikaku no
shakaigaku: Inuyama-shi
no chōsen o kenshōsuru
(A Sociology of Education
Reforms: Lessons from
Inuyama City).* Tokyo:
Iwanami Shoten, 2011.



Professor Masahiro Yamada, Tokyo Gakuji University

Conference on The Disasters of 11 March 2011 – One year on

**Convenors: Professor Takehiko Kariya, Professor Ian Neary, and Dr Mark Rebick,
Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies, University of Oxford**

A conference entitled *The Disasters of 11 March 2011 – One Year On* was held at the Nissan Lecture Theatre on 22 and 23 March, 2012, over one year after the gigantic earthquake and tsunami devastated the northern part of Japan.

We intended this conference to provoke academic debate among social scientists from both Japan and the UK with the aim of contributing to our mutual understanding of how an industrialised society such as Japan can confront and overcome a series of traumatic natural disasters, as well as a nuclear accident. Through the generosity of the Japan Foundation, we were able to invite four professors from a range of universities in Japan and Europe to attend. We were also fortunate to be able to persuade the Japanese Embassy to include our workshop in their plans for the anniversary of the disasters, and they arranged for three eminent speakers – Professors Heizō Takenaka (Keio University); Hiroo Ichikawa (Meiji University) and Tomohiko Taniguchi (Keio University) – to come to Oxford to present their papers. There were in total approximately fifty attendees.

On 22 March, Professor Yūji Genda, a labour economist at the University of Tokyo, discussed the role of small and mid-sized firms in aiding people in the city of Kamaishi to repair their lives in the wake of the disasters. Dr Brigitte Steger of Cambridge University presented an anthropologist's view of life in a shelter in Yamada, Iwaki, touching on such topics as *uchi/soto* demarcation, gender relations, and solidarity among evacuees. Professor Tom Gill, an anthropologist at Meijigakuin University, spoke about the



Professor Heizō Takenaka, Keio University

reaction to the nuclear crisis among residents of Iitate, Fukushima, and Dr Martin Dusenberre, a historian of Japan at Newcastle University, examined how and why citizens of Kaminoseki, Yamaguchi, maintained positive attitudes toward a planned nuclear power plant in the area even after the Fukushima-Daiichi accident occurred. Professor Wade Allison, an Oxford physicist, used evidence from medical studies on radiation to argue that the standards of radiation safety set by the Japanese government after the Fukushima accident were in fact overly rigorous, and explained the political reasons behind this. Professor Hideaki Shiroyama of the University of Tokyo then explored why nuclear safety regulation policies failed by examining miscommunications among experts on issues of risk management.

In a keynote speech, Professor Ichikawa asserted that the disasters provided a 'test' for Tokyo, arguing that there would be no adverse impact on the city's international competitiveness. Dr Takenaka, former Minister of Internal Affairs and Communication under the Koizumi administration, then posed six political and economic lessons Japan stood to learn post-3/11, warning that the nation lacks strong leaders capable of 'big-picture' thinking, as well as the 'macro management' skills necessary for future recovery.

On 23 March, Professor Kōichi Hasegawa, a sociologist of the environment at Tohoku University, explored the historical weakness of Japan's anti-nuclear movements by focusing on the major participants in these movements over the past decades. Professor Taniguchi, a 'Kizuna Ambassador' for the Japanese government, highlighted the positive aspects of Japan's response to the calamity, which engendered favourable images of Japanese people and society worldwide. The conference concluded with a round-table session, in which discussions were summarised and unaddressed questions raised.

Audio recordings of the conference may be downloaded from our website <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/nissan-institute-japanese-studies>

Nissan Institute seminars

The Japanese ambassador to the UK, H E Keiichi Hayashi, came to the Nissan Institute in mid November 2012 to give a presentation on his view of security in East Asia. Two weeks later, Sir Stephen Gomersall, a former British ambassador to Japan, gave us his reflections on working in and with Japan based on his experiences firstly with the FCO, and more recently as Group Chairman for Hitachi Europe.

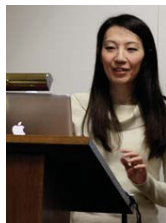
However, it was not all about matters of high policy. Also in Michaelmas term, the film director Laurence Thrush screened his film, *Tobira no Muka*, and answered questions on the difficulties of making a film about the problem of *hikikomori*. The Hilary term seminars were more clearly focused on social science analyses of contemporary Japan: Helen McNaughton on women as consumers, David Chiavacci on immigration policy and Professor Katja Valaskivi from the University of Tampere, who spoke about the soft power of cool Japan. We also had a special seminar from Professor Makoto Iokibe, President of National Defence Academy and Chairman of Japan Reconstruction Design Council on the Great East Japan Earthquake.

It is always rewarding to have our graduates return to give papers about their recent research as well. In Trinity term Hak-Kyu Sohn, Senior Advisor to the Korean Democratic United Party and formerly supervised by Arthur Stockwin, gave a paper on 'The Future of North-East Asia and Peace on the Korean Peninsula', and Paul Scalise, who did graduate work with Ian Neary, discussed recent developments in Japan's energy policy.

Altogether, there were 19 papers in our seminar series this year, too many to mention in this small space. However, we regard them as the most important of our public activities, and all of the papers presented have had an impact on thinking about Japan both within the University and more widely. These seminars are open to the public, and we are always happy to see new faces in attendance.

Details of the seminars in the coming terms will be publicised on our website as soon as they have been determined.

East Asian linguistics seminar



In 2011 the seminar series had five lectures on Japanese linguistics. Lars Larin (Lund) lectured on *Modality packaging in Japanese*, Linda Lanz (The College of William and Mary) on *Historical complex predicates:*

evidence from Japanese, and Ryosuke Shibagaki (SOAS) on *Morpho-syntactic properties of resultatives in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Mongolian*. In addition, two of our graduate students also presented talks based on their research at Oxford. Tohru Seraku presented *Nominalisation in Japanese with special reference to the particle no* and Naoko Hosokawa presented *The language of civilisation: Identity and desire in the Meiji Era Japanese language reform debates*. Current and past schedules for the East Asian linguistics seminar, as well as downloadable files of many of the presentations, can be found on the RCJLL website:

www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research/jap-ling

Translation Workshop at the Oriental Institute

While the University's Japanese programme includes rigorous examination in translation both to and from Japanese, no lectures are offered specifically on translation as a topic. The opportunity to rectify this came with the grant of a teaching award to hold a translation workshop on 4 May 2012.

Proceedings began with a practice translation session, followed by five presentations by professional translators: Jos Vos (former Japanologist, Pembroke College), Akiko Sakamoto (University of Leicester), Bethan Jones (former Japanologist, Wadham College), Reiko Dean and Simon Prentis. A variety of topics were discussed, including employment opportunities, publishing translations, and translation theory.

The workshop was attended by numerous undergraduates and postgraduates, as well as students from Oxford Brookes University. Also in attendance was Arthur Stockwin, Emeritus Fellow and former Director of the Nissan Institute. Professor Stockwin is currently translating the *Nihon Kindaishi*, which covers Japanese political history from the *Bakumatsu* to the early Shōwa period. His presence at the workshop was greatly appreciated by his former colleagues and students.



The Thirty-six Immortals of *waka* visit Oxford

In February and March 2012, the University hosted two events to celebrate the 'Thirty-six Immortals of *waka* poetry' (Sanjūrokkasen). Since their origins in the early 11th century, the Immortals have inspired countless works in the fields of literature, art, and religion, up to the present day. Events included:

1 *Thirty-six Kasen: The Thirty-six Immortals of Japanese Poetry, an Exhibition*

A display showing illustrated manuscripts and period books from the Bodleian Japanese Library. The display was mounted in the Proscholium of the Bodleian Library, and run from 3 February to 4 March 2012. Among the items presented were the *Kokasen* 古歌仙 (Old Immortals of *waka*, MS.Jap.c.7[r]), and the *Sanjūrokkasen-e nishu harimaze* 三十六歌仙絵二種貼交 (Double-leaved picture album of the 36 Immortal Poets, MS.Jap.e.6).

2 *The Thirty-Six Immortals of Waka: A Symposium in Honour of Dr Phillip Harries*

An international symposium on the topic of the Thirty-six Immortals was held on 23 March 2012 to honour the teaching and research of Phillip Harries, a scholar of classical literature and long-time Japanese-faculty member in Oxford. The list of speakers included Haruo Shirane (Columbia University), Suzuki Jun (National Institute for Japanese Literature, Tokyo), and Anne Commons (University of Alberta, 2012).

Both events were co-organised by Gian-Piero Persiani, Lecturer in Classical Japanese, and Izumi Tytler, Bodleian Japanese Librarian. The events were made possible by generous grants from the Japan Foundation UK, the Sasakawa Fund, and The Queen's College, Oxford.

Image above: Ise from *Kokasen*, MS Jap.c.7(r) held at the Bodleian Japanese Library, the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford.

'The Second Movement' in Oxford: A Message for World Peace A Recital of Atomic-Bomb Poetry

On 22 October 2011, a recital of atomic-bomb poetry was held at Hertford College Chapel organised through the joint efforts of the Nissan Institute and Oxford Brookes University. Readings were performed by Japanese actress Sayuri Yoshinaga, Margaret Kean (Oxford University), Lucy Freeland (Oxford University), and David Gill, accompanied on the piano by Academy Award-winning composer Ryū ichi Sakamoto.

Following lectures delivered by Irena Powell (Sheffield University) on *Human History Witnessed: Atomic-Bomb Literature in Japan*, and Atsuko Hayakawa (Tsuda College) on *The Second Movement as Human Legacy*, Yoshinaga, a critically acclaimed actress who has appeared in numerous films, recited poems written by victims of the bombings.

She herself coined the expression 'The Second Movement', explaining: 'If the disastrous time soon after the War was the first movement, the world has now moved on to the second movement, passing on the hope for peace to the next generation.'



Photography by Kei Ogata

Through the generosity of Yoshinaga and Sakamoto, this marked the first time that this particular event – first performed in Tokyo in 1986 – could be held in Europe.

There were approximately 130 people, many of them Japanologists, attended the event. The poems were narrated in both English and Japanese, so that those familiar with the Japanese language could share the terror and grief of the victimised in their original words. After the recital, both Yoshinaga and Sakamoto also attended the reception, taking time to meet members of the audience.

Forthcoming events

Title: Corpus Based Studies of Japanese Language History – Joint NINJAL and Oxford RCJLL Symposium

Date: 31 July 2012

Place: National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tachikawa, Tokyo

This is a joint research symposium organised by NINJAL and Professor Frellesvig's Oxford project as part of their collaboration.

Title: New Directions in Global History

Date: 27-29 September 2012

A major international conference, New Directions in Global History, will be held at the Nissan Institute, St Antony's College. With speakers including Arjun Appadurai, James Belich, John McNeill, Linda Colley, Ian Morris, and Ken Pomeranz, this conference will be of interest to historians of Japan.

For more information, please contact global@history.ox.ac.uk or visit <http://global.history.ox.ac.uk>

Taught graduate courses in Japanese Studies at Oxford

MSc/MPhil in Modern Japanese Studies

School of Interdisciplinary Area Studies
www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/prospective_students

MSt in Japanese Studies

Faculty of Oriental Studies
www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/html/ea/japanese/japanese_mst.html

MPhil in Traditional East Asia

Faculty of Oriental Studies
www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/ea/mphil_tradea.html

Donation to Japanese Studies

In 2011, the Faculty of Oriental Studies received a generous anonymous donation of \$100,000 to support the year abroad for undergraduates on the Japanese BA course.

The donation has been invested in a trust fund. Bjarke Frellesvig, Professor of Japanese, says: "This is a very welcome and well-timed contribution to support our undergraduates. It comes at a time when tuition fees have risen dramatically and it also coincides with the beginning of our new course structure, which includes a compulsory year spent in Japan at Kobe University. The year abroad is an important part of the improvements we are making to our course, and this donation will make it possible to help some of our undergraduates with the costs of going to Japan. We are very grateful to the donor, who has chosen to remain anonymous, and also to the University Development team for their efforts to identify support for our students. Any further donations we may receive for student support will be pooled with these funds to help us increase support for our students."

Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese

It was recently announced that the *Oxford Corpus of Old Japanese* (OCOJ) has been adopted by the British Academy as an *Academy Research Project*, through a highly competitive two stage evaluation process.

The OCOJ is a major international collaborative research project which aims to develop a comprehensive annotated, digital corpus of all texts from the 'Old Japanese' period – that is, the earliest surviving texts in Japanese, those from the Nara period of Japanese history (710–784).

The OCOJ will contain all extant Old Japanese texts, which will be encoded with a large amount of information, including not only linguistic, but also literary, biographical, historical, geographical and other data. The texts will also be supplied with translations into English, and a bilingual Old Japanese – English dictionary will be developed alongside and as an integrated part of the corpus. The dictionary part of the OCOJ will be hyperlinked to the texts, making cross-reference in both directions possible. The project is long-term and open-ended. The OCOJ will be published online and continuously updated at <http://vsarpj.orinst.ox.ac.uk/corpus>

The OCOJ was initially conceived of as a research tool within the AHRC-funded research project *Verb semantics and argument realisation in pre-modern Japanese*, which is based at the University's Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics, but the new project takes the corpus far beyond its initial use as a research tool for linguistics. The OCOJ will become a unique research and reference resource for scholars and students of the early language, writing, literature, religion, history, and civilisation of Japan. It will furthermore provide wide and easy access to these important texts for anyone, interested in Japanese language, history and culture, including members of the general public.

While based at Oxford, the OCOJ crucially involves extensive international collaboration, with the National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics in Tokyo as one among a number of collaborating institutions. Its adoption by the British Academy reflects the 'kitemarking of academic excellence to major infrastructural projects or research facilities intended to produce fundamental works of scholarship, in most cases for the use of a variety of disciplines'. Recognition by the British Academy clearly attests to the high quality of the groundbreaking work on Old Japanese which is being carried out at Oxford.

A new Director of the Japan Office, Oxford University

Ms Alison Beale has accepted the offer for the post of Director of the Japan Office, the University of Oxford, and she will take up her role in Autumn 2012.

Ms Beale read Modern Languages (French) at St Hilda's from 1989, and subsequently went on to take an MA in Advanced Japanese Studies (distance learning) at the University of Sheffield from 1996 to 1998. Ms Beale is currently Deputy Director of British Council, Japan, a role she has held since 2009, in which she has been creating a network in universities and education-related organisations across Japan and the UK.

The Japan Office has moved to a new building in August 2011. It is now located in Sanbancho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo (see the back page for the full contact details).



Satoshi Imamura

Oxford undergraduates to go to Kobe University for the first time

The newly restructured undergraduate course in Japanese now includes a compulsory year in Japan – the second year.

Students, who arrived in October last year will be the first group to go to Kobe University under our agreement with them. As well as taking a selection of the wide range of courses available, they will be able to attend classes alongside Japanese students while at the University. The agreement between the two institutions was signed by Professors Ogata Yasushi and Bjarke Frellesvig at a ceremony held last year. Hiroe Kaji, Japanese language instructor, says of the change:

“On 17 July 2011, Hagiwara-sensei and I attended a graduation ceremony at Kwansei Gakuin University in Kobe, where Oxford University has sent its first-year Japanologists since 1995. Students who matriculated in 2011 will be the last group to spend their third term at the University, which, founded by the Revd Walter Russell Lambuth in 1898, is the leading private institution of higher education in the Kansai area.

“From the favourable remarks made by our students, it was obvious that Kwangaku teachers had worked extremely hard to help them improve their language skills, both oral and written.

“At the end of this momentous occasion, Hagiwara-sensei and I were honoured to present the University with a painting of Oxford, commissioned specially by the faculty of the Oriental Institute. We have always valued our mutual relationship, and we were told our students would be sincerely missed.

“Hagiwara-sensei and I then travelled to Kobe University, one of the top state universities in Japan, where we shall be sending our first-year students in the autumn of this year. We were warmly welcomed by Professor Richard Harrison of the University’s Language Centre, and can attest to the quality of the facilities there.

We look forward to working with Kobe for many years to come.”

Visiting student from Tohoku University

The earthquake and tsunami which struck northern Japan in March 2011 inflicted a considerable amount of destruction at a variety of levels.

Despite little direct damage to the physical infrastructure of most universities in the area, it caused long term disruption to education. For this reason, Hertford College and the University jointly decided to invite a visiting graduate student from Tohoku University to spend a period at Oxford, as a kind of ‘academic refuge’.

Tohoku University nominated Mr Satoshi Imamura, a doctoral student working in the field of Linguistics, researching word order and scrambling in Japanese from the point of view of discourse processing. Satoshi spent the period from the beginning of June to the end of September 2011 in Oxford, where he was welcomed both at University Departments (particularly those of Linguistics and Oriental Studies) and at Hertford College. In order to make Satoshi’s stay possible, the University and Hertford waived visiting student fees, and Hertford offered accommodation free of charge.

The University’s Sasakawa Fund provided the airfare and other living expenses for Satoshi during his stay. During his time at Oxford, Satoshi was affiliated with the University’s Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics, where he conducted research alongside Professor Bjarke Frellesvig and other members of the Centre. It was a great pleasure to have Satoshi with us at the Centre last summer, and we hope to see him again at Oxford in the future. We also look forward to adding his completed dissertation to our collection before long.

New Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies podcast website

As of spring 2012 the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies has started a podcast website. Recordings of many Nissan seminars and special events can now be downloaded from <http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/nissan-institute-japanese-studies>



Geoffrey Bownas Memorial Seminar

On 11 November 2011, a memorial seminar was held at St Antony’s College to celebrate some of the achievements of Professor Geoffrey Bownas.

Those who worked with Professor Bownas at various stages of his career had the opportunity to share their memories, and to honour of his efforts in developing the field of Japanese studies in England. Anthony Thwaite reminisced about his first contact with Geoffrey in the 1950s. Brian Powell recalled working with him to introduce the study of Japan to Oxford in the early 1960s. Graham Healey and Janet Hunter discussed Geoffrey’s role in the early years of the development of the Centre for Japanese Studies (CJC) at Sheffield University, from the perspectives of colleague and student, respectively, and Christopher Hood spoke of the collaboration that produced *Doing Business with Japan* in 2003. Following the above, several others attending the seminar – many of whom had travelled considerable distances – also contributed their memories of working with Geoffrey.

Professors Hugo Dobson and Glenn Hook also came from Sheffield University to attend the seminar and the CJC contributed to funding the afternoon’s events. As part of its 50th anniversary celebrations, the Sheffield University Alumni office has established a Geoffrey Bownas Memorial Fund.

For further details, please see www.sheffield.ac.uk/alumni/support/bownasfund

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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.

Oxford has to build its future in a world of unprecedented change. The challenge is great. Never before has the University's future been so dependent on the success of a campaign. We need help to secure investment in the next generation, and all those to come. No institution exists and prospers for more than 800 years unless it is skilled at adapting.

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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<http://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/nissan-institute-japanese-studies>

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www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bjl
Bodleian Japanese Librarian: Mrs Izumi Tytler

The Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics

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www.jfob.org

The Kongyûkai 紺牛会

Former students can keep in touch with each other and their teachers through *Kongyûkai* (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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