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**Professorial Research Associates**

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Durham University

**Professor Harry Harootunian**  
New York University, New York

**Research Associates**

**Dr Penelope Francks**  
Leeds University

**Dr Christopher Goto-Jones**  
Leiden University, Leiden

**Dr Simon Kaner**  
Sainsbury Institute

**Dr Nicola Liscutin**  
Birbeck College

**Dr Maria Roman**  
Universita Autonoma, Madrid

**Dr Elias Tinios**  
Leeds University

**Post Doctorial Associates**

**Dr Barbara Cross**  
SOAS

**Dr Alfred Haft**  
SOAS
Dear all,

I would like to begin by offering you all very best – if somewhat belated - wishes for the New Year of the Boar. As I write this, the JRC is presently in the middle of a fascinating –if gruelling - four day symposium with scholars and students from Ocha mo mizu joshi daigaku. A full report of this stimulating event will follow in the next issue of the JRC news.

As the term has begun, so it will continue. There will be a workshop with scholars from Madrid, another on ‘Seeing and Not seeing’, a lecture demonstration on bunraku chanting and shamisen. The JRC’s weekly seminar programme is full as ever, and the special event this term is, of course, the Annual Tsuda lecture. We are delighted to be able to welcome from the University of San Francisco, Professor John Nelson who will speak on 18th century Kyoto. Details of all these events and quite a few others are to be found in the pages that follow.

The Newsletter also carries news of other SOAS based events on Japan with which the JRC is not directly involved. Please take a look at the Department of Art and Archaeology seminar series, the Centre for the study of Japanese religions series and also a performance of the shakuhachi in the SOAS concert series.

This is the last issue of the JRC news for which I will be writing the Chair’s letter. I a step down at the end of this academic year and head off to Kyodai for 6 months having handed over to Prof Tim Screech. So, I would like to thank for their support all the JRC members and others who turn up regularly for our seminars but especially the members of the JRC Steering committee: Pros Drew Gerstle and Tim Screech and Drs Angus Lockyer and Lola Martinez.

Best wishes
John Breen, Chair
Bill Beasley, who has just died at the age of 86, will have been known to all British specialists on Japan as a pioneer in the development of Japanese studies in this country and to many others throughout the world as an outstanding historian of modern Japan.

At SOAS itself he was universally liked and highly respected, and he was more than once referred to as the best Director SOAS never had. His scholarly standing was recognised by his election to membership of the British Academy, which he later served both as Treasurer and Vice-Chairman, and to honorary membership of the Japan Academy (in which capacity he met Emperor Hirohito), as well as by the award of a CBE in 1980 and the Order of the Rising Sun in 1983. In his retirement he was honoured by being invited to give the University of London’s prestigious Creighton Lecture in 1984, and he was a recipient in 2001 of the Japan Foundation award for distinguished foreign scholars.

In addition to his career as a historian, and despite health problems in his later years, he took on many onerous duties, among them the chairmanship of the Board of Studies in History and the Board of Examiners in History at London University, wardenship of a University hall of residence, and membership of the Hong Kong University Grants Committee. To mention but a few of the others, his expertise was sought by the Higher Education Funding Committee, when it conducted its first Research Assessment Exercise, and he played an important part in organizing the conference which was held in conjunction with the major Royal Academy exhibition on Edo-period art in 1981.

At SOAS, where he taught from 1947 to 1983, and where he became a very young Professor of the History of the Far East in 1954, he served not only as head of the Department of History but also, for a time, as head of the Far East Department. He was the obvious choice to be the chairman of SOAS’s Centre of Far Eastern Studies when it was created in 1967, and when that was replaced by the Japanese Research Centre in 1979, he became its first head. His clarity of thought and penetrating intellect enabled him to get to the heart of issues and together with his fair-mindedness, good sense and immense capacity for hard work made him a valued member of committees. Despite the heavy demands imposed by these administrative and organizational duties, however, he never sought to lighten his teaching load; indeed, he regarded this responsibility as seriously as his research, preparing for his classes with care and always finding time to see his students individually.

Bill Beasley came to the study of Japanese history in large part by accident. The son of an actor, he had not had any connection with the country until he learned Japanese (in America, not SOAS) as a naval officer in World War II after previously seeing action in convoys in northern waters. At the end of the war he was stationed in Japan for a time and after demobilization he was encouraged to enter what was then virtually a new field by Professor Renier, the specialist in Dutch history at University College London, where Bill had earlier taken his BA in English and European History and where he decided to embark on a PhD. He was soon offered a lectureship at SOAS, becoming one of only two East Asian historians there and as a result finding himself involved in teaching not only Japanese but also Chinese history. He would later recall that he and other colleagues who were similarly working in new areas at that time used the phrase ‘earn while you learn’, a task made possible by the fact that the relevant scholarly literature was far less voluminous than it has since become and the number of students far smaller. For many years he conducted a research seminar on East Asian history which attracted PhD students from various countries. Not a few of these went on to take up academic positions and would readily bear witness to his breadth of knowledge, to his wise guidance, and to his considerateness.

Ultimately it was his published work on which Bill Beasley’s reputation rested and will continue to rest. His first book, Great Britain and the Opening of Japan, 1834-1858, which was based on his 1950 PhD thesis, examined Britain’s leading role in ending Japan’s sakoku policy, and its thoroughness led Professor Renier
to predict that the topic would never need to be covered again. With SOAS support he then published, in 1955, Select Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy, 1853-1868. Not only did this make available his translations of many key Japanese documents, most of them written in a peculiarly difficult style, but its masterly analysis of the complexities of Japanese politics and foreign policy decision-making marked a new level in Western studies of modern Japanese history. The book also provided a basis for his Special Subject on the opening of China and Japan to the West which, with several changes of name and content, would be taken by history students from SOAS and other London University colleges for nearly two decades.

Other books followed. In 1958 he co-edited and contributed chapters to Historians of China and Japan, one of the volumes on Asian and African historiography which came out of a major series of conferences at SOAS and which remains one of the few serious attempts to survey Japanese historical writing. Then, in 1963, he produced what was to be the most widely read of all his books. Originally entitled The Modern History of Japan, it went through several editions before reappearing in an extensively revised form as The Rise of Modern Japan. It owed its enduring popularity not to colourful prose – indeed Bill was fond of the axiom that if one felt a ‘purple passage’ coming on, one should write it but then consign it to the waste-paper basket – but to the qualities which its author consistently displayed in his teaching: balance, accuracy, clarity, perceptiveness and succinctness.

The same qualities were also evident in what he regarded as his magnum opus, The Meiji Restoration. This was an enormously ambitious undertaking, not least because of the sheer volume of existing writings by Japanese historians, the abundance of primary sources, and the number of power centres and political actors involved. He worked on it for well over a decade, taking account of the various Marxist interpretations which dominated Japanese writing in the post-war years and looking especially closely at the political situations in Satsuma and Tosa, two of the three han which played key roles in the overthrow of the Tokugawa shogunate. Although Marius Jansen and Albert Craig had produced important studies of the Meiji Restoration from particular angles ten years earlier, no Western scholar had attempted to tackle this hugely complex subject on such a scale before, and none has done so since; and Bill took justifiable pride in the fact that it was recognised by the award of the John K. Fairbank prize as the outstanding work in the field of East Asian history in 1972.

Like other senior academics Bill Beasley accepted early retirement to help SOAS cope with the severe financial pressures which faced it following the advent of the Thatcher government in 1979. Although this allowed him time to pursue his other interests, which ranged from rugby and cricket to poetry and Japanese prints, he remained active as a historian, producing, in 1987, a highly regarded survey of Japanese Imperialism, 1894-1945, and contributing two chapters to the nineteenth-century volume of The Cambridge History of Japan, which was published in 1989. Then, in Japan Encounters The Barbarian (1994), he examined the ways in which Japanese statesmen, officials and students responded to what they discovered when they visited the West in the 1860s and 1870s. And in 1999, as he approached his eighties, he summed up his understanding of Japanese history in The Japanese Experience, overcoming his reluctance to treat the one aspect of Japan for which he had no natural sympathy – religion. Despite his physical inability in his later years to visit the SOAS library he still managed to edit a multi-volume series of mid-nineteenth century writings by Westerners on Japan in 2002. That he continued to be active as a scholar for so long owed much to his wife Hazel, whose unstinting devotion was an even more vital support after he was partially paralysed in 2003. To the end he retained an exceptional memory and he took pleasure in recalling ex-colleagues and students. Those who knew him will remember him as a pillar of SOAS and as a model of what a scholar and teacher should be.

Richard Sims
Like many of his contemporaries at SOAS in the 1950s and 1960s, Bill Beasley was not only a scholar of great distinction but a man of unusually wide and varied experience.

He came to London as a student in 1936, and began an undergraduate course at UCL. It was an uneasy period in London, and for a young undergraduate from rural Northamptonshire, it must have been a stimulating one. The Battle of Cable Street, a violent clash between Mosley’s British Union of Fascists and left-wing supporters of the East End’s Jewish community, erupted in October 1936, and though Mosley’s blackshirts were routed, sporadic street fighting occurred from time to time thereafter. Bill and some fellow undergraduates went to see what was going on in one such skirmish, and had to retreat speedily as missiles – mainly potatoes with razor blades embedded in them, Bill used to say – rained down upon them. As an undergraduate, Bill was a keen rugby player, and in due course won a place on the University of London rugby team. One suspects that it was this early commitment to rugby that sowed the seeds of the back trouble that was to plague him later years.

In 1940, Bill joined the Royal Navy, and the Navy may well have helped to shape his outlook, for even in the 1960s, long after the end of the Second World War, his everyday demeanour carried echoes of the bluff, cheerful camaraderie of the naval wardroom. In fact Bill began his service not on board ship but as a young officer helping to monitor German E-boat activities in the English Channel. On one memorable evening, he used to say, he found himself, much to his horror, left in charge of the vital operations room in which the Channel shipping was being closely monitored. While anxiously engaged about his duties, he was suddenly interrupted by a civilian who had no business to be there. Bill was about to give the man a piece of his mind and bundle him out, when the civilian revealed himself as the King of Greece in exile, sent to view naval operations as a guest of the British government.

Bill’s later war experiences included service on the destroyer HMS Tartar, which took part in the large-scale naval operations that culminated in the sinking of the German battleship Bismarck and, following a medical examination which revealed problems with his eyesight, secondment to the US Navy’s Oriental language school, in Boulder, Colorado, where he took a Japanese language course designed for naval officers. Although this marked the beginning of Bill’s lifetime involvement with Japanese studies, he used to say that the language course, and his early experience of Japan in 1945, were entirely directed towards naval business, and at first gave him no particular interest in academic work. Be that as it may, Japan at the end of the war clearly left a profound impression on him, and on his return to Britain, and following demobilization in 1946, he embarked on a Japan-related Ph.D at UCL – research work that culminated in the publication of Great Britain and the Opening of Japan, 1834-1858. At the same time, he began part-time teaching at SOAS, a commitment that soon led to a full-time lecturership, and, in 1954, to his appointment to the Chair of Japanese History.

In 1950, Bill was given study leave and visited Japan to collect books for the SOAS Library, to explore primary historical research materials and to develop contacts with Japanese historians (we may perhaps note here in passing that Bill was the very opposite of the blinkered, Eurocentric “Orientalist” historian as described by Edward Said). At the suggestion of Vere Redmond, then at the Japanese embassy, he became attached to the Shiryō Hensan-jo (資料編纂所), Tokyo University’s rich depository of Japanese historical materials, whose staff gave him expert guidance on Japanese-language research materials as well as valuable introductions to Japan’s leading historians. For an historian interested in mid-nineteenth century Japan, the attachment turned out to be doubly beneficial, for the Shiryō Hensan-jo had just been given responsibility by the Japanese government for compiling materials on the history of the Meiji Restoration, a crucially important phase of Japanese history that became Bill’s central research interest.

By the 1960s, by which time he had paid a second visit to Japan and had become very happily married, Bill had emerged as an important figure at SOAS. His invariable good humour, his conviviality and his penetrating intellect and wisdom, made him one of the best-liked of the School’s staff, within SOAS and in the university world outside. For many years, he served as chairman of the history department’s Far East History Seminar, a weekly gathering that attracted a knowledgeable audience, including visitors from overseas, and that served as a fruitful forum for the discussion of East Asian history. Bill was an outstandingly good chairman. He would listen to a presentation with the utmost care, his features immobile and his eyes sometimes closed, and would then effortlessly seize on the main issues to be discussed, gently guiding those present to explore the broad intellectual questions that the presentation had raised. Almost always, Bill could find gold in the midst of what appeared at first sight to be unpromising dross, and he had the happy knack of being able to develop even the most dully descriptive subject matter into a source of thought-provoking ideas. One might add that a Beasley seminar was not an intellectual bullfight, in which the fittest survived and the weakest went to the wall, but an egalitarian and civilised pursuit of enlightenment, and one that provided inspiration for all present.

Moreover through the medium of the seminar and through his teaching and research, Bill by example illustrated what he took to be the intellectual desiderata of modern area studies. In his view, area studies should be first and foremost firmly grounded in good linguistic competence – he would have found the notion of a Japan specialist without any command of the Japanese language too
bizarre to contemplate. In addition, area studies in the Beasley view should not consist simply of the discovery of new and interesting facts about the area in question, but should be grounded in, for want of a better term, international comparative perspective. When Bill spoke or wrote about feudalism, he did so from the viewpoint of one who was very well versed in the institutions of feudal Europe; when he addressed the topic of Japanese imperialism, he brought to the task a well-informed awareness of other examples of imperialism, and used this awareness to illustrate the uniqueness of the Japanese case.

His invariable good humour, his conviviality and his penetrating intellect and wisdom, made him one of the best-liked of the School's staff.

Whether in writing books, or in teaching students, or in chairing seminars, at the heart of Bill's work was a huge enthusiasm for, and a quite irrepressible enjoyment of scholarship. Bill was occupied in doing something that he genuinely loved doing and, happily, the sense of fulfilment and the pleasure that he gained from his work was infectious and became a source of inspiration and encouragement to his colleagues, staff and students alike.

Bill was a sociable man, and enjoyed meeting Japanese studies colleagues, and for that matter anyone else who was interested, around the Common Room table for coffee and a chat after lunch. In those far off years, when the pressures on time were far less frenetic than they are today, the conversation would range agreeably over many things: Bill's wartime experiences, his early travels in Japan, his dealings with Japanese scholars, and interesting aspects of life in Japan. Sadly, however, such convivial and educative occasions became less and less frequent. Perhaps inevitably, Bill became increasingly drawn into heavy administrative duties, including those for the University of London, an institution which in those days still had a meaningful existence, and to which Bill was intensely loyal. The effects of cutbacks in university expenditure began to gather pace, teaching loomed ever larger, and involved ever bigger groups of students, and even in the 1980s, trends in university research funding began to inexorably push people away from the broad field of area studies and into small and cramped disciplinary boxes. A new world was in the making, and Bill (in common with many others) found it not to his liking. On one occasion, Bill remarked ruefully that he himself would never have survived probation under the increasingly demanding conditions that young academics were becoming subject to. Not surprisingly, more of Bill's generation began to elect for early retirement, and he himself, his decision partly influenced by increasingly persistent and painful troubles with his back, went in 1983.

But this was by no means the end of his scholarly activities, and an enviably abundant stream of high-quality publications, particularly on aspects of Japanese imperialism, streamed from him throughout his retirement. With his death, we are deprived of an exemplary scholar and a source of penetrating ideas on modern Japan, but we are left with many vivid memories that give us very great pleasure, and that provide signposts to the best way ahead in years to come.

by John Sargent
Emeritus Reader in Geography, SOAS

A Memorial Meeting will be held at SOAS in the Easter vacation for Professor W. G. Beasley, CBE who died on 19 November 2006.

23 April 2007 @ 14.30
Venue: TBC

Further details will be available in due course from mo2@soas.ac.uk
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7898 4075
Web: www.soas.ac.uk/events/
Japan Research Centre seminar/event schedule: Term 2

**Wednesdays, 17.00**

**Room G51, Ground Floor, Main Building**

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(except where otherwise stated)

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24 January  
**Professor Glen D Hook (University of Sheffield)**  
Risk and Crossing Borders: The Nature of the Japanese State

31 January  
**Dr Barbara Cross (SOAS)**  
Reading Pre-Modern Popular Fiction as Performance

7 February  
**Dr Mika Kizu (SOAS)**  
Mixed Chains in Japanese Syntax

14 February  
The Japan Society Annual Cortazzi Lecture 2007  
19.00  
**Anthony Farrington (India Office Collections, The British Library)**  
Peter Mundy’s Samurai: The Japan Diaspora in the Early 17th Century  
Time: 19.00  
Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre, Main Building

21 February  
**Professor John Nelson (University of San Francisco, USA)**  
Time: 18.00  
Venue: Khalili Lecture Theatre, Main Building

28 February  
**Dr Antony Best (LSE)**  
The Role of Diplomatic Practice and Court Protocol in Anglo-Japanese Relations, 1867-1900

7 March  
**Dr Monica Dix (SISJAC)**  
Re-Constructing Women’s Discourses in Medieval Japan: Chujohime as Religious or Social Outcast?

14 March  
**Dr Rupert Faulkner (Victoria and Albert Museum)**  
Kyoto Ceramics at Meiji-Period South Kensington

21 March  
**Dr Sarah Hyde (University of Kent, Canterbury)**  
The Democratic Party of Japan In 2007: A Plausible Party Within A Two-Party System or Returning To The Quagmire Of The 1955 System’s Opposition?
The Annual Tsuda Lecture 2007
21 February 2007 @ 18.00
Khalili Lecture Theatre, Main Building, SOAS

John Nelson is an Associate Professor of East Asian Religions in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco.

As a cultural anthropologist, his research and publications explore the interaction between religion, society, and politics in East Asia. He is the author of two books (A Year in the Life of a Shinto Shrine [1996], Enduring Identities: the Guise of Shinto in Contemporary Japan [2000]), numerous articles (including 'Social Memory as Ritual Practice: Commemorating Spirits of the Military Dead at Yasukuni Shinto Shrine' Journal of Asian Studies [2003]), and has just released a documentary film, 'Spirits of the State: Japan's Yasukuni Shrine' (2005). Nelson has received extended research fellowships from the Fulbright Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, and the Japan Foundation. For the current academic year, he was awarded Research Fellowships from the Japan Foundation in Kyoto and the Centre for Studies in Religion and Society at the University of Victoria, Canada.
Members’ News

Publications

Gina L. Barnes, Professorial Research Associate, Department of Art & Archaeology, and Japan Research Centre, SOAS


Steve Dodd, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea


John Breen, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea

‘Meiji shonen no shinbutsu hanzenrei to kindai Shinto no soshojutsu’, Meiji seitoku kinen gakkai kiyo, 43, (2006)


John T. Carpenter, Department of Art and Archaeology


Drew Gerstle, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea


Helen Macnaughtan, Department of Financial & Management Studies (CeFiMS)


Barbara Pizziconi, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea


Steve Dodd


Lucia Dolce, Department of the Study of Religions


Academic Travel / Research / Talks

Gina Barnes, Professorial Research Associate, JRC


2 November 06
Gave the first in a series of gallery lectures for the new Japanese Gallery exhibition at the British Museum; covered the archaeological periods of Jomon, Yayoi and Kofun.

16 November 06
Gave a book launch lecture entitled “The Queen Mother Cult and Miwa Rulers of Early Kofun Japan” at the Department of Anthropology, University of Hawaii, for her new book, State Formation in Japan.

14-16 November 06
Gave a series of public lectures on ’What is Japanese Religion? Reconsidering the practice of religion in Japan,’ Ritsumeikan University.

12 December 06
Delivered the lecture “Girei, zuzô to chûsei nihon shûkyô” at Bukkyô University, Kyoto.

Lucia Dolce, Department of the Study of Religions

2-4 November 06
Took part in the workshop on Nyoirin Kannon at the Institute for Medieval Studies, Kyoto.

Angus Lockyer, Department of History

27 October 2006
“Exhibiting Japan, 1862-2005.” Centre Européen d’Études Japonaises d’Alsace

Drew Gerstle, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea

25 to 31 October 2006
Gave a presentation at a symposium at Kansai University and carried out research.

David W Hughes, Department of Music

19 November 2006
‘The roles of music in Japan’s Tenri-kyô “new religion”,’ at the annual conference of the Society for Ethnomusicology in Honolulu.

That visit, in connection with a research project sponsored by the AHRC Research Centre for Cross-Cultural Music and Dance Performance, took place between 28 November and 8 December. The project’s focus is on the transmission of matsuri-bayashi festival music. A team of eight researchers is working to produce a book with CD by summer 2007. The team, led by David, also includes Gina Barnes (Professorial Research Associate, JRC and Dept of Art and Archaeology), Kiku Day (PhD student, Music) and several other past or present SOAS Music students fluent in Japanese.

Tim Screech, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea

September 2006
Lectured at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver

October 2006
Lectured at Tama Art University, Tokyo, as part of on-going Permanent Visiting Professor position; also spoke at Waseda University in Memory and History Conference.

November 2006
Delivered the annual Bettman Lecture at Columbia University, New York; also participated in Visualizing Knowledge symposium, Stanford University, California.

December 2006
Represented SOAS at Consortium Symposium, Ochanomizu University, Tokyo.

John Breen, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea

20 January 2007
‘Meiji tenno o kataru’, JRC-Ochadai workshop, SOAS.

17 to 25 September 2006
Attended a conference at Kokugakuin University, Tokyo.

John T. Carpenter, Department of Art and Archaeology

17 November 2006
**Current MPhil/PhD Students**

**Duncan Adam**  
Desire in the Fiction of Yukio Mishima.  
Supervisor: Dr Stephen Dodd

**Midori Atkins**  
Time and Space Reconsidered: Local and Cultural Cosmopolitanism in the Narratives of Murakami Haruki.  
Supervisor: Dr Stephen Dodd

**Shino Arisawa**  
School identity and musical change in the transmission of Japanese jiuta-sôkyoku.  
Supervisors: Dr David Hughes (on sabbatical), Dr Rachel Harris

**Emma Cook**  
in the field working on freeters in Japan  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Kiku Day**  
Remembrance of things past: the archaic shakuhachi in contemporary contexts.  
Supervisors: Dr Keith Howard, Dr David Hughes

**Anne Mette Fiske-Nielsen**  
about to submit, on youth support for Komeito and Soka Gakkai  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Philomena Keet**  
about to leave the field, working on Cosplay  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Paul Hansen**  
(just returned), working on Cattle Ranching in Hokkaido  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Mari Hirano**  
part time in fourth year, working on Haemophiliaics in Japan  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Haruhisa Handa**  
Zenga and Religious Personality: Painting and Calligraphy by Hakuin  
Supervisors: Dr John Carpenter and Dr Nicole Rousmaniere

**Mami Hatayama**  
The Lacquer Artist Shibata Zeshin and His Cultural Circles  
Supervisors: Dr John Carpenter and Prof. Timon Screech

**Irena Hayter**  
Worlds Fall Apart: The Politics of Narrative Form in 1930s Japanese Fiction.  
Supervisor: Dr Stephen Dodd

**Deirdre Healy**  
Contemporary compositions for the shakuhachi.  
Supervisor: Dr David Hughes

**Imaizumi Yoshiko**  
Contested space: a genealogy of Meiji shrine.  
Supervisor: Dr John Breen

**Shinya Maezaki**  
Seiuf Yohei III and the Origins of Modern Japanese Ceramics  
Supervisors: Dr John Carpenter and Dr Nicole Rousmaniere

**Hayashi Makiko**  
Constructing the Legal Profession in Modern Japan.  
Supervisor: Dr John Breen

**Carla Tronu Montana**  
The construction of Christian communities in Japan in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.  
Supervisor: Dr John Breen

**Doreen Mueller**  
Kirokuga: record paintings in the Edo Period Please let me know if you require further information.  
Supervisor: Prof Tim Screech

**Silke Niehusmann**  
about to re-submit, on translating manga in Europe and the US  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Jane Oksbjerg (AHRB funded)**  
Pictorial Engravings on Pottery of the Yayoi Period  
Supervisors: Dr John Carpenter and Dr Simon Kaner

**Sayako Ono**  
in the field working on ballet in Japan  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Neil Raven**  
in his fourth year, working on naturalisation in Japan  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Kazumi Taguchi**  
Daoism in Meiji Literature.  
Supervisor: Prof T. H. Barrett, SOR

**Terumi Toyama**  
Working title: Pictorial discription of sacred spaces of reconstructed religious architecture in the early Edo period  
Kyoto, Japan  
Supervisor: Prof Tim Screech

**Mao Wada**  
Third year, working on Japanese-British marriage  
Supervisor: Dr Dolores Martinez

**Francesca di Marco**  
Discourse on Suicide Patterns in Postwar Japan  
Supervisor: Dr Angus Lockyer

**Yan Kit Kwong**  
Kominka Movements in Taiwan and Korea, 1937-1945  
Supervisor: Dr Angus Lockyer

**Chris Roberts**  
British Extra-Territoriality in Japan, 1859-1899  
Supervisor: Dr Angus Lockyer

**Nobuaki Takase**  
Mutsu Munemitsu: British Influence on Japanese Modernisation in the Nineteenth Century  
Supervisor: Dr Angus Lockyer

**Shino Toyoshima**  
The Formation of a Colonial Community: Kunsan, Korea, 1899 to the present  
Supervisor: Dr Angus Lockyer
Languages and Cultures

**Sofie Kristine Ivan Andersen**  
Pre-pubescent schoolgirls and post-biological cyborgs: female bodies and identities in japanese society and in anime

**Elizabeth Carney Coleman**  
What do the works of popular fiction writer Banan Yoshimoto reflect about recent trends in Japanese society

**Oliver Dean**  
The development of japanese criminal organisations during the post-occupation era

**Matthew James Heath**  
Reform of the japanese road construction industry. Possible lessons for future economic structural reforms

**Irene Hung**  

**Elizabeth Jane Lingard**  
Self-sacrifice versus self-expression: yoshimoto banana’s shojo and the search for a feminine identity in contemporary japan

**Shem Leo Pennant**  
The phenomenon of final fantasy:video games and their relationship with film

**Julia Helen Robson**  
Discourses on homelessness in japan

**David Line**  
How serious an impact will demographic change have on economic growth in Japan?

**Ariel Stilerman**  
Texts and contexts: The presentation of verse in the creation of the waka canon

**Sarah Walsh**  
Black Hole Palace: Tokyo’s imperial palace and the flexibility of symbolic meaning

Arts and Humanities

**Mizue Kawai**  
American and Japanese women socialists in wartime: Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Kikue Yamakawa

**Minako Shimada**  
Changing representations of Madness and Femininity in Japanese literature

**Helena Capkova**  
The influence of Japan on the Bauhaus and its central European contemporaries

**Ngaia Fitzhardinge**  
Myth and reality in contemporary Japan: an exploration of identity by a new generation of Japanese women artists

**Lin-Jhen Siao**  
Chen Cheng-Po and Taiwanese art in Japanese colonial period

**Alison Stack**  
In the context of Japanese society, the crisis of children is above all the ‘crisis’ of Japanese education. How does the contemporary Japanese education system contribute to the increasing prevalence of deviant behaviour in Japanese youth?
At the end of September 2006, Professor Barnes took early retirement from Durham University and now belongs to the Department of East Asian Studies as Emeritus Professor of Japanese Studies.

Professor Barnes participated in the Matsuri-bayashi research project on Japanese festival music and the concert of Okinawan folk music given by the SOAS.

For Professor Barnes recent publications please see page 10.

Gina Barnes (left) and Music PhD student Kiku Day (right) learning Matsuribayashi with the Gennosuke Troupe and other SOAS students

David Hughes (right) on sanshin and Gina Barnes (left) playing samba with the SOAS Sanshinkai, Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, 1 December 06
Japanese popular commercial fiction developed in relation to the performing arts during the pre-modern (Edo) period, borrowing elements from the oral tradition and theatre of Rakugo, Jôruri and Kabuki.

It flourished using the woodblock printing medium. Pages of handwritten script and/or illustration was carved in reverse onto a block, thus the resulting printed books retained a manuscript-like quality in their soft-bound form, although they could be produced in large numbers.

We can imagine the thrill of live performance starring idol actors and storytellers, but in what ways could enjoyment be got from the vast amount of popular fiction, on recurring theatrical themes and in various genres, which pervaded the era? It is now largely only these publications which remain as testimony to this culture. Yet we are unsure how we should go about reading and enjoying these books.

Since the modern (Meiji) period, scholars have striven to put Edo fiction into “more accessible” movable-type editions, causing, I believe, modern misconceptions about pre-modern methods of reading. We have forgotten how fiction was read in Edo Japan, hindered by the modern practice of swift, silent reading from uniform pages.

It is a very different experience reading Edo period fiction in modern type and in woodblock print. I attach importance to reading works of fiction in their original versions, as these often provide clues as to their way of reading: through signs and symbols in expressive woodblock-carved and -printed cursive script which cannot be reproduced in the modern movable-type editions most studied today. The method of reading much fiction, I contend, was aloud in accordance with the notation-like script.

These are the issues I dealt with in my recent PhD thesis, “Reading Fiction as Performance: Shikitei Sanba (1776-1822) and Woodblock Print” which proposed that the author, Sanba, in works such as his famous comic work, Ukiyoburo (Bathhouse of the Floating World) of 1809, attempted to convey speed, timing and loudness through a sound-sensitive writing system reproduced by woodblock printing. By reading aloud you create your own stage performance. The part I enjoyed most about my research was visiting libraries and museums worldwide in the quest for source material. Due to the nature of woodblock printed books (printing blocks could be partially replaced and re-carved), you never know what you are going to find. You cannot rely on catalogue entries to give all the information that a certain copy of a book might hold. One result of such investigation was finding evidence - through comparison of multiple copies - that Sanba himself for a time acted as publisher for some of his own work.

I am now planning to take a similar approach in research methods when I extend my project to encompass the books of the later 19th century and into the Meiji era. During late Edo, widening readership seems to have called for quantity rather than quality as regards woodblock-printed script, together with increasingly inclusive subject matter. Then, with the opening of Japan’s doors to the West in 1868 came an influx of its literature, along with the re-introduction of movable-type technology. Yet there was not an immediate, but gradual changeover in printing medium as well as switch to hard-cover binding, and examples of early movable-type in soft-bound book form still retained many elements of “oral” woodblock culture.

Only a brief survey so far has revealed that Meiji literature and published forms are presently experiencing the same lack of bibliographical emphasis which befell Edo works until a few years back. Meiji books have been re-bound rather than preserved in their original forms. Scholarship has addressed the content, but not the format. I suggest the physical book is very much of bibliographical, as well as historical, importance in understanding Meiji culture in the same way as Edo. Even Meiji, in turn, is in danger of being stripped of its original identity.

By the end of the 19th century, Edo period fiction was being put into the same format as the Meiji novel (shôsetsu); in order, perhaps, to establish an appearance of indigenous literary trends. This in itself is of historical significance: although these new editions were responsible for distorting Edo fiction, they are an important clue to understanding the values of the era to which they themselves belong. SOAS Library has many of these early anthologies acquired from the original London collections, all (I hope!) still in their original forms.
The JRC is delighted to recognise an grant from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation for a second Get-to-Know session.

Those who were already in SOAS at the time will recall that in December, 2005, the Sasakawa Foundation generously sponsored a meeting between JRC academic staff and students, and colleagues from our sister institution in Paris, INALCO (Institut national des langues et civilisations orientales). This has resulted in several subsequent exchanges and collaborations.

On 2-3 March 2007, we will hold a similar event with colleagues from the Universidad Autonoma, Madrid, which recently created its Department of East Asia, and aims to become the foremost centre for Japanese Studies in Spain.

Three guests, Drs Shin Abe, Maria Roman and Andreas Janousch, will present their research, and a similar number of SOAS staff will also make presentations.

Further information will be available in due course from ts8@soas.ac.uk

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**The Japan Society Annual Cortazzi Lecture 2007**

**Peter Mundy’s Samurai: The Japanese Diaspora in the Early 17th Century**

**Anthony Farrington**

*India Office Collections, The British Library*

**Wednesday, 14 February 07 @ 19.00**

Khalili Lecture Theatre, Main Building, SOAS

Anthony Farrington read history at University College London, before spending two years at the Cheshire Record Office. He then joined the India Office Library & Records (then at the Commonwealth Relations Office, subsequently FCO), and for the next 40-odd years worked on the archives of the English East India Company, and its successors. He served as Head of the India Office Collections and as Deputy-Director at the British Library from 1989 until retirement in 1999. He is now an independent archivist and editor.


The 2007 Cortazzi Lecture will examine the widespread presence of Japanese merchants, seamen and soldiers in Southeast Asia in the period before and after instigation of the shogunal policy of *sakoku*, or ‘seclusion’, and especially English interaction with members of this Japanese Diaspora.

**ALL ARE WARMLY INVITED TO ATTEND**

Enquiries Tim Screech
ts8@soas.ac.uk; Tel +44 (0)20 7898 4453
Craft Enterprise: tradition and renovation in the service of a new creativity

Aims and objectives

In order to understand the urban culture that flowered in Kyoto, it is essential to begin with an exploration of that culture’s fundamentals.

Katayama Kurouemon, a national cultural treasure and no performer has insisted that ‘the art of no is not built upon performance alone. No only makes sense, rather, when harmony prevails between the garments and the masks which the performers wear and the fans which they wield. No theatre is sustained by the craftsmen who make this items.’

The problematic that lies at the heart of the ‘Craft enterprise’ symposium and exhibition is manifest in this statement. The flourishing of the arts of no, the epitome of Kyoto elegance, of tea, of flower arranging and the world of Kagai, maiko and geiko with attendant businesses, shrines and temples are all indebted to the craftsmen, the traditions they have cultivated and the utensils they deploy, as well as to the urban networks that sustained them. Only by shedding light on these dynamic features of Kyoto urban culture can we deepen our understanding.

The present symposium and exhibition are intended to promote understanding of Kyoto culture through the collaboration of two major craftsmen: Karakamiiya Choeimon (Karacho) who, inspired by 400 years of paper making traditions, is pioneering new directions, and Ichizawa Shinzaburo Hanpu, whose bags informed by over a century of craft skills are sought after as modern fashion accessories.

We hope that the skills of these Kyoto craftsmen may prove an inspiration to craft enterprises in Britain too.

Sponsors:
Japan Research Centre, SOAS
Social Common Capital Research Centre, Doshisha
Doshisha university

Collaborators:
Professor Uzawa Hirofumi (SCCRC, chair)
Professor Nishimura Takashi (Doshisha University)
Professor Kawashiima Nobuko (Doshisha University)
Professor Drew Gerstle (SOAS)
Professor Tim Screech (SOAS)
Dr John Breen (SOAS)

Enquiries
jb8@soas.ac.uk
+44 (0)20 7888 4208
Two Bunraku Puppet Theatre performers, Toyozawa Tomisuke (shamisen) and Takemoto Chitose (chanter) will perform the Chikamatsu Monzaemon play, ‘Kikai ga Shima’ (Devil’s Island). They will also conduct a workshop (to be arranged) in conjunction with the SOAS Music Department.

This is the seventh tour of Toyozawa Tomisuke in which he has conducted workshops and held performances of Bunraku chanting and shamisen in several European countries. It is the first time for him to perform in Britain. The two performers are rising stars in the Bunraku troupe.

‘Kikai ga Shima’ (Devil’s Island) was originally part of act two of the play Heike nyogo no shima, which premiered in 1719. ‘Devil’s Island’ came to be performed from 1772 as an independent play in both Bunraku and Kabuki.

Through a demonstration and then performance, Chitose-dayû and Tomisuke will present a magnificent insight into this art.

The original incident happened during the twelfth century and was an episode in the Tales of the Heike. It was made into the Noh play Shunkan, and then rewritten as a Jóruri (Bunraku) puppet play by Chikamatsu. Chikamatsu added a female character, the fishergirl Chidori, who falls in love with the handsome warrior Naritsune, and made the story more dramatic by depicting on the psychology of Shunkan tragically left behind on the desolate island. The play is translated in Early Modern Japanese Literature: An Anthology 1600-1900 (2002), pp. 301-13.

Bunraku is Japan’s most developed art of dramatic chanting. Through a demonstration and then performance, Chitose-dayû and Tomisuke will present a magnificent insight into this art.

In 2003 Bunraku was recognized by UNESCO as a World Intangible Cultural Heritage. The tour is sponsored by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs (Bunka-Chô) and the Japan Foundation.

Lecture-Demonstration

It is hoped that the two performers will offer a lecture—demonstration introducing the music of Bunraku, compered by David Hughes of the Department of Music, on Tuesday 6 March at 5.15pm. As soon as details are finalised this will be publicised on SOAS’s Music and CJS websites.
This three-day workshop co-ordinated by Dr. Monika Dix (Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow, 2006-07, Sainsbury Institute) and Dr. Robert Khan (Department of Japan and Korea, SOAS), will be held in cooperation with the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the Department of Art & Archaeology at SOAS.

It will bring together scholars from the UK and abroad to examine the ways in which pre-modern Japanese culture conceptualized, described, and represented entities which could not or should not ordinarily be seen; and how acts of viewing of such entities were themselves negotiated and represented. The entities on which we shall particularly focus will include deities and supernatural beings, the imperial person, and representations of the visibility of women of various social strata in traditional Japanese literature and drama.

Prior to the workshop presenters will be visiting the Sainsbury Institute in Norwich.

The workshop will comprise one day of 30-minute papers and discussion organized into panels, followed by a day of close-reading and commentary on textual and artistic material of particular relevance to the theme of the workshop. The principal literary genres examined will include pre-modern court and religious narratives (monogatari, setsuwa and otogizōshi) as well as popular folktales. Illustrated versions of such texts are found in various formats including emaki mono (illustrated handscrolls), painted screens and woodblock printed books.

We plan both to subject familiar, canonical works to new modes of analysis, and to introduce less familiar, non-canonical, or de-canonized works for scholarly examination. As a result, we hope to generate new and revised iconographies of entities that were subject to viewing taboos, as well as to show how such viewing was conducted and evaluated with regard to the prevailing norms of scopic decorum, also including cross-cultural comparisons where these may prove instructive.

The speakers will include:

**From Abroad**

**Keynote Speaker**

Prof. Joshua S. Mostow, Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada

Prof. Ishikawa Toru, Department of Japanese Literature, Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

Prof. Komine Kazuaki, Department of Japanese Literature, Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Japan

Prof. Doris G. Bargen, Department of Asian Languages and Literature, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, USA

Prof. Keller Kimbrough, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Colorado, Boulder, USA

Prof. Susan Napier, Department of German, Russian, and Asian Languages and Literatures, Tufts University, Massachusetts, USA

**From the UK**

Dr. John T. Carpenter, Department of Art and Archaeology, SOAS, University of London

Prof. Andrew Gerstle, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea, SOAS, University of London

Prof. Timon Screech, Department of Art and Archaeology, SOAS, University of London

Dr. Robert O. Khan, Research Associate, Department of the Languages and Cultures of Japan and Korea, SOAS, University of London

Dr. Monika Dix, Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, affiliated with the Department of Art and Archaeology at SOAS, University of London

**Respondent**

Prof. Richard Bowring, Department of Oriental Studies, Cambridge University

"Menashi-kyo, the ‘Sutra without Eyes’, a late-12c scroll with illustrations for an unidentified tale, over which the Golden Light Sutra has been written"
**Advanced Notices**

**Department of Art and Archaeology seminar schedule: Term 2 and 3**

**Seminars on Japan**

**Department of Art & Archaeology, SOAS**

**Research Seminars in East Asian Art and Archaeology**

**Seminars on Japan**

**2006-07 Session, Terms II and III**

Fridays at 3.15 pm in Brunei Gallery B104, unless otherwise noted

**Convenor: John Carpenter, jc54@soas.ac.uk**

**Term 1**

Thu. 1 Feb., 5.00 pm, G3
(co-sponsored by the Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions)
Monika Dix, Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellow (2006-07), Sainsbury Institute

*‘Picturing’ the Rhetoric of Salvation: The Reception and Illustration of the Chûjôhime Legend*

Fri. 9 Feb., 3.15, B104
Richard Pearson, Professor Emeritus, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of British Columbia / Senior Research Adviser, Sainsbury Institute

*Social Complexity in Jômon Japan*

Fri. 9 Mar., 3.15 pm, B104
Evgeny Steiner, Leverhulme Visiting Professor, University of Manchester (Centre of Eurasian Studies) / Adjunct Faculty, Programs in the Arts, New York University

*Sergei Kitaev and the Japanese Art Collections in the Pushkin Museum, Moscow*

**Term III**

Fri. 20 Apr., 3.15 pm, B104
Matthew Mckelway, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Visiting Scholar, Gakushuin University

*Envisioning Sorrow: The Chôgonka (Changhenge) in Early Edo Painting*

Fri. 27 Apr., 3.15 pm, B104
PhD upgrade presentations for History of Japanese Art
Terumi Toyama
Doreen Mueller

Sat. and Sun., 19-20 May, Brunei Gallery
International Workshop:

*‘Seeing and Not Seeing: Visualizing the Invisible in Pre-modern Japanese Culture’*
organised by Dr Monika Dix (Sainsbury Institute) and Dr Robert Khan (SOAS),
co-sponsored by the Department of Art and Archaeology and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures
Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions
Seminars and Postgraduate Fora 2007

Thursdays, 5:00-6:30 pm, Room G3 (Russell Square)

18 January  The Iconoclasm of Sacred Space: The Mythology of shinbutsu bunri Gaynor Sekimori (University of Tokyo)

25 January  Fudo: Japanese Versions of a Tantric Deity Clemente Beghi (Cambridge University) Postgraduate Forum

1 February   "Picturing" the Rhetoric of Salvation: The Reception and Illustration of the Chujohime’s Legend Monica Dix (SISJAC)

8 February  The Construction of Japanese Christian Communities in Early Modern Japan Carla Tronu Montane (SOAS) Postgraduate Forum

22 February A Buddhist Renaissance? Shifting Paradigms and Subverting Traditions within Japan’s "Funeral" Buddhist Temples John Nelson (University of San Francisco)

1 March The Queen Mother cult and Miwa rulers of Early Kofun Japan Gina Barnes (SOAS)

8 March Preachers and Preaching Techniques in Medieval and Pre-modern Japan Hartmut Rotermund (Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes)

22 March Standardizing the Buddhas: Reconsidering the Elite/Popular Distinction in Japanese Buddhism through the Lens of the Meiji Period John Lo Breglio (UC Santa Barbara) Postgraduate Forum

CSJR seminars convenor: Dr Lucia Dolce (020) 7898-4217 (ld16@soas.ac.uk)
**SOAS Open Inaugural Lectures**

22 February 2007, 17.30
Brunei Lecture Theatre, SOAS

"Speaking in Tongues: minority-group identity and language"

**Professor Itesh Sachdev,**
Professor of Language and Communication, Director SOAS-UCL Centre for Excellence for Languages of the Wider World and Head, SOAS School of Languages

Chair: Professor Michel Blanc, FRSA, Université de Savoie, Chambery

Bunraku Chanting and Shamisen performers

All Welcome.

Admission free.

No booking required.

Venue: Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre, SOAS, University of London
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

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**SOAS World Music Summer School**

From June to August 2007 SOAS will run its successful World Music Summer School. The course programme will be announced in late January.

Check [www.soas.ac.uk/summermusicschool](http://www.soas.ac.uk/summermusicschool) for details and updates.

**Enquiries:**
Tel: +44 (0)20 7808 4500
Email: musicevents@soas.ac.uk

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**SOAS Concert Series**

8 March 2007, 19.00
Brunei Gallery, Lecture Theatre

Celebrating International Women's Day
Kiku Day (shakuhachi), Máire Breathnach (fiddle) & Sun Zhuo (guzheng)

Kiku Day is a ji-nashi shakuhachi player with a colourful roots background. Following intensive instrumental studies in Tokyo, her interest is now turning towards contemporary music. This concert will see the world premiere of three original compositions written for Kiku by Yumi Hara Cawkwell, Mogens Christensen and Gabriel Erkoreka.

A classically-trained artist who grew up in a household steeped in traditional music, Máire Breathnach is among Ireland's most prolific traditional musicians. Beautiful melodies and sparkling fiddle playing make for both gripping and fragile performances.

Sun Zhuo studied at the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing and is now continuing her PhD studies in London. She is in high demand as a guzheng player both in China and abroad, most recently working on new compositions and contemporary styles.

**Free Admission to all concerts**
**No booking required**
Venue capacity is limited and we operate a first come first served system. We advise you to arrive early to avoid disappointment.

**Venue**
Brunei Gallery Lecture Theatre
SOAS, University of London
Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG

**Enquiries**
Tel: +44 (0)20 7897 4500
Email: musicevents@soas.ac.uk
Web: [www.soas.ac.uk/concerts](http://www.soas.ac.uk/concerts)

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**Speaking in Tongues: Minority-group Identity and Language**

an Inaugural Lecture by
Professor Itesh Sachdev
Professor of Language & Communication

5.30 pm Thursday
22 February 2007
Lecture Theatre, Brunei Gallery
followed by a reception

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6 March 2007, 17.30
Brunei Lecture Theatre, SOAS

**Professor Paul Webley,** Director and Principal of SOAS

Further details will be available in due course from mo2@soas.ac.uk
CALL FOR PAPERS

BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

Annual Conference

Friday 23 & Sat 24 March 2007

@

University of East Anglia, Norwich

If you wish to offer a paper for consideration please visit the following website

PAPER OFFERS SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO THE BAJ S SECRETARIAT, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT NO LATER THAN 9 February 2007

There may be a possibility of financial assistance for graduate presenters: application information will be available via the BAJ S website

Further information: Lynn Baird, BAJ S Secretariat, University of Essex, Colchester CO4 3SQ
Email: bajs@bajs.org.uk;
Dear CSJR member

Grants from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation in 2007

This is to remind you that the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation continues to place high priority on the support of Japanese studies in the UK and invites applications from CSJR members for grants for projects/research in all areas of Japanese studies. Our application deadlines are 31st August, 15th December and 31st March of each year.

- Grants are intended to be “pump-priming” or partial support for worthwhile projects which would not otherwise be realised, and evidence of core funding should be available before any application is made for an award.

- Applications are not normally accepted from individuals seeking support for personal projects. However, your organisation may apply for a grant in support of your work as an individual, and applications from individuals will be considered if there is clear evidence of firm organisational support.

- Grants are not made for student fees or travel in connection with study for a personal qualification.

- Normally, those who have received an award in the previous three years are not eligible to apply for further support. However, for projects designed to extend over more than one year, we are prepared to consider requests for funding spread over a period of not more than three consecutive years.

- Although not a condition of any grant made, we greatly appreciate acknowledgment of the Foundation's support in any published material resulting from a grant.

- Projects originating in the UK should be submitted through the London office and those originating in Japan through Tokyo.

- Projects for UK-Japan collaborations or exchanges should be submitted as a single project through Tokyo or London, and not as separate applications from the UK and Japanese partners.

- Further information can be found on our website www.gbsf.org.uk

We should be delighted to discuss potential proposals for funding and can be contacted on Tel: 020 7436 9042 or email us on gbsf@gbsf.org.uk

Stephen McEnally
Chief Executive
As the current chair of the Japan Foundation Endowment Fund Committee, as well as a JRC Research Associate, may I take this opportunity just to remind JRC members of the Fund’s existence and to introduce it to anyone not yet aware of it.

The JFEC originates in a large donation made by the Japanese government in 1974 – the agreement was signed by Tanaka Kakuei and Edward Heath, so you have some idea of our historical pedigree! – the income from which was to be used to support Japanese Studies in UK universities. The committee responsible for the allocation of grants from this income is made up of academic representatives from universities with Japanese Studies centres or programmes – John Breen has been a regular member, for instance – making the JFEC perhaps unique in being a grant-giving body run by and for those involved in Japanese Studies in this country.

Over the years, the JFEC has come to focus its grant-giving activities on support for academic research: the majority of awards are contributions towards the travel and subsistence costs of research visits, but all sorts of other things can be considered, and supervisors can also apply on behalf of their PhD students. The Fund’s resources don’t stretch to grants of more than about £5,000, and most are a lot smaller than that, but the idea is to be able to offer flexible financial help towards the extra costs of doing research on and in Japan. The Further Particulars, available, as is the application form, from the JFEC Executive Secretary Lynn Baird (contact details below), hopefully give some idea of what the Fund can and cannot support. There are application deadlines of 15 April and 15 October each year and the committee meets shortly thereafter to consider applications. I’m afraid you do need to get your application signed by your Head of Department and an appropriate administrative authority in SOAS or wherever, as the JFEC system has always depended on university finance offices to organise the payment of grants, which can then be claimed back from the JFEC on the basis of the recipient’s final report. We are working to make the whole business of application for and receipt of JFEC awards as straightforward and convenient as possible, but if you do have any queries, please don’t hesitate to contact Lynn or myself.

The Japanese Studies community in this country is lucky to have available this rather unusual resource devoted to its academic work and the funds are there for us, with your co-operation, to do everything we can to promote and support the best possible research on Japan in this country.

Dr Penny Francks
Chair, Japan Foundation Endowment Fund Committee and JRC Research Associate
p.g.francks@leeds.ac.uk

Further information about the JFEC is available via the BAJS web-site at http://www.bajs.org.uk or by contacting:

Mrs Lynn Baird, JFEC Executive Secretary
University of Essex
Wivenhoe Park
Colchester CO4 3SQ
Essex, U.K.
e-mail: jfec@bajs.org.uk
Subscribe to the JRC News

If you would like to subscribe to JRC News and receive a paper copy twice a year (beginning of Term 1 and 2) send in a cheque for £5 (individual rate) or £15 (corporate rate) made payable to SOAS, to the address given. Please send your cheque with the following information:

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If you would like to receive an electronic copy of the newsletter free of charge please email centres@soas.ac.uk asking to join the JRC News email distribution list together with your email address and your first name and surname.

Contributions

If you would like to submit a piece for consideration for the next edition of the Newsletter (October 2007) please send the details in electronic format to centres@soas.ac.uk The Centre Chair will have the final say on which materials appear in the Newsletter. Items we would like to particularly receive are:

• reports on academic workshops/conferences; and
• details of forthcoming academic events

We would like to thank all the readers who have already sent in articles.
The Ethics of Aesthetics in Japanese Cinema and Literature
Polygraphic Desire
Nina Cornyetz, New York University, USA
This is a ground-breaking, scholarly and original study of the ethics of modern Japanese aesthetics from the 1930s, through the Second World War and into the post-war period.
November 2006: 234x156: 240pp
Hb: 978-0-415-77087-3: £70.00

Japanese Love Hotels
A Cultural History
Sarah Chaplin, Kingston University, UK
Drawing on theories of place, consumption and identity, Sarah Chaplin details the evolution of the love hotel in urban Japan since the 1950s. Representing a timely opportunity to capture and evaluate the dying manifestations of an important era in Japanese social and cultural history, this book provides a critical account of the love hotel as a unique typology. It considers its spatial, aesthetic, semiotic, and locational denotations and connotations, which results in a richly nuanced cultural reading.
April 2007: 234x156: 256pp
Hb: 978-0-415-41585-9: £85.00

Civil Society and the Internet in Japan
Isa Ducke, German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo, Japan
Using case studies, interviews, and empirical sources, Isa Ducke has produced an original work, analyzing the strategies and impact of Internet use by civil society actors and asks how useful it is for their work.
February 2007: 234x156: 256pp
Hb: 978-0-415-41864-5: £70.00

Political Reform in Japan
Leadership Looming Large
Ailsa Gaunder, Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas
Comparing successful and unsuccessful reform drives by Japanese leaders, Ailsa Gaunder argues that the quality of political leadership is the crucial determinant of whether parties in positions of dominance, pass or reject policies.
March 2007: 234x156: 192pp
Hb: 978-0-415-41590-3: £70.00

Pan-Asianism in Modern Japanese History
Colonialism, regionalism and borders
Sven Saaler, University of Tokyo and J. Victor Koschmann, Cornell University
This in-depth volume analyzes various historical approaches to the construction of the regional order in East Asia, each of which can be seen as an expression of Pan-Asianist thought.
Series: Asia's Transformations
December 2006: 234x156: 304pp
Hb: 978-0-415-37215-2: £85.00

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