



**Editor: Sean Curtin**

**Assistant Editor: Clare Barclay**

Welcome to the first edition of Japan Book Review. We hope the new-look format for the reviews will enhance your enjoyment of this highly popular feature. The theme for this inaugural issue is memoirs and we are featuring four newly released books under this heading ranging from the lifetime memories of the distinguished scholar Geoffrey Bownas to Crown Prince Naruhito's account of his two years at Oxford. You will also find several other reviews of recent Japan-related publications.

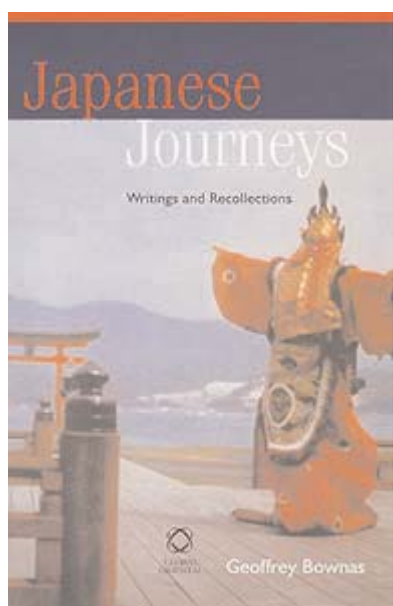
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## Japanese Journeys - Writings and Recollections,

By Geoffrey Bownas,

*Global Oriental*, 2005, 264 pages, ISBN 1-905246-01-3

Review by Mike Barrett

"That night, Mishima was less brusquely cheerful than usual. We ate dinner in sombre silence ...At about 2.30 a.m., Mishima stood up, barked gruffly that he would be back in a minute and shuffled out. Ten minutes later, he swaggered back into the study with the panache of the overlord in a classical samurai film. He had stripped down to a fundoshi...He was carrying a long sword..."

Geoffrey Bownas, who turned 82 in 2005, is a master of the mot juste and as this vivid scene from the introduction to his memoir of a lifetime's involvement with Japan illustrates, this fascinating book can grip like a novel at times. His sharp eye and keen ear range from poetry to politics and bring alive some of the key figures and incidents in Japan's progress from poverty to prosperity in the second half of the twentieth century. As the pioneer of Japanese studies at Oxford and Sheffield, he can call on a depth of scholarship that few can match, but he writes with the warmth and humanity of

someone who loves the sights and sounds of daily life in Japan.

Those readers who are fans of Alan Bennett may also recognise a familiar tone and quality in the writing stemming from Geoffrey Bownas' Yorkshire boyhood. Precisely observed details convey incident and character without ever falling into sentimentality. Recalling the courage of his mother, a former teacher, for example, he writes, "Finally, when her own physical and mental health became too frail for her to live alone, she moved to a nursing home. Even then, she found it hard to tolerate having everything done for her... Two days before she died, she had spent an hour happily - and, so they said, with great expertise - peeling vegetables."

Yorkshire crops up again when describing his memorable encounter with Honda Soichirô, at a time when Bownas was acting as a consultant to UK motor manufacturers and writing on Japanese industry for the Financial Times. His literary flair stretches to dialogue as well as description: "Stung by yet another repeat of 'You should've brought an interpreter,' I forgot my cool and came back with, 'If I'd known your Japanese was as bad as it is, I'd have brought one.' A look of shock was followed by a smile which turned into a broad grin... Then he said, 'That was a real good'un, lad' - to put his Japanese into my equivalent broad Yorkshire dialect."

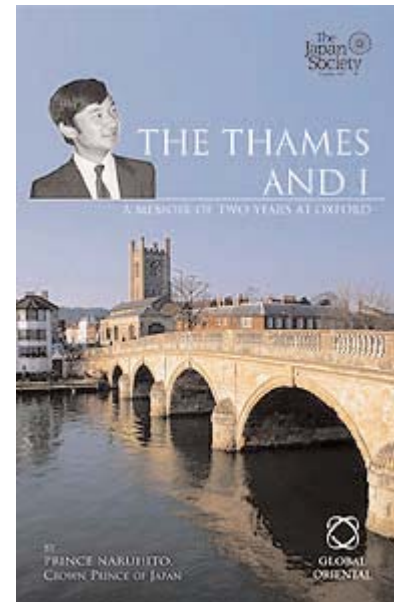
The book includes many such lively incidents and personalities from the business world as well as other non-academic involvements with Japan, ranging from the Tokyo Olympics in 1964 to filming for the BBC's "Inside Japan" series, and an exhausting portfolio of varied commitments right up to 2005, including the Vice-Chairmanship of the Japan Society. But it is of course as Professor Geoffrey Bownas that he is known for his authorship of books such as "The Penguin Book of Japanese Verse" and "New Writing in Japan," among others, and it is perhaps in his cultural sensitivities and aesthetic analysis that he is at his very best, offering revealing insights into the penumbra of Japanese poetics and the atmospherics of the Japanese spirit. The culture is nevertheless always related to the changing social scene. "Senzogaeri sentiment was widely felt and soon became the spur to action. Japanese canons were slowly put back into place alongside newly adopted Western values and, by 1956, the Japanese had settled down - their term, *ochitsuita* - and had created a synthesis with which the great majority could live happily."

The essay on "Japanese Aesthetic" is a master-class in itself and it is Geoffrey Bownas' legacy as a great teacher that completes the impact of "Japanese Journeys." The final chapter, "From Japanology to Japanese Studies," although based on his inaugural lecture as Professor of Japanese Studies at Sheffield in 1966, is a fitting challenge to those who still fail to recognise the importance of teaching language and culture in a social and economic context. He continues to fight the fight whenever possible in public and in private.

The author himself describes the form of this book as a miscellany. "Those who are familiar with Japan's literature will recognize the *zuisô* or *zuihitsu* style. *Zuisô* is 'following a thought,' 'pursuing ideas,' *zuihitsu* is 'following the brush.'" One occasionally looks for more than the personal memoir, and wishes there could have been a fuller account or more in-depth analysis. There are a few unfulfilled hints, some minor trivia remains undeveloped and the cross-referencing could have been even more extensive for the curious reader. But all

this is just asking for more icing on the cake, which might have spoiled this very readable account of a lifetime's achievement.

The mixture of reminiscence, incident and erudition gives "Japanese Journeys" a kaleidoscopic effect, but this is a rich and beautifully written mine of material combining "intellect and feeling in harmony." It also conveys Geoffrey Bownas' enormous sense of fun. A pure treat for all Japan hands.



## The Thames and I - A Memoir of Two Years at Oxford

by Crown Prince Naruhito,  
translated by Sir Hugh Cortazzi,

*Global Oriental*, 2006, ISBN 1-905246-06-4, 150 pages including bibliography and index,

Review by Sean Curtin

Beyond the carefully crafted public personas, most Japanese actually know relatively little about what their imperial family are really like as private individuals. While the personal lives and intimate secrets of European Royals are regularly splashed across newspapers, their Japanese counterparts remain distant, cocooned above the clouds. It is this inaccessibility which makes Crown Prince Naruhito's memoir of his time at Oxford between 1983-85 such a compelling read.

The prince's book - basically a diary-cum-travel guide - is no great literary masterpiece, but it does reveal something of his inner thoughts, offering an exceptionally rare glimpse of the man who will one day occupy the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Oxford has left a deep impression on him, which he openly acknowledges: "This had been a happy time for me - perhaps I should say the happiest time of my life" (page 142). It was probably the only extended period in his life he could live a free, anonymous, semi-normal existence. The modern day prince is sadly condemned to eternal pursuit by hordes of relentless paparazzi. Thus, a two-year release from such torment made Oxford a fantastic haven, constituting a significant thread in the life-tapestry of the future monarch.

A very limited, and hard-to-obtain, edition of the book was originally published in 1993 as part of the celebrations to mark the 125th anniversary of the founding of Gakushuin University in Tokyo, so its emergence in English is extremely welcome. The book was primarily aimed at Japanese university students, and as such it also functions as a good test of the English reader's cross cultural knowledge. Those with limited experience of Japan may occasionally find some of the Prince's observations odd.

The early stages of the account read like Robert Heinlein's *Stranger in a Strange Land* as the intrepid Prince struggles to make sense of the alien world he now inhabits. Of his maiden Oxford drinking foray he notes: "I wondered what sort of a strange place I had come to....I can still remember that it was at this moment sitting in the midst of the aroma of the beer and watching the forms and gestures of the students in the gloom that I realized I was in Oxford so far away across the sea" (page 26). To ease the transition into this bewildering realm, he assumes a new name explaining, "I thought that 'Hiro' was much easier for people to remember than 'Naruhito'"

One definite fact we glean from this memoir is that the Prince is a man who can hold his liquor, an ability which greatly helps him navigate the liquid customs of Oxford as well as smoothes his hob-knobbing with European Royals and aristocracy.

Sadly, the Prince does not reveal if he found love while at Oxford, and his account is free of romantic references except for one cryptic note: "On Valentine's Day there were cards from various unknowns."

However, his passionate love of music and deep intellect do come across clearly. At heart he is a thoughtful, gentle man who has led a sheltered existence. Sometimes, his unworldliness gives him a Peter Pan like air. For instance, he admits to feeling sorry for a parrot in an Oxford pet shop because it "had not found a buyer." His ability to be constantly moved by events and places also amplifies the sense of youthful wonder he experienced as he journeyed through England's green and pleasant land.

He greatly enjoys photograph, telling us that he took over 2000 pictures of Oxford. Before the dawn of the digital camera, this meant frequent trips to the local photo shop where he struck up a warm friendship with the staff. One day, they invite him to a going-away tea party for one of their number. Little did these ladies realize that the polite oriental gentleman they are supping tea with is a prince and heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne. In his own unique way, our Hiro unwittingly reworks a scene from Shakespeare's *Henry V*. Such ordinary encounters with everyday folk would be impossible in his native land. When the jean-clad Prince was occasionally spotted by Japanese tourists as he wandered around Oxford, most could not believe the apparition. Such a sight was almost irreconcilable with the immaculately clothed and saintly image of the Japanese Imperial family. It was this freedom and the alter ego it afforded that has made Oxford so important to the future emperor.

The Prince meticulously describes Oxford University life and Merton College traditions, which will probably fascinate those who have not experienced them first hand. He also details his research into the history of transport on the river Thames between 1750-1800. He is full of praise for his tutors, especially Professor Mathias, Dr. Highfield and Dr. Morgan.

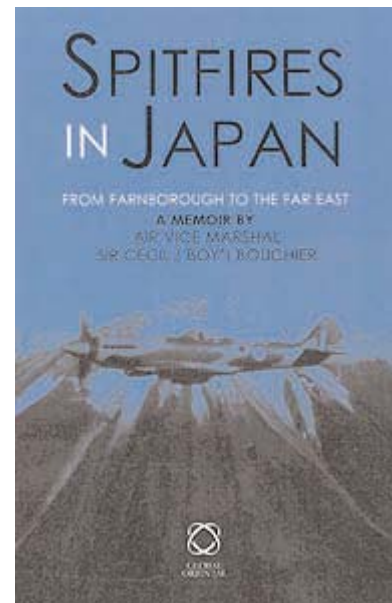
However, it wasn't all books, he also found time for tennis, squash and rowing.

Hiro frequently proclaims his deep enchantment with the city and its river, which he honours in the book title. He confides, "even though the river is on the other side of the globe the name of the Thames conjures up in me feelings of affection and nostalgia transcending distance and time. While I was at Oxford, the Thames was the prop of my life and of my studies" (page 126).

As the book closes, Hiro departs Heathrow Airport to resume his life above the clouds as Crown Prince Naruhito, observing, "As the London scene gradually disappeared from view, I realized that an important chapter in my life was over....I felt a large void in my heart and as I stared out of the windows of the plane, I felt a lump in my throat."

Finally, a review would not be complete without a mention of the considerable contribution made by the invisible man of the saga, the translator Sir Hugh Cortazzi. The text flows smoothly, with helpful, yet unobtrusive, footnotes. In the preface the Prince thanks Sir Hugh "for the zeal and efforts he has put into this project." It is true to say that without his phenomenal energy and patient negotiations with the Imperial Household this intriguing publication might never have made it to the English printing press.

*A different version of this review originally appeared in the Asia Times.*



## **Spitfires in Japan: From Farnborough to the Far East,**

by Air Vice-Marshal Sir Cecil (Boy) Bouchier,  
Edited by Dorothy Britton (Lady Bouchier),

*Global Oriental, 2005, 358 pages, ISBN 1-901903-44-3*

Review by Ian Nish

This interesting book can be looked at from many different perspectives. Basically it is the autobiography of a serviceman, Cecil 'Boy' Bouchier (1895-1979) who, despite setbacks and disappointments, worked his way through the ranks to



positions of power and prestige in the Royal Air Force. At another level it is a history of the RAF as a fighting force in the UK and the British Empire. It is therefore a commentary on the military history of Britain in the first half of the twentieth century.

The early chapters deal with Boucher's background, education and service during the first world war in the Honourable Artillery Company in the middle east. He then switched to the Royal Flying Corps, initially in Cairo. The story then turns to a blossoming career in the RAF, much of which in the 1930s concerns postings in India. Inevitably its terminology is redolent of a former age, almost Kiplingesque : gharis, solar topis, tongas, shikar, chaukidar, for example. But it was a time when Bouchier grew in confidence and we find him in the 1930s training Indian pilots, both Hindus and Muslims, to serve in the embryo Indian Air Force.

His life-story hitherto had been a preparation for the war of 1939-45. He had become acquainted with Spitfires prewar and it was natural that he should command the station at Hornchurch, on the Thames east of London, during the Battle of Britain. In 1944 he drew up the Fighter Air Cover Plan to cover the troop landings in Normandy as part of the allied continental invasion. He was also involved in defence against the attacks on London by V-I and V-II bombs in 1944-5. Bouchier had 'a good war.' Despite all the unpleasantness in the upper reaches of the RAF establishment (which are fully chronicled), he survived and enhanced his reputation.

For the historian the last forty pages of the book are of special significance. When the war in Europe ended, Bouchier became Air Vice-Marshal with command in Burma in time to take the Japanese surrender. He then served briefly in Indonesia and finally in the British Commonwealth Air Force (BCAIR) in Japan. He established a base at Miho on the Japan Sea coast where he operated squadrons of Spitfires. Hence the title of this work. At times he acted as commander in chief of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF) itself. He stayed in Japan till 1948 when he retired from the service.

After a brief career with the Confederation of British Industries (CBI), he was called back to duty in the summer of 1950 after the start of the Korean War. His role was to act as go-between between General Douglas MacArthur as Supreme Commander Allied Powers (SCAP) and the British Chiefs of Staff. Told by the latter not to commit Britain to sending any British troops to Korea, Bouchier in one of the major revelations of this book visited the front, surveying the Pusan Bridgehead where the allied troops were engulfed, and strongly recommended that a British force should be sent, possibly a brigade from Hongkong. In London the Labour government after weighing advice from many quarters agreed. This is clearly a point of great historical interest and specialists will wish to compare Bouchier's account with that given by General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley in the official history of British participation in Korea. But clearly the account left by a first-hand participant like Bouchier who had the temerity to make recommendations contrary to his instructions adds detail and colour to the hitherto published accounts (p.301).

During the active phase of the Korean War Bouchier seems to have played an influential role as a channel of communication with MacArthur and his successors in Tokyo and, by dint of travelling frequently to Korea itself, to have liaised usefully with the troops there and their commanders.

The war dragged on and in November 1952 Bouchier asked to be recalled after "two-and-a half years without a break" (p.330).

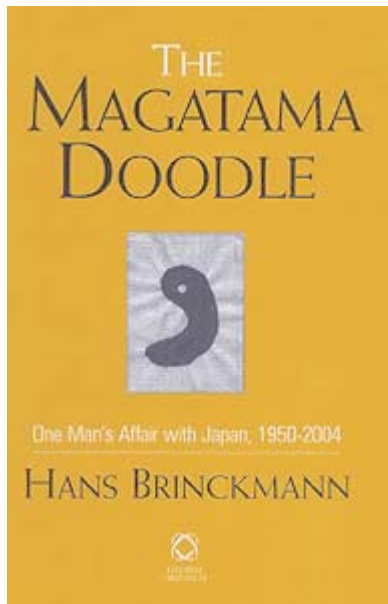
This life-story ends on a high note with a meeting with Winston Churchill who had returned to power as prime minister in 1951. Churchill saw Bouchier's daily reports from Tokyo to the Chiefs of Staff and apparently wrote "I like Bouchier's stuff." He was shown special courtesy when he went as special guest to Sunday lunch at Chequers on 18 November 1952. Bouchier praises the "incredible warmth and kindness of Churchill" (p.338) as he had earlier praised the qualities of MacArthur with whom he had a specially cordial relationship.

This volume presents us with a story of a kind which we are not likely to see again after the end of empire. It was a life made possible by the growing sophistication of aircraft and the mobility that it gave to commanders like Bouchier. His career had its high points but this was combined with personal tragedies. The sheer isolation of a service career and the considerable sacrifices entailed in separation from family in war and peace were things that only a strong and optimistic temperament like Bouchier's could bear. This straightforward and attractively expressed memoir is accompanied by 35 illustrations which capture the many aspects of a variegated career.

## Reviews List

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## The Magatama Doodle - One Man's Affair with Japan, 1950-2004,

by Hans Brinckmann,

*Global Oriental*, 2004, 256 pages, ISBN 1-901903-73-7

Review by Hazuki Saisho

This is a memoir written by a former Dutch banker, Hans Brinckmann. At the age of eighteen, he came to Japan, which was still under US occupation.

He recalls that the Japanese could not travel abroad and lacked any signing authority. Such humiliating times the Japanese people had to live through, yet they were not bothered much by their situation. Although most of the anecdotes are personal - about his Japanese colleagues at the bank, his friends in Kyoto, his wedding with a Japanese from Nagoya - the book gradually takes shape through the writer's sensitivity and firm, observant eye, and what emerges are two main themes: an account of post-war Japan's high growth era and the story of a young man's journey to maturity.

Hans was perhaps unaware that he was part of an elite: foreigners who believed in Japan and helped the country get back on its feet. At the age of twenty-nine, he became Tokyo branch manager and raised finance for Japanese industry, 'guaranteed' by his own confidence in Japan - a task that must have been more arduous than one can imagine. How did he convince the headquarters? "I had faith in Japan." No wonder he felt proud of Japan at the opening ceremony of the Tokyo Olympic Games.

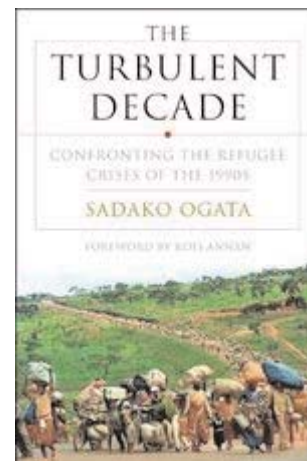
However, eventually the enchantment broke. After becoming Japan area executive for an American Bank, he began to lose patience with the people from the Bank of Japan and the ministries. He could not stand their amae [presumption on the indulgence of others] and their stubborn refusal to open the Japanese market to the world. The title of the book, *The Magatama Doodle*, derives from a habit he noticed among some Japanese men of authority: that of doodling imaginary comma-like figures [which to him resembled ancient magatama beads] on the table whenever they wanted to avoid a decision. Hans, caught in the middle,

wrote in his journal, Our destiny is to embrace life, not to confront it."

Did Hans bid farewell to Japan for good? I am not going to tell you. All I can say is that his thoughts on Japan are more convincing than those of any other commentator, because Hans witnessed first-hand how Japan recovered from defeat. He lived through that period as a young man.

After putting the book down, I looked at the cover photo of the young Hans standing on the ramp in front of an airplane. For a moment I saw General McArthur arriving at Atsugi airport superimposed on the image. But that's all wrong - for Hans is far from an intimidating figure. He wears a suit and a flower in his lapel, and he smiles. A boyish, mischievous smile.

*This review originally appeared in Japanese in the national edition of the mass-circulation Asahi Shimbun (24 April 2005) and was translated by Hiromi Mizoguchi. The review is of the Japanese edition of the book.*



## The Turbulent Decade: Confronting the Refugee Crises of the 1990s,

by Sadako Ogata

*W.W. Norton and Company of New York and London*, 2005, ISBN 0-393-05773-9, 402 pages including index, appendices and maps.

Review by Sir Hugh Cortazzi

Sadako Ogata was United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) between 1991 and 2000. Her book should be read by all politicians and officials involved with issues of international peace. It is a searing account of a series of humanitarian disasters which sadly show that man's inhumanity to man has not altered despite the tragedies and slaughter of two World Wars.

Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General in his foreword, paying tribute to the efforts of Sadako Ogata to relieve suffering, noted that she left no stone unturned in her efforts to protect the World's disposed.

While the end of the cold war brought to an end long-standing conflicts it was followed by a proliferation of ethnic, tribal and religious conflicts "in which population displacement was no

longer a mere consequence of war, but often its very purpose. The result was massive disorder, from the disintegration of Yugoslavia to the genocide in Rwanda."

Mrs Ogata in her ten years as High Commissioner saw more tragedies and suffering than can be imagined by us who live comfortable lives in developed countries. Rightly she does not pull her punches in her criticisms of governments and their leaders for their failures to prevent the tragic consequences of their action or inaction and the often inadequate responses of the leading powers represented on the UN Security Council to the crises and tragedies brought to their attention.

Her book concentrates on four main crises although she was involved in many more. She starts with the Kurdish refugee crisis in Northern Iraq following the first Gulf War. She goes on to discuss the problems encountered in protecting refugees in the Balkan Wars where the situation was complicated by ethnic and religious aspirations and prejudices and where the international community failed to prevent massacres such as that at Srebrenica.

A major section of the book is devoted to the crises in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa where the international community failed to prevent genocide. Her final section deals with Afghanistan where the conflicts there led to huge numbers of refugees.

Mrs Ogata stresses that while refugees had hitherto been defined as people who had fled from their own countries because of war and persecution the definition was inadequate in the 1990s when the main problems were often those of internally displaced persons.

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees was not supposed to take sides in conflict situations or to be involved in political and security issues, but these limitations often could not be adhered to for practical reasons, not least that of the safety of UN personnel. Fortunately Mrs Ogata is a pragmatist with common sense and sound judgement. She also has a strongly developed sense of compassion for others.

The sights and sufferings which she saw with her own eyes aroused her just anger and her determination not to be browbeaten by anyone from Presidents downwards. The term "ethnic cleansing" was to her "an aberration." In her heart she knew that it was obscene and a perversion of the words.

She had, however, to accept that "the international response to humanitarian crisis situations is largely determined by the degree of strategic interests held by the major states." This meant that she faced the greatest difficulties in Central Africa where the interest of the major powers was limited although "The spreading conflict over Congo, if not a war between France and the United States, had the character of a proxy rivalry, which adversely affected the settlement of peace in the Great Lakes region with prolonged humanitarian consequences." None of the major powers were prepared to provide the military back-up needed to prevent genocide.

Among Mrs Ogata's biggest problems was how to protect refugees and internally displaced persons as well as her own staff and those of NGOs. In the Great Lakes area, she also had to try to deal with the militarisation of refugee camps and their involvement in local civil wars. Soldiers from the Rwandan Hutu regime intimidated the refugees, preventing them from returning home, harassed international relief workers and

even confiscated their vehicles and equipment.

In Bosnia the UN Security Council failed to deal with the Serb offensive over Srebrenica. "It pronounced the designation of safe areas without providing adequate deterrent strength to the peacekeepers to protect the areas. Then it prolonged decisions on resorting to the use of air power."

"Watching the bombs dropping from fifteen thousand feet while humanitarian agencies waited in vain to come to the rescue of the people under bombardment, I began to question the effectiveness of high technology warfare." As she also points out, "The problems of refugees could not be settled without resolving the conflicts that drove people to flee."

"The donor countries were generally sympathetic to UNHCR's needs..." but "they would not overstep the boundaries of their geopolitical or domestic interests in determining their position in the Security Council or in resorting to bilateral action."

Mrs Ogata stresses that "The Administration of international criminal justice was crucial to correcting the gross violations of human rights and enforced displacements," but she deplores the slowness of the system.

The failures of the international community in the final decade of the twentieth century were overshadowed by the terrorist attacks on the twin towers and a series of other terrorist incidents. None of these were justified by the failures of the previous decade, but the world powers should at least have learnt the limits of armed force in solving the problems arising from instability, tyranny and extremism whether inspired by religion or ethnic jealousy.

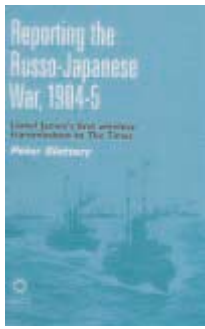
Saddam Hussein in Iraq was a threat to peace, but his removal was so mishandled that it may well have created more problems than it solved. The war in Iraq also sadly diverted attention from what many believe was genocide in Darfur where huge numbers of people have been killed, persecuted and forced to flee. The international community has once again failed to ensure the safety of the refugees and to punish the Sudanese perpetrators of the persecution. The situation in other parts of Africa remains dire and we tend to overlook the problems caused by civil strife in countries such as Sri Lanka and Nepal.

Mrs Ogata, following her retirement from her post of UNHCR and writing her book, was persuaded by Prime Minister Koizumi to take on the task of President of JICA and thus given responsibility for the administration of Japanese aid. Sadly Japanese aid has been cut back and finance officials seem determined to cut it back further. The fiscal problems of the Japanese government are well known, but Japan is one of the wealthiest countries in the world and the Japanese people can hardly be proud of the fact that whereas in the past Japan was the biggest donor of aid, her government is being increasingly stingy.

Mrs Ogata must find the situation very galling especially after she has devoted ten years of her life to the gruelling tasks which she faced as UNHCR.







## Reporting the Russo-Japanese War, 1904-5: Lionel James's first wireless transmissions to The Times

by Peter Slattery

*Global Oriental, 2004, ISBN 1-901903-57-5, 144 pages including appendices, bibliography, endnotes and index, plate section.*

Review by Hugh Cortazzi

The bland title does not do justice to this little book which can be read as an exciting adventure story as well as being an interesting account of episodes in modern history.

These days with our mobile phones, satellite dishes and digital radio sets we have come to regard instant worldwide communication as a matter of course. In fact it was only one hundred years ago that wireless telegraphy was first used by newspapers to report on a war.

It required ingenuity and resourcefulness at The Times to put in place a system using wireless telegraphy to report on the Russo-Japanese War of 1904/5. This gave them initially a few news scoops in a war in which an Asian power for the first time in the modern era defeated a major European state.

The 'hero' of this story is Lionel James, who had joined The Times in 1899 and had reported for the paper on the Boer War. In 1904 he was chosen by Charles Bell, then editor of the paper, to go to the Far East as a war correspondent.

James had become interested in wireless telegraphy to report quickly on newsworthy events and was impressed by the system developed by Lee de Forest, an American engineer. James managed to travel from Liverpool to New York on the *Majestic* on which de Forest was also booked. de Forest persuaded James that his system, which enabled Morse code to be sent faster than via the Marconi system, could be made to work from ship to shore in the Far East over a range of up to 170 miles. James would need a suitable ship and a shore station with access to land cables. Bell was persuaded to allow him to charter at the paper's expense a ship, the *Haimun*, under an experienced British Master, and to establish a land based station at Weihaiwei on the China coast which was then administered by Britain.

James and his team faced considerable technical difficulties in rigging up sufficiently high masts both for the ship and on land. Fortunately in Weihaiwei James, who was assisted by another Scot, David Fraser, won the help of the civil and naval authorities in the base where Scots held all the important positions. James also initially gained the support of the Japanese authorities through Admiral Saito, who agreed to put a Japanese naval officer Commander Tonami on board to act as censor of their reports.

Initially in the spring of 1904 James from the *Haimun*, operating in the Yellow Sea, managed to achieve some impressive scoops. His ship was also a useful source of

intelligence for the Japanese, but James soon ran into trouble. The Russians protested and accused him of being a spy. The naval authorities in the Far East were angry with him for erecting a base station without permission from the commander-in-chief in the Far East.

The Admiralty, the Foreign Office and the Colonial Office were not prepared to support him and the Japanese decided not to allow his ship to return to anywhere near the fighting. Bell in London was impatient and fretted at the costs. James's hopes of further scoops were thus dashed. The *Haimun* charter was ended, the masts at Weihaiwei were dismantled and the American signallers sent home.

James had to join the other war correspondents, whom the Japanese army treated roughly. He nevertheless got to Manchuria and witnessed the Japanese victory at Liaoyang. He managed to send his lengthy and uncensored report on this victory by a telegram sent from Chinese territory after a difficult escape from Manchuria, having borrowed the necessary funds for the cable from George Morrison, the Peking correspondent of The Times.

Not all the personalities who appear in the book were men. Yei Theodora Ozaki, who also features in the Japan Society's Biographical Portraits Volume V, joined the Times staff on the ship but could not cope with sea-sickness in the bad weather in the Yellow Sea. Anne Vaughan-Lewis, the wife of a senior RN officer, who was given a passage on the ship, made a drawing of the Japanese fleet as it left Port Arthur and witnessed the sinking of the Russian ship *Petropavlovsk* with Admiral Makaroff on board after it had struck a mine.

Sir Claude MacDonald, the British Minister in Tokyo, who was the subject of a portrait by Ian Nish in Biographical Portraits Volume I and *British Envoys in Japan*, was regarded as feeble by both James and Morrison.

## Japan Society Website

The Japan Society has now launched its new look website which offers much more flexibility to our members.

All original features such as Events and Lectures are still in place but we have included easier ways to sign up for events and for joining the society. In addition we have added an on line Photograph Catalogue, Book Reviews and much more.

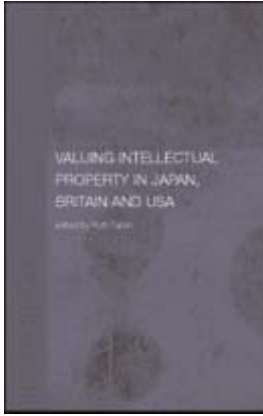
Please visit the website on [www.japansociety.org.uk](http://www.japansociety.org.uk)

The website features the following sections

- Events
- Library
- Online Book Catalogue
- Online Photo Catalogue
- Reviews
- About Us
- Join Us
- Lectures

### Coming Soon:

- Online Shop
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## Valuing Intellectual property in Japan, Britain and the United States,

by Dr. Ruth Taplin (Ed)

RoutledgeCurzon Press, May 2004, ISBN 0-415-34112-4, 160 pages

Review by Sean Curtin

Ruth Taplin has compiled a stimulating, and in many respects ground-breaking, book which comprehensively covers a topic of vital importance to the rapidly evolving global economy. The book addresses the urgent need to re-evaluate risk and understand the true value of intellectual property (IP) in the light of the fact that intangible assets comprise up to 70 per cent of the assets of most major companies today.

The book's various contributors provide the reader with a clear and balanced overview of the emerging issues surrounding the valuing of intellectual property.

It also points to profound changes occurring in Japan concerning IP that have hitherto been unrecorded, especially in English language literature. The days of valuing IP as the sole preserve of accountants and lawyers are apparently in the past, and it has now become an interdisciplinary exercise involving business practitioners, insurance specialists, financiers, business analysts, venture capitalists and those who hold intellectual property assets such as media publishing, pharmaceuticals, electronics, software and universities.

In the book, experts in their field explain how the interdisciplinary nature of valuing IP is evolving with for example the growth in insurance solutions to protect IP. Within this context, the work assesses the growth of IP in different sectors in relation to national agendas in the countries that have most influenced these developments, mainly the USA, Britain and Japan. The United States recognised the value of IP with the landmark Bayh-Dole amendment which also influenced Britain and Japan.

The reader also learns that the Technical Licensing Organisation (TLO) has spread to Britain and Japan where it has been modified and cross-influenced the USA's TLO system with the latter now bringing forth issues concerning the re-appraisal of valuing IP at the point of commercialisation from universities to industry.

Japan has recently privatised all its universities to facilitate cooperation with industry in licensing inventions. Unique IP

divisions within the universities are being created to promote this process.

Japan is attempting to invent its way out of economic inertia as it has done in the past and in the process is re-evaluating everything from brand valuation to the role of entrepreneurship to university-industry relationships; providing lessons that can be learned from globally.

In many respects, Japan has been neglected, despite it being the second largest economy in the world, especially in relation to patents and IP. According to the book, Japan has not been given prominence in specialized literature because of the language barrier, its inward looking tendencies, the complexity of the patent system, which is the book skilfully demystifies, and various cultural practices.

This book redresses such omission, especially in English language literature, by chronicling and explaining all the current changes happening in Japan with respect to IP in a clear and coherent fashion, which shows the inter-connections between these processes in the USA and Britain all within an interdisciplinary context.

The valuing of intellectual property is an art not a science and this stimulating book is a must-read for all those involved or connected to intellectual property and its valuation in any form.



### WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A REVIEWER?

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The Japan Society  
Swire House  
59 Buckingham Gate  
London  
SW1E 6AJ

Email: [culture@japansociety.org.uk](mailto:culture@japansociety.org.uk)

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History  
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Photography  
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We would ask reviewers to review one or two books per year according to their preference and availability of books in their chosen area.

