

Events

January - December 2013



Arts & Culture

Business & Government

Education

Lectures

Lifestyle

Special Events

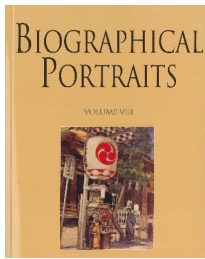
For more information or to book for Japan Society events,
please visit the website or contact the office.



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

tel: 020 7828 6330 fax: 020 7828 6331 info@japansociety.org.uk www.japansociety.org.uk

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Monday 18 February

6.45pm

The Japan Foundation
6th Floor Russell Square House
10-12 Russell Square
London WC1B 5EH

Free - booking essential

Booking deadline - Thursday 14 February

Wednesday 20 February 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
London WC1A 2TH
(Hall entrance on Barter St)

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn

To mark the publication of *Biographical Portraits VIII*, the Japan Society is holding a special book launch in association with the Japan Foundation, with accompanying talks by the editor and key contributors. Presentations will last for approximately fifty minutes, to give attendees a flavour of some of the personalities featured in this volume. The formal proceedings will be followed by a short Q & A session.

This book forms part of a series of volumes which record the lives of people who have contributed in various ways to the development of UK-Japan relations. The current volume brings the Japan Society's collection of individual memoirs to a cumulative total in excess of 400 biographical portraits.

We are delighted to be able to offer copies of *Biographical Portraits VIII* free of charge to members of the Japan Society while stocks last. Copies will be available to collect on the night. Members who are unable to attend the launch may obtain a copy from the Japan Society office on request, either in person or by post, at a cost of £5.00 (UK residents).

For centuries Japanese have made religious pilgrimages into the mountains, and climbed to the summit of many of them. In fact, there were very few major peaks in the Japanese Alps that had not been scaled before Western alpine pioneers clambered up them. To climb as a leisure activity, however, was a novel idea, which had not occurred to the Japanese before the late nineteenth century. Mountain climbing as a leisure pursuit was one of the new sports introduced into Japan by Westerners during this period and has since become a popular pastime. This talk looks at the achievements of Walter Weston and those that followed him, H. E. Daunt and Murray Walton, as an enduring legacy of pre-war Anglo-Japanese relations.

In the history of Japan's cross-cultural relations with the West, sports have proved themselves to be remarkably durable. In large part, this is because they normally pose neither a direct challenge to the indigenous culture nor are they subject to the whims of fashion to the same degree as foreign intellectual ideas. Japan has accepted and adapted a great many Western sports, including mountain climbing, and also successfully exported some of its own traditional sports to the outside world.

Hamish Ion is a graduate of McGill University and holds a Ph.D. in Japanese Studies from Sheffield University. He has written extensively on various aspects of Japanese history including Anglo-Japanese relations in the Meiji and Taisho periods. He teaches history at the Royal Military College of Canada.



Friday 22 February 2013 12.30 for 1.00pm

The National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE
(nearest tube: Embankment Station)

£50 per head for members of the JCCI and Japan Society, and their guests

Booking deadline – Monday 4 February

The Japan Society and JCCI are delighted to welcome, as the guest speaker at their first joint lunch of 2013, Sir John Beddington, the UK Government's Chief Scientific Advisor.

Sir John will talk about UK-Japan nuclear cooperation. The future of nuclear power in Japan is still under consideration, while the British are embarking on an accelerated building programme. Thus the scope for cooperation is significant. Sir John's early and clear advice at the time of the Fukushima crisis was greatly appreciated in Japan.

Sir John Beddington has been based at Imperial College, at the Universities of Edinburgh and York and he is a specialist on Economics and the Biology of Sustainable Management. He has chaired the Environment Food and Rural Affairs panel and the Defence Scientific Advisory Committee and has advised the European Commission and the UN Food Organisation. The Government's Chief Scientific Advisor is the personal advisor on science and technology-related activities to the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and is also the Head of the Government Office for Science and the network of Chief Scientific Advisors in place in all major science-using departments

Following a two-course lunch, Sir John Beddington will speak for about 20 minutes, after which there will be time for questions until 2.30pm.



Sunday 17 March 2013

4.30pm

Duke of York Square
(Off Sloane Square)
London SW3 4LY

£15 for Japan Society members and their guests

Booking essential

Booking deadline – Thursday 14 March

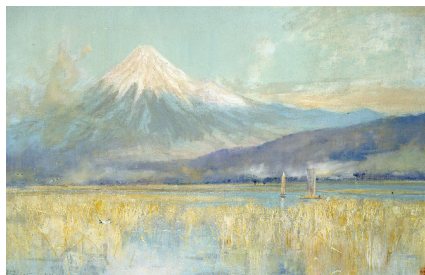
Tea and a special talk at the British Antique Dealers' Association Fair has been organised for Japan Society members and guests. A visit is a must for anyone interested in art and antiques, where a huge array of top quality furniture, paintings, clocks, ceramics, jewellery and silver can be viewed and bought. The great attraction of this annual visit is the easy access to stalls and exhibits from approximately 100 of the UK's best antique dealers.

Members who attend this event, and who have pre-paid for their entrance through the Japan Society, can enter the fair after 11.00 am during the day of Sunday 17 March, pick up their ticket(s) from the desk at the fair reception, and receive a complimentary BADA Handbook.

At 4.30pm members will be invited to enjoy tea and cake and a special welcome from fair Director Gillian Craig in the Cellini Restaurant.

This will be followed by a private visit to the special loan exhibition *William Payne (1760 – 1830): Topographer and Artist of the Picturesque*. An exhibition of rarely seen works by the English watercolorist, curated by expert and BADA Fair Exhibitor John Spink, all the paintings have been lent by four private collectors and have seldom been seen in public.

The fair will close at 8.00pm but members will receive a special voucher entitling them to return the following day if they wish to. The fair is open to the public daily at 11.00am between Wednesday 13 – Tuesday 19 March.



Monday 18 March 2013 2013 6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
London WC1A 2TH
(Hall entrance on Barter St)

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

This talk will cover the career of the landscape painter Alfred East. Drawing on the diaries kept by East and his travelling companions AL Liberty (the founder of Liberty's store) and CH Holme (who was to become the editor of *The Studio* magazine), the talk will cover his journey to, and 6 months spent in, Japan in 1888-89 sponsored by the Fine Art Society of London. Arriving in Nagasaki, amongst the places he visited were Kobe, Kyoto, Hakone, Yokohama, Tokyo, and Nikko. The talk will cover the attitudes of East and his travelling companions to Japanese art of the period and Hideko Numata's Japanese perspective on his work. It will be illustrated by reproductions of the artist's oils, water colours and etchings portraying the country, its people, its temples, lakes and mountains, its blossom and changing weather.

Completing his journey round the world through North America, East repaid his debt to the Fine Art Society with a very successful exhibition of more than 100 of his pictures on his return in March 1890. An avid collector of Japanese prints, drawings, pottery, bronzes and netsuke by the time of his death, East had built up a collection of more than 400 items.

Paul Johnson is the co-author (with Professor Kenneth McConkey) of *Alfred East Lyrical Landscape Painter* (2009). His father was one of Alfred East's executors in 1913. With a degree in modern history, Johnson qualified as a solicitor and spent his working life in the spheres of public law and administration.

Saturday 23 March 2013 2.00 pm

The Fan Museum
12 Croom's Hill
London
SE10 8ER

£11.00 for Japan Society members and their guests (Includes afternoon tea following the tour)

Booking deadline – Wednesday 20 March

The Japan Society is being offered a rare opportunity to visit behind the scenes and explore the Fan Museum's archives, where the majority of the Museum's collection of Japanese fans is stored. In the company of founder and curator Helene Alexander, guests will have the chance to examine fans from a range of periods and styles. Following the tour, afternoon tea will be served in the beautifully restored Georgian Orangery.

The Fan Museum is the only museum devoted entirely to every aspect of fans and fan making, home to a collection of more than 3,500 fans from around the world, dating from the 11th century to the present day. The Museum stages themed exhibitions throughout the year, including fans on loan from other collections. The curator-led tour will also include a chance to examine the current exhibition *The Fan in Europe: 1800 – 1850*, featuring an eclectic array of fans from this period.

Helene Alexander (née Adda) was born in Alexandria, Egypt in December 1932. She specialised for a diploma in theatrical design at the Central School of Art and Design (then the Central School of Arts and Crafts) in London. She also holds a degree in History of Art from London University and has been associated with the Victoria and Albert Museum where she worked for thirteen years as a volunteer in the textile department. Over the years, she has assembled one of the most comprehensive collections of fans and fan leaves in the world. She was the founding president of the Fan Circle International, is President of the Fan Museum Trust and currently serves as Director and Curator of the Fan Museum in Greenwich.



Thursday 18 April 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
London WC1A 2TH
(Hall entrance on Barter St)

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

Tuesday 30 April 2013

7.00 for 7.30pm

The Prince of Wales
Drury Lane
Covent Garden
London WC2B 5PF

£1 per head (payable at the door)

Booking essential (places are limited)

The Japan Society is delighted to be hosting a discussion between two eminent figures in the world of Japanese translation and literature studies, Michael Emmerich and Stephen Dodd.

The evening will begin with a short presentation on Emmerich's current book project, *The Tale of Genji: Translation, Canonization, and World Literature*, in which he re-examines the conventional narrative of this iconic work's history, arguing that it became a classic outside of Japan before it was popularized domestically.

Stephen Dodd, Senior Lecturer in Japanese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, will then join Emmerich in conversation about theories of world literature and how its canon is constituted and recognised. The discussion will expand to encompass Emmerich and Dodd's own translation work, which ranges from classical to contemporary-era Japanese fiction.

Michael Emmerich is an assistant professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In addition to his many publications in English and Japanese on early modern, modern, and contemporary Japanese literature, he is the translator of works by writers such as Kawabata Yasunari, Yoshimoto Banana, Takahashi Gen'ichirō, Matsuura Rieko, and Kawakami Hiromi.

Stephen Dodd gained two BA degrees in Chinese (1977) and Japanese (1980) from Keble College, Oxford. He obtained a PhD in Japanese Literature from Columbia University (1993). From 1994, he has been teaching at SOAS, University of London, where he is presently Senior Lecturer in Japanese.

おやっつさあ! To mark the visit of the Japan British Society of Kagoshima, the Japan Society pub quiz returns after three years in retirement. A popular feature of British pub culture, a pub quiz is a chance to band together with a team of friends and pit your wits against the pub's quiz master – and of course enjoy a drink or two along the way. The unique point about the Japan Society Pub Quiz is that half the questions are in English and half in Japanese, although it is structured so that anyone can take part.

This, the fifth Japan Society Pub Quiz, is your chance to show everyone just how much you know, or simply to come and have fun with like-minded people. If you have never participated in a pub quiz, it's time you found out what they are all about. If you are a past master, this is another chance to form a winning team. In honour of our visitors from Kagoshima, there may well be some questions with a certain Satsuma slant. But don't worry, it is not a quiz about the history of southern Kyushu and we will try to place one of our visitors from Kagoshima in each team to help.

All team members will be asked to pay £1 on the night. The collected takings will form the prize, which will be awarded to the winning team. The more teams and more participants, the bigger the bounty! There will also be a prize for the team with best name.

The rules are not strict, but teams will have about six members and will need to include at least one Japanese speaker. If you are interested, but haven't got a full team, please let us know. We can match you with other people to make up a six.



Thursday 2 May 2013 12.30 for 1.00pm

The Cavalry and Guards Club
127 Piccadilly
London W1J 7PX

£55 per head for members of the JCCI and Japan Society, and their guests

Booking deadline – Monday 29 April

The guests at the next Japan Society and JCCI joint lunch will be the co-Chairmen of the UK-Japan 21st Century Group, Mr Yasuhisa Shiozaki and the Lord Howard of Lympne, together with other British and Japanese members of the Group.

The 21st Century Group is a non-Governmental forum. It was set up in 1984 to help cement closer links between British and Japanese politicians, business and media figures, and academics. It meets each year, alternating between Japan and the UK, to discuss issues of mutual national interest, reporting direct after each meeting to the British and Japanese Prime Ministers. Membership of the group varies from year to year but includes Members of the UK Parliament and of the Diet, experts on the issues being discussed, senior business representatives and well-known media commentators.

For this lunch, members of the 21st Century Group will be spread through tables of 10, otherwise made up of members of the Japan Society and of the JCCI; all attendees will be allocated seats. The co-Chairmen will make brief speeches, but the aim of the lunch will be to enable the members of the Society and the Chamber to discuss current issues of interest in UK/Japan relations directly with the members of the Group. There will be representatives of the Society's Board on each table, who can feed back any specific points after the lunch as necessary.

We are indebted to Nikko AM for funding the participation of the delegates from the 21st Century Group.

This is an important event: dialogue with the parliamentary and other delegates who will be going straight on to debate the same issues over the weekend, will give our members a chance to provide input to key questions and also to ensure that the members of the Group are aware of the issues faced by those involved in UK-Japan relations here in the UK.

Wednesday 15 May 2013 7.30pm

St Giles' Church
Cripplegate
Fore Street
Barbican
London EC2Y 8DA

Ticket price – £15

Contact Japan Society for booking form

The Japan, Hong Kong and Anglo-Korean Societies, the Islington Chinese Association, the British-Japanese, British-Chinese and British-Korean Law Associations and St Giles Church, Cripplegate are organising a Gala Opera Evening featuring operas with Asian settings or themes performed by outstanding young professional opera singers.

The performance will be raising support for the City Music Foundation and the St Giles Young Musicians' initiative Rising Stars.

Performers

Victoria Stanyon (Soprano)
Charlotte Stephenson (Mezzo Soprano)
John Pierce (Tenor)
Gerard Collet (Baritone)
Alice Turner (Pianist)

Programme

Un bel di, vedremo (from *Madame Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini)
Vogliatemi bene (from *Madame Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini)
Sous le dome epais (from *Lakme* by Leo Delibes)
Au fond du temple saint (from *Les Pecheurs de perles* by Georges Bizet)
You are my heart's delight (from *The Land of Smiles* by Franz Lehár)

Interval

Miya sama (from *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan)
Brightly dawns our wedding day (from *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan)
Three Little Maids (from *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan)
The Sun, whose rays are all ablaze (from *The Mikado* by Gilbert and Sullivan)
Signore, Ascolta! (from *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini)
Nessun Dorma (from *Turandot* by Giacomo Puccini)



400th
1613 - 2013
Four Hundredth
Anniversary
of Anglo-Japanese
Relations

Wednesday 22 May 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

The people who lived in the Japanese archipelago in the millennia before the arrival of rice farming, long before the first historical records that refer to Japan were written, were among the first to experiment with a number of innovations that had a profound impact on the subsequent history of humanity. These include creating some of the earliest ceramic containers in the world; fostering close relationships with plants and plant products, in particular lacquer; and creating some of the first village communities.

This talk examines recent discoveries that illustrate the contribution of the prehistoric Japanese to world history and presents evidence that the Jomon archipelago was not as cut off from its surroundings as is often thought. Drawing on examples from fieldwork in the Shinano and Chikuma River system, central Honshu and elsewhere, we will also see how these Jomon foragers were remarkably resilient in the face of regular natural catastrophes, incorporating coping with very active environments and their unpredictability into Jomon cultural perceptions of the world.

Dr Simon Kaner is Director of the Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of East Anglia, Norwich and Head of the Centre for Archaeology and Heritage at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures. A Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, he is directing the Shinano River Project, investigating the development of historic environments along the Shinano and Chikuma rivers, the longest drainage in the Japanese archipelago. He is also currently involved in research into the archaeology of the sacred island of Okinoshima, the collection of kofun period archaeological materials collected by William Gowland at the British Museum, and the interface between cultural tourism and archaeology.

Tuesday 11 June 2013

6.30pm (doors open)

All Saints Church Fulham
Pryors Bank
Bishops Park
Putney Bridge Approach
London SW6 3LA

Free – booking required
Seating – first come, first served

Join us in celebrating the arrival, 400 years ago to the day, of the first British ship to Japan with an evening of music and words drawn from the traditions of the two countries.

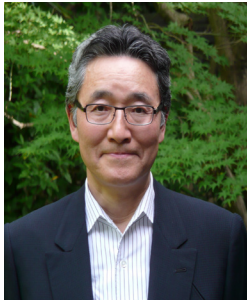
Musical programme arranged by: Jason James, David Hughes, Michael Spencer, Meg Hamilton and David Fawcett

Programme (more details to follow on the website)

Doors Open: 6.30pm (A pay bar with sake, wine and soft drinks available)

Starts: 7.30pm

Programme Ends: 9.45



Monday 15 July 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

Despite its many rules and constraints, the stability of Japanese society for more than two centuries under the Shogunate's policy of seclusion (1630s-1850s) did not result in gloomy stagnation. How was this possible? The answer may lie in the era's abundance of unambitious, self-contented elders, who can be labeled 'modestly literate picnic lovers (*gakumon hodo hodo, yusan dai-suki*)'. The existence of this group has been uncovered through a computer-processed analysis of the patterns of wear and tear on the bottom surfaces of more than sixty extant copies of the bulky *Setsuyōshū*, a household encyclopedia used commonly by local community elders. First produced in the late medieval period, the *Setsuyōshū* was popularised and expanded during the 18th century and came to be regarded as a reliable reference book.

In this lecture, Professor Yokoyama will discuss the users of the book who tended to be detached from the establishment, while indulging in individual pursuits, and hence contributed to the radiance of old Japan.

The Carmen Blacker Lecture Series honours the memory and scholarship of Carmen Blacker (1924-2009). Each year a senior scholar will lecture on a theme related to Japanese religion or folklore. Professor Toshio Yokoyama is Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University and Executive Vice-President at Shiga University.



Friday 26 July 2013

6.30 for 7.00pm

Tsuru Restaurant Bishopsgate
Broadgate Plaza (off Primrose Street)
London EC2M 3AF

£50 – booking essential
Booking deadline – Monday 22 July

Back by popular demand, Tsuru will once again offer Japan Society members and guests a chance to enjoy an exclusive tutored Japanese whisky tasting.

Whisky wizards Joel Harrison and Neil Ridley have been on the hunt for seldom seen spirits to bring to London for your enjoyment. Those attending will have the opportunity to taste five distinctive selections paired with special dishes prepared by Tsuru's chef.

Joel and Neil will be on hand to introduce and discuss each whisky. Tasting notes and information will also be available for guests to take home.

Japanese whisky is similar in style to Scottish whisky and regularly competes for the top spot at world whisky tastings.

The full menu will be available to view on the Japan Society website shortly.

Tsuru Restaurants offer hand-made sushi, authentic katsu curry and other Japanese dishes made by experienced chefs using fresh, sustainable ingredients.



Tuesday 30 July 2013 12.30 for 1.00pm

The National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE
(nearest tube: Embankment Station)

£50 per head for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking deadline – Friday 26 July

Questions about the UK's current and future relationship with the EU are among the key issues for investors in the UK, especially for the many which have European Headquarters in this country.

In the light of David Cameron's pledge that, if a Conservative Government is elected in May 2015, there will be a referendum by 2017 on whether Britain should remain part of the EU, many are watching developments closely. The issues behind this initiative are wide-ranging and need explanation. Charles Grant will give his views on the British relationship with Europe and the prospects ahead.

Charles Grant studied at Cambridge before joining *Euromoney* and then *The Economist*. He covered the European Community for the latter from 1989 to 1993 when he became the magazine's Defence Editor. In 1996, Grant founded The Centre for European Reform, a think tank devoted to making the European Union work better and strengthening its role in the world. The CER is pro-European and regards European integration as largely beneficial. Under Grant's leadership the CER has become a respected influence on British perceptions, and relations with, the EU.

Following a two-course lunch, Charles Grant will speak for about 20 minutes, after which there will be time for questions until 2.30pm.

Friday 9 August 2013

6.30 - 8.30pm

Sozai Cooking School
5 Middlesex Street
London E1 7AA

£38 – special price for members of the Japan Society and their guests

Booking deadline – Friday 2 August

This August, Sozai Cooking School is offering Japan Society members the opportunity to join a sushi making class. This is a wonderful chance to learn Japanese cooking skills from a professional chef and apply them to meals in your own home.

Sushi comes in a wide variety of shapes and sizes and is a key feature of dinner party dining in Japan. In this class you will learn to make exciting party sushi full of tremendous 'wow' factors and guaranteed to impress your guests. Akemi Yokoyama will teach you the skills and techniques required to put together a truly astonishing party plate.

Included in the evening class:

- *How to make sushi rice
- *Inari-sushi (colourful sushi made with bean curd skin, ultra thin eggomelette, prawn and raw salmon)
- *kazari-sushi (large square sushi roll with a beautiful pattern)
- *temari-sushi (small round shaped sushi)

Akemi Yokoyama's enthusiasm for gastronomy originated early in her childhood in Sapporo, where enjoying the spoils of wild vegetable foraging and sea fishing were regular family activities. This drove her understanding regarding the importance of the freshest, highest quality ingredients together with exquisite taste pairings in Japanese food. Akemi came to London in 1985, where she learned sushi making while working in London's popular Japanese restaurant Hiroko.



Monday 19 August 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way (Hall entrance on
Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

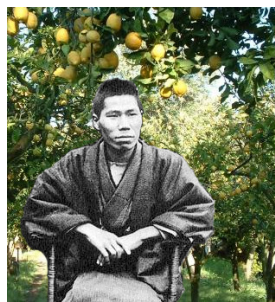
Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

Japan-UK relations in popular music began in 1854, when a military band which accompanied Rear Admiral Sir James Stirling played a medley of English airs in Nagasaki.

By looking into a series of fascinating episodes in Japan-UK popular music, Akira Imamura will examine how music has brought the peoples of both countries together. From the story of a British bandmaster who composed the first Japanese national anthem *Kimigayo* in 1870, to the close collaboration between the members of *Yellow Magic Orchestra* and the British art rock band *Japan* in the 1980s, or the creative experiments of Japanoise and dub-step in the 2000s, this lecture explores how music influenced mutual perceptions. What inspiration did musicians find in each other's works? What impact has state policy, technology and other external factors had on musical interaction? How has collaboration in music production deepened over the course of 160 years? These and other questions will be addressed in the course of the evening's talk.

Akira Imamura is Minister and Consul General at the Embassy of Japan in the UK. He was stationed in Moscow three times between the 1980s and 2000s. After graduating from Tokyo University in 1984, he served for the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has served as Director, Russia Assistance Division (2002), and Director, Central and South Eastern Europe Division (2003), in Tokyo.



Monday 16 September 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

Kajii Motojirō was born in 1901, and wrote only about twenty short stories before dying of tuberculosis in 1932. He is best known today in Japan and in the West (if at all) for his short story, *Lemon*, written in 1925. While the brevity of his period of literary activity is undeniable, his short stories stand out both in terms of their fascinating narrative plots, and also in their use of an undeniably poetic prose style. Kajii began writing from the mid-1920s, a brief but very significant moment of Japanese literature when, just as in the West, all sorts of political ideologies and philosophies of life were being hotly debated in the cultural and literary worlds. On the other hand, by the time he passed away in the early 1930s, those debates were already giving way to a more conservative and inward-looking consensus on what it meant to be Japanese; a development that led to the cultural movement known as the 'Return to Japan' (Nihon kaiki).

In this talk, Stephen Dodd will demonstrate how Kajii engaged with the diverse ideas of his time from a variety of angles: for example, he had an unusually positive interpretation of his own relationship with tuberculosis; he had an idiosyncratic understanding of what the Japanese version of Modernism might entail; and he explored extremely porous definitions of self-identity in Japan during the early twentieth century. Dodd will draw upon examples of his literary fiction in translation in order to flesh out these various themes.



Sunday 29 September 2013 11.00am - 5.30pm

The Golden Hinde
1 Pickfords Wharf
Clink St
London SE1 9DG
(Nearest underground station: London Bridge)

Free admission (see booking information below)
Booking essential - capacity is limited onboard

Wednesday 2 October 2013 12.00 for 12.30pm

JETRO London
MidCity Place
71 High Holborn
London WC1V 6AL

£12 for members of the Japan Society, JCCI
and those introduced by JETRO
£18 for non-members

Booking deadline - Monday 30 September

The Japan Society and the Embassy of Japan are organizing a family day, In conjunction with Golden Hinde and in association with Japan400, to celebrate the 400-year ties between England and Japan, and to introduce Londoners to different aspects of Japanese culture.

The day's activities centre on the replica of Sir Francis Drake's Golden Hinde, which was used in the highly successful TV mini-series of James Clavell's *Shogun*, the tale based on the true story of the first English sailor to reach Japan.

Onboard and around the dock, families can enjoy a variety of entertainment, from dressing in traditional Japanese armour and kimono, to watching Japanese folk tales performed on deck and recounted in the heart of the ship's hold. Children will have the chance to collect pictures on the *Shogun's Treasure Trail* and make their own origami ships, or try their hand at calligraphy.

The Japanese flag is hoisted up the mainmast for the start of the day at 11.00am and lowered again at 5.00pm. For a full programme of the day's timed activities please visit the website.

Due to the popularity of this event, please book your free place in advance to ensure that you can gain access to the ship on the day. Please also specify a preferred time slot when booking - 11.00 am, 1.00 pm or 3.00 pm.

A major source of instability in the region, North Korea is a considerable cause of concern for successive Japanese and other regional governments. Normal diplomatic practices and relations do not seem to apply; the leader is young and inexperienced (although with some education outside Korea) and those around him are unlikely to challenge his decisions. The regime is unpredictable and the economy weak and yet the military is relatively well armed and has some nuclear capability. An understanding of North Korea, its leadership and unpredictabilities is important for us all. Aidan Foster-Carter will seek to explain the motivations of the Government in Pyongyang, outline the dilemmas of dealing with it, and predict scenarios for North Korea's future.

Aidan Foster-Carter is Honorary Senior Research Fellow in Sociology and Modern Korea at Leeds University and is one of this country's leading authorities on North Korea, which he has followed for 45 years.

Co-organized by:

In association

In association





Monday 21 October 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

Monday 4 November 2013

7.30 for 8.00pm

1 Great George St
London SW1P 3AA

Members under 30: £30
Members (& first guest): £55
Additional guests / Non-Members: £90

Dress code: Black tie / Lounge suits / National dress

The cost includes drinks on arrival, three
course dinner, wine and coffee.

Beginning with the historic Ginkgo tree that has thrived in Kew Gardens since the 1760s, this lecture will explore the evolutionary and cultural history of the species from its mysterious origin through its proliferation, drastic decline, and ultimate resurgence. The lecture will also highlight the cultural and social significance of ginkgo, particularly in Japan: its medicinal and nutritional uses, its power as a source of artistic and religious inspiration, and its importance as one of the world's most popular street trees.

Ginkgo is a botanical oddity that has remained stubbornly unchanged for more than two hundred million years. It is the most widely recognized of all botanical 'living fossils.' Once regarded as a cousin of pines and yews, ginkgo was first distinguished from conifers in plant classifications of the early nineteenth century. The evidence that has come to light since – particularly an astonishing discovery made in Japan in 1896, about the intimate details of its reproduction – has reinforced the isolated position of ginkgo among living plants.

Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS is Carl W. Knobloch Jr. Dean of the School of Forestry and Environmental Studies at Yale University. His work focuses on the diversity of plant life – its origin, fossil history, current status, conservation and use.

The Japan Society is delighted to be hosting this year's annual dinner at One Great George Street, just off Parliament Square in the heart of Westminster.

The venue was built for the Institution of Civil Engineers, whose first President was Thomas Telford, between 1910 and 1913. The design was the result of an architectural competition won by James Miller. Over its lifespan the building has played host to a range of historic events, including the signing of the charter that established UNESCO in 1945.

The dinner will take place in the Great Hall, with its elaborate ceiling of somersaulting biplanes and steel cranes, dedicated to the work of engineers during the First World War. The site of several film epics over the years, from *Ghandi*, to the political thriller *In the Loop* and the TV drama *Foyles War*, One Great George Street is, in the words of one architectural critic, 'a modern rendering of the late Renaissance.'

The dinner is traditionally a black tie event and many guests will wear formal dress, but for those who prefer lounge suits, this is perfectly acceptable. Most people will be sitting at round tables of 10. If you have any seating preferences, please specify with whom you wish to be seated. Please also inform us of any special dietary requirements. Tickets will be sent to all those attending.

The Japan Society Awards 2013 will also be announced and presented during the evening.

Love Statues, Shell Fish and Communist Treachery: Japan's early postwar responses to the War Crimes Issue

– Barak Kushner



Thursday 5 December 2013 6.30 to 8.00pm

Embassy of Japan
101-104 Piccadilly
London W1J 7JT

£17 (Members & their guests)
Booking Deadline – Monday 2 December

Please bring photographic identification with you as those without may be denied entrance

This year's Christmas party will once again be held in the Ballroom of the Japanese Embassy.

In 2013 we have been marking two significant anniversaries: the arrival 150 years ago of the *Choshu Five* in London and the 400th anniversary of the first British ship, *The Clove*, to make landfall in Japan. It was on this same day, 5 December 400 years ago, that John Saris and his crew departed on their return voyage, with gifts from the Shogun to King James and an official Vermilion Seal Letter (*shuinjō*) granting the English permission to live and trade throughout Japan. These historic occasions provide the theme for our festivities but the Christmas party is also a great opportunity to catch up with friends at the close of the year and start thinking ahead to new challenges in 2014.

The Japan Society and the Embassy of Japan are delighted to welcome delegates from Shizuoka City as special guests for the evening. The Mayor of Shizuoka will attend alongside Mr Tsunenari Tokugawa, the 18th generation head of the Tokugawa family and a direct descendant of Shoguns Ieyasu and Hidetada, the rulers whom John Saris met in 1613.

There will be special presentations during the evening, including speeches from His Excellency The Ambassador and Japan Society Chairman, Sir David Warren, alongside a demonstration of hand-rolled tea and other crafts from Shizuoka. The party food has once again been generously provided by the Japan Centre.

Monday 18 November 2013 6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

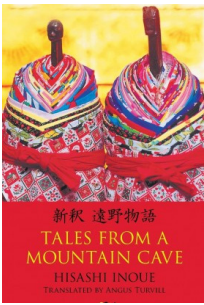
Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

An analysis of the end of World War Two and the beginning of the Cold War does not just relate to politics but also to the story of Japan's imperial failure and the sociology of defeat. The repatriation of millions of Japanese civilians and returning soldiers often made acceptance for the responsibility of defeat and the war all the more difficult, as did the memory of the war dead because it was so deeply connected to Japan's imperial ideology. The Tokyo War Crimes Trial, focused on class A war criminals, generated rivers of ink in the Japanese language but much less has been said about the war crimes puzzle at Japan's imperial periphery.

This lecture will focus on the 5,700 B & C class war criminals, prosecuted in 2,244 cases that were adjudicated in forty-nine venues throughout Asia. Japan's national responses to those more numerous and varied crimes across the former empire from 1945-1965 detail a hitherto unknown story about Japan and how it viewed itself in the postwar period.

Barak Kushner teaches modern Japanese history at the University of Cambridge. He was recently awarded a 2012-2013 British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship which he used to complete his third book *Men to Devils and Devils to Men: Japanese War Crimes and Cold War Sino-Japan Relations (1945-1965)* (forthcoming from Harvard University Press, 2014).



Monday 9 December 2013 7.00pm

The Old Star (basement alcove)
66 Broadway
London SW1H 0DB

Free for Japan Society Members

For its Christmas meeting, the Japan Society Book Club will be reading a humorous short story collection by Inoue Hisashi. We are delighted that translator Angus Turvill will be joining the discussion to share his own perspective on the book.

The sound of a trumpet across a Japanese mountain valley leads a young man to befriend a mysterious stranger. During repeated visits to the cave where the stranger has set up home, the young man learns about his past – in the mines, villages and ports of the region. The stranger's hilarious, bawdy and touching narratives captivate the young man, but he begins to doubt their veracity. Finally, as the young man decides his own fate, the full truth about the stranger is revealed.

Tales from a Mountain Cave is a translation of Hisashi Inoue's highly popular *Shinshaku Tono Monogatari* (新釈遠野物語), set in the Kamaishi area of Iwate Prefecture, Northeast Japan. Kamaishi was devastated by the tsunami of March 2011, and royalties on sales of this book will be donated to post-tsunami community support projects.

Inoue Hisashi (井上 ひさし, 16 November 1934 – 9 April 2010) was a leading Japanese playwright and writer of comic fiction. Inoue was, in the words of Nobel Prize winner Kenzaburo Oe, one of the towering figures of contemporary Japan. A novelist, playwright, producer and scriptwriter, his awards include the Naoki Prize (1972), the Yomiuri Literary Prize (1979, 1981, 2010), the Japan SF Grand Prize (1981), the Seiun Award (1986), the Tanizaki Jun'ichiro Prize (1991), the Kikuchi Kan Literary Award (1999) and the Asahi Prize (2000).



Monday 16 December 2013 12.30pm

The National Liberal Club
Whitehall Place
London SW1A 2HE
(nearest tube: Embankment Station)

£50 per head for members of the Japan Society, the JCCI and their guests

Booking deadline – Friday 13 December

The Guest Speaker at the last joint lunch of the Japan Society and The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the UK in 2013 will be Sir Simon Fraser, Permanent Under-Secretary of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Head of the UK Diplomatic Service. His remit covers not only British foreign policy, but also the running of the FCO.

The Permanent Under-Secretary's talk will focus on the opportunities in the UK-Japan bilateral relationship for cooperation on security and trade, as well as wider global issues which are of importance to both countries. This is a challenging time for British foreign policy interests. Despite recent indications that the economic situation may be improving in the UK, the FCO still operates with tight resources and funding, and is faced with responding to fast-changing world events: from instability in the Middle East to the rise of new economies in Asia, and from Britain's role in the EU to managing consular crises. His talk will be of great relevance to both the Japanese business community in the UK and those representing UK corporations with an international outlook.

Sir Simon Fraser started his career serving in the British embassies in Baghdad and Damascus, and as Private Secretary to the then Minister of State. Prior to his current posting he was Permanent Secretary in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, with previous appointments as chief of staff to the then-European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson and as Director General for Europe and Globalisation in the FCO.



Monday 16 December 2013

6.45pm

The Swedenborg Society
20-21 Bloomsbury Way
(Hall entrance on Barter St)
London WC1A 2TH

Free – booking recommended

Nearest underground station: Holborn
Light refreshments will be provided

In our final academic lecture of 2013, Aya Homei will explain how Japan came to participate in the global war on population in the latter half of the twentieth century by promoting family planning, initially in 'underdeveloped areas in Asia', based on the alleged expertise Japan accumulated from its experience in the immediate postwar period.

Since the term 'population bomb' was coined in the 1960s, population growth has developed into one of the major issues in global politics. The perspective on 'overpopulation' has shaped various arguments for socio-economic development, and garnered support for international cooperation in family planning from many countries, including Japan.

In this lecture, Homei argues that, in order to fully understand Japan's participation in the global endeavour, it is critical that we first reassess the domestic reproductive politics and politics of postwar Japan from the perspective of transnational history, but in so doing, we also need to incorporate the history of Japanese colonialism into our analysis. The promotion of Japan's family planning under the name of 'international cooperation' and 'technical assistance' was not only shaped by cultural, economic and political factors specific to postwar Japan, but was also mobilized by Japan's aspiration for socio-economic progress and technological future vis-à-vis world politics which, during the period concerned in the talk, was informed by racial politics and by the discourse of pan-Asianism.

