



Japan Studies Association

Newsletter

November 2013

We have much to report since the last edition of the Newsletter, including a report on the very successful JSA Workshop in Wichita on October 16-19, and two sneak previews of upcoming events: the JSA Workshop in Nashville Tennessee on April 2-5 and the JSA 20th Annual Conference in Hawaii on January 2-4, 2014. All this scholarly and collegial activity shows the vibrancy of Japan Studies in colleges across the country and the growing excitement felt by teachers to integrate what they have learned about Japan into their syllabi, scholarship, and service. Stay tuned to the Newsletter so you will be informed of all the developments and opportunities open to you

--Tom Campbell and Andrea Stover, editors

The Japan Studies Association Plans Kyoto Workshop and Study-Tour for June-July, 2014

--From Fay Beauchamp, JSA Vice President for Special Projects

In June 2013, the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership generously funded a site visit to Japan for five JSA Board members to increase our ability to plan faculty development workshops in Kyoto and its environs (2014) and Hiroshima (2015). In Kyoto we met with administrators and scholars at Otani University, the Medieval Studies Institute, and the Kyoto Consortium for Japan Studies; in Hiroshima, we had meetings at the Hiroshima Peace Museum and Hiroshima City University. We also experienced a Noh drama and the Hiroshima Peace Park and made numerous visits to temples, gardens, palaces, and other sites with historic and literary significance. Dr. Frank Chance, Associate Director of the East Asia Center, University of Pennsylvania, gave us the benefit of his many years of leading academic groups in Japan, including staying overnight at a Buddhist temple complex in Mt. Koya.

After our reports from the site visit and Wichita Workshop, the Japan Foundation requested that JSA submit a revised two-year proposal to JF's Institutional Project Support (IPS) Program. The proposal, "Building Alliances in Japan and U.S. - Regions to Enhance the Undergraduate Curriculum" targets faculty in a variety of disciplines who seek to increase their ability to teach about Japan, especially in areas of United States that are underserved such as Midwestern and Southern regions. Directors of the Medieval Studies Institute in Kyoto have agreed to help coordinate the 2014 workshop, and the Chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation and the President of Hiroshima Peace Institute will serve as Honorary Co-Chairs in 2015. We are also delighted that Dr. Frank Chance has agreed to be a leader for a 2014 study-tour after the Kyoto Workshop, and that Dr. Lonny Carlile, Associate Professor, University of Hawaii, who was an essential part of JSA's Fukuoka meeting, will lead a 2015 study-tour after the Hiroshima Workshop.

The application with full requirements, selection criteria, and information of costs, will be posted on the JSA Website after December 15, 2013, but below is a preview so faculty can begin thinking through coming to Japan in June-July 2014. We are developing our plans contingent on Japan Foundation funding.

Kyoto Workshop for 20 Participants: The Japan Studies Association is planning a six-day faculty development workshop in Kyoto and its environs for June 23 – June 28, 2014 on the theme of **“Creating Kyoto: An Interdisciplinary Study of Pre-Modern Japanese History.”** The workshop combines lectures and discussions held at Otani University with related field trips highlighting the Heian, Medieval, and Tokugawa Periods. Studying in Kyoto allows faculty to gain an in-depth knowledge of a dynamic Japan, a nation that has continually invented as well as sustained traditions. Seminar topics will include the historical sources of *The Tale of Genji*; Shinto and Buddhist continuity and invention with an emphasis on Prince Shotoku and Kukai; Noh theater’s use of history refracted through literature including the *Tale of the Heike*; Japanese woodblock prints as historical documents and living traditions. Field trips will include Nara and/or Horyu-ji and Osaka-area sites associated with *Genji* and *Tale of the Heike*.

Study-Tour for 8 of the 20 Participants, June 29-July 8, 2014: Immediately following the Kyoto workshop, for a subset of eight of the Kyoto Workshop participants, there will be a **Ten-Day Study Tour titled “ReMapping the Tokaido Road: Exploring Japan’s Pre-Modern History from Heian Kyoto to Tokugawa Edo (Tokyo).”** Plans include an overnight stay at a temple complex founded by the monk Kukai in Mt. Koya; sites connected with Prince Genji and Atsumori near Osaka; locations described in Kabuki plays about Yoshitsune and Benkai; and places depicted in Hiroshige’s woodblock prints. The group will also visit Kamakura, Tokyo and Nikko to gain a fuller understanding of the diversity within Japan’s political, religious, and aesthetic history.

Selection Criteria for Workshop and Study Tour Participants: Twenty participants from a variety of disciplines will be selected with priority given to faculty with little in-country experience with Japan itself but with some background in teaching about Japan and involvement with JSA. Interest in working with JSA in future outreach activities is also a criterion. Selection for the eight-faculty subset for the Study Tour will emphasize more junior faculty with no or limited experience in Japan.

Application, deadlines, and further information about cost to participants will be made available in mid-December; however, contingent upon Japan Foundation support from the IPS program, we are anticipating offering a \$500 international travel stipend; and offering the Kyoto Workshop for a program fee of approximately \$550, with an additional program fee tentatively set at \$550 for the ten-day Study Tour. Hotel, speakers, local transportation /admissions, and many group meals would then be covered.

Applications will be due and participants selected by February 2014. Costs, however, and confirmation of scheduling details are dependent upon funding from the Japan Foundation’s Institutional Project Support Program (IPS), with notification in April 2014.

The Sumiyoshi Shrine Today



Genji Giving Thanks at the Sumiyoshi Shrine



Workshop at Wichita State University (October 16-19, 2013): A Shining Success

--by Andrea Stover

With the support of a generous grant from the Japan Foundation's Center for Global Partnership, and additional support from Wichita State University, The Center for East Asia Studies at the University of Kansas, and the Community College of Philadelphia, JSA sponsored a workshop on *Japan and East Asian Relationships in the 21st and 20th Centuries*. The workshop featured top-notch scholarly speakers such as William Tsutsui, Megan Greene, Akiko Takeyama, Van Gessel, and Nancy Stalker. We learned about Asian Studies resources available through the East Asia National Resource Center from Megan Greene who also offered a richly informative lecture on "Historical Perspectives on Current Chinese-Japanese-Korean Relations." Bill Tsutsui presented two lively lectures: one on "The Bubble Economy the Lost Decade, and Beyond: Learning from the Japanese Economic Experience," and the other on "Understanding the Global Appeal of Japanese Popular Culture." Akiko Takeyama taught us about "Gender Roles, Commercialization and Japanese 21st Century Identity," and she intrigued us with her insights about Japanese host clubs! Van Gessel gave us two generous talks in which he introduced us to "Japanese Literature and the Pacific War." Though the topic was dark, Van Gessel was a light in the room because of his warmth and humor. Nancy Stalker educated us about the American Occupation of Japan in one lecture and then about "Gender and Ikebana in Postwar Japan." We also enjoyed a panel discussion by Megan Greene, Akiko Takeyama, and William Tsutsui which developed into a conversation among the speakers and the participants.

Organized by Bob Feleppa, Fay Beauchamp, and William Tsutsui, the workshop brought together 24 participants who actively engaged the material presented by the speakers. The workshop was exciting and vibrant because participants arrived in Wichita having already read three stories and one book selected by Van Gessel. Such preparation ensured lively small group conversations about the texts and led to an educational plenary session in which each group shared their interpretations, insights, and questions about the texts. The interactive nature of the workshop continued as participants shared their proposed course modules in which they included material concerning Japan. We worked together, guided by the expertise of our invited speakers, to generate ideas and texts for each participant's course module.

Beyond the intellectual and pedagogical work done at the workshop, we enjoyed a sumptuous reception at the delightful Homewood Suites Hotel and delicious meals throughout each day. More importantly, we had the opportunity to talk informally, make institutional connections, and form bonds of friendship that will last. Such friendships are the foundation for intellectual growth, and we are grateful to our sponsors for turning the idea of this workshop into such a memorable reality.

Smiles All Around: A Photo-Collage of the Workshop in Wichita



A Glimpse at the Upcoming Workshop at Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee (April 2-5, 2014)

We are excited to announce the next JSA workshop coming up in April at Belmont University: "Learning and (Re)Learning Japan: the Convergence of History, Fiction and Narrative." We have speakers and events lined up that will undoubtedly renew the positive energy and intellectual engagement generated at the Wichita Workshop. Among our speakers is Lucien Ellington from the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga who will speak to us about "What's Involved in Educating the next Generation of U.S.-Japan Leaders." We are thrilled also to host Jan Bardsley from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill who will give three talks: "The Fantastic in Japanese Theater," "Geisha in History, Fiction and Fantasy," and "Women Writers in Japanese Society." Yoshikuni Igarashi will present a talk on "A Nation That Never Is: Cultural Discourse on Japanese Uniqueness," and Mark Ravina from Emory University will tell us about "The Rise of Modern Japan," and "The Samurai: History and Fiction." Finally, we are lucky to host once again William Tsutsui, the newly elected President of Hendrix College in Arkansas, who will engage us with lectures on "Japan in the 21st Century: Histories, Fictions, and Realities," "Understanding the Global Appeal of Japanese Pop Culture," and "Japan and the Environment: Nature, Culture, and Economics." Added to our dynamic featured speakers we will be graced with a presentation of "Kimono and Japanese Culture" by Ms. Sachi Unemoto, who we hope will be able to include a display of selected Kimono. Present, too, at the workshop will be Joseph Overton, President of JSA, from the University of Hawai'i and Motohiko Kato, Consul-General of Japan in Nashville. Participants will be engaged in reading and discussing texts selected by Jan Bardsley and in designing and getting feedback on course modules. Also, participants will enjoy two field trips to view local exhibits about Japan: "Looking East: Western Art and the Allure of Japan" at the Frist Center for Visual Arts and "Modern Twist: Contemporary Japanese Bamboo Art" at Cheekwood Preserve and Gardens. April is a splendid time of year in Nashville, and

participants will enjoy the beautiful gardens at Cheekwood, especially the featured Japanese garden with its serene setting and delightful vistas.

Exciting Plans for the 20th Annual Japan Studies Association Conference 2-4 January 2014, Honolulu, Hawai'i.

The Twentieth Annual Conference of the Japan Studies Association will be held in Honolulu, Hawai'i on January 2-4, 2014. This anniversary meeting will commemorate the founding and development of JSA, as well as our commitment to its central mission, to spread and improve the understanding of Japan and Japanese culture throughout the academic world. Using our re-designed website, over sixty participants have sent presentation proposals: the tentative program (to be finalized after December 9) includes nearly fifty individual and group presentations, many by graduate students. The 2014 conference will also be characterized by a significant international presence: almost a third of our delegates represent universities and research centers in Japan, China, Australia and Russia. While historical and political studies have retained their importance, a glance at the program reveals strong research interests among JSA membership in literature and the arts, as well as classroom pedagogy.

The conference begins just after the New Year; consequently, a number of presenters have reserved rooms early so that they can participate in Honolulu's famous New Year's celebrations. On Thursday, January 2, a reception from 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. at Tokai International College opens the conference. Following that, at 7 p.m. there will be a special pre-conference event, a Kyogen performance: "From Japan to Kaua'i's Sugar Plantations," featuring a drama group directed by Dallas McCurley. The formal conference program begins the next morning with opening remarks by JSA President Joe Overton, followed by the keynote address. Presentations will be held in three concurrent sessions throughout Friday and Saturday, concluding with a plenary discussion of *Kamo no Chōmei*, "An Account of a Ten-Foot-Square Hut (*Hōjōki*)," led by Professors John Paine and Andrea Stover. The conference will close with a festive banquet featuring a Japanese *kaiseki* dinner, held in the New Otani Hotel, during which we will acknowledge the recipients of two JSA graduate student travel grants and two Japan Foundation faculty travel grants.

2014 marks the last year JSA's conference will be held in the Waikiki headquarters of Tokai International College, where we have met at least every other year since 1996. As Tokai International will be moving, we will have to find a new venue if we want to return to Hawai'i. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones, as all of us pursue our passion for Japanese Studies in the warm and wonderful January setting of Honolulu, Hawai'i.

A Report on New Developments on the JSA Website



As many of you undoubtedly know, JSA has a new presence on the web—the JSA website (japanstudies.org) has been posted for several months now. Featuring photographs of Japan by members of JSA, the site covers the many aspects of our history, organization, outreach, and current concerns. Most recent attention to the site has revolved around pages devoted to the Annual Conference: Description, Proposals, and Registration. All of this is now handled online; Registration, for instance, can be paid for through PayPal or a credit card. In addition, there is a page about Conference Housing, which directs attendees to several hotel options in Honolulu. The new website is the work of Vice President Tom Campbell and his colleague at Wabash College, Mark Siegel. Together, Mark and Tom have completely re-visioned the old JSA web site using the latest tools; more importantly, they keep it updated and current, so that, for instance, the wonderful JSA workshop at Wichita State University last October had its own web pages, but will now be represented by an Archive of the lectures and teaching materials produced in the workshop. Similarly, the upcoming workshop at Belmont University will have a web presence as its time approaches. The goal of the JSA website remains much the same as it always has: to spread understanding of Japanese culture throughout the academic world. But with new undertakings (such as a Job Announcement page), a more complete web presence (such as the conference Proposal and Registration pages), and new flexibility (for keeping information current and available), it can more accurately and more thoroughly represent our Association.

Japan Studies Association Journal

JSAJ publishes one volume per year of essays and reviews intended to interest our members and others who are infusing Japanese material in their courses. This year's call for papers appears below. We would especially invite review essays and reflections by former Freeman fellows on how the Freeman experience has affected their teaching and their thinking about Japan. These reflections should be both descriptive and analytical, and take into consideration that the audience is fellow infusers of Japanese material. Length of submissions of any kind is flexible.

JSAJ is a refereed journal indexed in EBSCO. We are in the process of archiving a searchable version of JSAJ on our publisher's website. More news about this after it has been completed.

We hope all readers of this newsletter will take a look at the call for papers, and consider submitting an article to JSAJ. Share your insights with the rest of us! Please do not hesitate to email John Paine, painestover@gmail.com, with any questions or ideas for articles you may have.

Call For Papers

Japan Studies Association Journal, Volume 12 (2014)

JSAJ, a juried professional journal published annually, accepts **essays** on a wide variety of topics related to Japanese Studies across the disciplines, **Pedagogical Notes** and **Essays** which reflect on aspects of teaching Japanese material, and **book reviews** and **review essays** of relevant research for our membership and for all those engaged in infusing Japanese and Asian material into their curricula.

For our next volume, a general number, we invite submissions, inquiries, and proposals, both disciplinary and interdisciplinary, on any topic related to Japan.

General guidelines

- up to 5,000 words, formatted in a style consistent with your discipline(s)
- use roman script as much as possible and severely limit graphic images, especially color images; submit in 12-point Times New Roman; use no headers; appropriate use of the macron (e.g., ō) is appreciated, as is following the Japanese custom of last name first name.
- try to include in your bibliography helpful sources for anyone teaching the material you discuss in your paper
- include at the beginning of your paper an abstract of 250 or so words, single-spaced
- minimize** use of footnotes and endnotes
- send your paper as a Word document attached to an email to: painestover@gmail.com
- send in a second attachment a brief Contributor's Note in narrative form including your name, academic affiliation, relevant publications, areas of research, etc.
- make sure you include in your email message a current and reliable email address, as well as your postal address
- please use current MLA style, or the current style manual adopted by your discipline

Deadline for all submissions in completed form is July 1, 2014. However, late submissions will be considered. Early submissions are very much encouraged! We also accept submissions on a rolling basis. Volume 12 will be presented at the JSA Conference in January 2015.

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