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Reischauer Institute Reports

From the Director: Thoughts on the Japanese Studies Business Cycle

Professor Andrew Gordon,
Harvard University

At least one media report on the Japanese economy has dubbed the 1990s “Japan’s lost decade.” Observers of U.S.-Japan relations note that President Clinton visited China without a stopover in Japan, and they joke that recently the 1980s era of trade wars and “Japan-bashing” has given way to an era of “Japan passing” or even “Japan nothing.” Certainly it would be overstated for a report on Japanese studies in the nineties to adopt a similar tone. Nonetheless, those of us who teach at American colleges and universities have all noted at least a cyclical downturn in our students’ interest in Japan. By all the accounts I have

heard, enrollments in Japanese language courses have fallen drastically from peaks reached in the late 1980s to early 90s, when instructors were in short supply and students were sometimes turned away. Enrollments in other courses on Japan, in various disciplines, seem to have declined as well.

Is there anything those of us whose business it is to teach, research and write about Japan can or should do about this situation? Much of the cyclical shifting in American (and perhaps more broadly global) interest in Japan is beyond our control. Most students choose most courses for their perceived practical advantages, and it is extremely hard to influence these perceptions. But it may not be impossible. One might counter falling enrollments with arguments along the lines that “even with a falling GNP, Japan’s economy is still seven times the size of China’s.” Or, trying to make lemonade from lemons, one

might counter with arguments that the economic crisis — Japan’s financial mess in particular — offers great opportunity to clever foreign investors and investment enterprises.

Such points might be factually accurate (I am told that membership in the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and Tokyo’s American Club has never been higher, and that amid a falling sea of land costs, housing for foreigners on corporate budgets constitutes an island of high demand and rising prices). And such arguments are also probably inevitable, in part because many of us were only too happy to argue for economic relevance when it was an easy case to make, which was when the Japanese economy was booming and students flocked to our courses because they thought it would land them secure, exciting, well-paid jobs. Yet now, when the case is harder to argue, we still seem to be hooked on the economic relevance line.



Yet I would hope the case for studying Japan and the Japanese language could be made as well in different terms, and made forcefully. By this, I do not mean to abandon all talk of practical relevance. After all, the endeavors of people from outside Japan to identify and study what they called “Japan” were born of the concerns of pragmatic intellectuals, whether one speaks of the writings of Kaempfer in the Tokugawa era, or much of the work published in the *Transactions of the Asiatic Society of Japan* at the turn of this century, of the writing of a diplomat-scholar such as Sir George Sansom, or of the efforts of politically-engaged scholars such as E.H. Norman or Edwin O. Reischauer.

But perhaps we can take additional cues from some of these works and talk of a different, more enduring relevance than that of the bottom line. Is it not possible to articulate another comparative and international perspective in which the Japanese past, present, and future is of critical importance? Acknowledging such a terrain would start by recognizing that Japan since the nineteenth century has come to share in the same dilemmas of modernity—and its aftermath—that challenge us all globally in cultural, social, and political, as well as economic, terms. And before the modern era, for over a millenium Japan was part of a fluid East Asian order whose development constitutes a central portion of world history. If the Japanese record of achievement—the modern one in particular—has been mixed, so has the record in the rest of Asia and the world, including of course the West. For students who will be active in a future that might be borderless in some respects (ease of travel, flows of information and money and goods), but is also sure to be “border-ful” in other ways (for better or worse, the nation-state as a unit of identification and action is hardly a dinosaur), understanding the range of Japanese experience in this broader perspective should be both instructive and compelling.

I would be interested in readers’ thoughts on this matter (in Japanese or in English). We will post them on our website, and if space allows include one or two responses in the next issue of *Tsūshin*.

In Memoriam: Haru Matsukata Reischauer

It is with great sadness that the Reischauer Institute reports the death of Haru Matsukata Reischauer on September 23, 1998 in La Jolla, California, after a long illness. Mrs. Reischauer was one of the truly prominent persons who created cultural bridges between Japan and the United States in the postwar period.

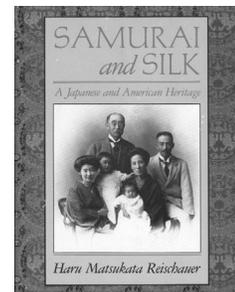


Haru Matsukata Reischauer

Mrs. Reischauer was born in Japan in 1915. Her mother had lived in America until marriage and provided her an American-style education in Tokyo, eventually sending her to attend Principia College in Illinois, from which she graduated in 1937. After World War II, Mrs. Reischauer worked on the staff of several American newspapers and magazines in Tokyo. In 1956 she met Edwin O. Reischauer when he was living in Tokyo on a sabbatical leave from Harvard University, and the two were married that year. Reischauer was a professor in the Department of Far Eastern Languages at Harvard, and the leading figure in building Harvard’s programs in the study of Japanese language, history, and contemporary society and politics. In 1961, President Kennedy appointed Reischauer the United States Ambassador to Japan. U.S.-Japan relations were more troubled than at any time since World War II, due to strong opposition in Japan to the American military presence. During six years in Tokyo, both Haru and Edwin Reischauer played an important role in building renewed respect for the United States in Japan at the grass roots level, and smoothing America’s troubled political relationship with Japan. Haru went to Tokyo with strong misgivings about the ability of a Japanese woman to serve as the American ambassador’s wife in

this context. In fact, she was warmly welcomed, devoted great, effective energies to her work in Japan, and looked back on this episode with pride and satisfaction. She was particularly active in numerous women’s organizations.

Back at Harvard from 1966 through the early 1980s, Mrs. Reischauer worked part-time for the Harvard-Yenching Institute Visiting Scholars’ Program. She also researched and wrote a valuable and fascinating history of the life and times of her grandparents, *Samurai and Silk: A Japanese and American Heritage* (Belknap Press, Harvard University, 1986). Her paternal grandfather was Masayoshi Matsukata, Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Japan in the late 19th century and one of the most important statesmen who led Japan’s modern revolution of the Meiji era. Her maternal grandfather, Ryoichiro Arai, was a pioneering silk entrepreneur.



The Reischauers moved to La Jolla permanently in early 1990, but Professor Reischauer died in September of that year. Mrs. Reischauer kept in touch with faculty and staff of the Institute in the following years. From 1990 - 1998, she served as Honorary Chair of the Policy Advisory Committee of the Program on U.S. Japan Relations at Harvard University. We will all miss her friendship and support.

Funeral observances were private, but two public memorial services took place.

On Monday, October 26, 1998 a memorial gathering called “A Special Tribute to Mrs. Haru Matsukata Reischauer” was held in the Okura Hotel in Tokyo. Speakers included Akiko Kuno (Executive Director of the America-Japan Society), American Ambassador Foley, Fuyuko Kamisaka (author of a Japanese biog-



raphy of Mrs. Reischauer), and Yuichi Kato (former President of the Harvard Club of Japan).



Haru Reischauer memorial at Harvard

On Friday, October 30, 1998 the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies hosted a gathering in celebration of the life of Mrs. Reischauer in the Common Room at 2 Divinity Avenue on the Harvard campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts. This gathering was attended by all three Reischauer children—Robert D. Reischauer, Ann Heinemann, and Joan Simon—as well as by friends and relatives of the family including Mrs. Joan Mondale. Speakers included Prof. Andrew Gordon, Mr. Shinichi Kitajima (Consul General of Japan in Boston), Prof. Susan J. Pharr, Prof. Albert M. Craig, Japanese Instructor Yori Oda, and Nancy Deptula (former Executive Director of the Reischauer Institute). The formal speeches were followed by remarks from family and friends.

Japanese Studies in the West: Brazil Today (Part 1)

Professor Ronan Alves Pereira
University of Brasilia

Until recently the Brazilian relationship with Asia has not been direct, but has been historically mediated by the Western great powers. In the colonial period (centuries XVI to XIX), Brazil's relationship with Asia was conditioned and controlled by its parent country Portugal. Brazil was only a sort of "stopover" for Portuguese ships on their way to Portugal's Eastern colonies (Sumatra, Goa, Bombay, Macau). In the first half century of Republican Brazil (1889-1945), the relations with Asia were mediated firstly by the UK and then by the USA. During this period, following the example of Western powers and also in search for a new market for its main export product,

coffee, Brazil signed a first diplomatic and commercial treaty with Japan (1895).

A potentially culturally influential individual was the romanticist turned diplomat Aluísio Azevedo (1857-1913). He arrived in Yokohama as vice-consul in 1897, with plans to write a pioneering book on Japan. However, because of many professional and personal setbacks, this first literary document, which would mark the direct "discovery" of Japan by Brazil, was only published in 1984 with the financial support of The Japan Foundation.

In the modern period, Brazilians were much concerned with national identity, and it was this era when the "myth of the three races" became prominent (Indigenous peoples, Blacks, and Whites working harmoniously to form "the" Brazilian people, later associated with the myth of the Brazilian "racial democracy"). Asians, however, were seen in this distinctive context as "minor people" (both physically and culturally) and they were treated with suspicions based on negative stereotypes created by the then prevalent propaganda on the "yellow peril". In Brazil, as in many other Latin American countries, there was much debate on the acceptance of Asians, especially Japanese, as immigrants. Ultimately, however, in spite of the unsuccessful attempt by Dom Pedro I at introducing Chinese workers in tea plantations at the beginning of the last century, as well as concern among elements of the Brazilian elite that Asians would menace their project of "whitening" the country, the Japanese finally started steady immigration to Brazil from 1908.

Only in the past 50 years can less passive events be observed. From the 1950s Japan took unprecedented steps through investments in and eventually cooperation projects with Brazil. The climax of the Brazil-Japan relation was in the 1970s, when hundreds of Japanese enterprises made investments and opened up branches in Brazil. Brazil is still trying to enlarge its share in the Asia-Pacific area and, on the other hand, Asia remains very interested in the Brazilian market (as a prospective market in itself and as a gateway to MERCOSUL, the com-

mon market for South America's Southern Cone). Paralleling these diplomatic and commercial developments, Brazilians have come to have a more positive image of Asians, and to be more interested in matters related to Asia, ranging from economics to movies and religion to electronic products.

Japanese studies is the most outstanding and widespread aspect of Asian studies in Brazil. The "Japanese studies" term may have, however, three different meanings: studies on Japan itself; studies on the Japanese-Brazilian community; and studies on the Japan-Brazil relationship. In recent years, many theses have been presented dealing with varying topics such as Japanese immigration to Brazil, Japanese religions in Brazil, Japan-Brazil trade and cooperation, Japanese language and literature, Japanese-Brazilian *dekasegi*, *chanyu*, *haiku*, *butoh*, *noh* music, and so on.

Studies in the first category, concerning Japan itself, will be found above all in the fields of language, literature, economics, management, and to a lesser degree in politics, anthropology, and sociology. The study of Japanese language and literature is in practice dominant in academic departments and research centers. Unfortunately, researchers in other areas, particularly the social sciences, may be quite isolated and scattered in departments of economics, politics, sociology, anthropology, and the like, where courses on either Japan or Asia in general are rarely maintained.

Japanese language courses are offered in many state and federal universities (and in a few private ones). Thus there are public university B.A. courses in Japanese language and literature in the University of São Paulo (USP), the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (URGS), Paulista State University (UNESP), and the University of Brasilia (UnB). Japanese language is taught as an extension course in the State University of Campinas (Unicamp), the Federal University of Paraná (UFPR), the State University of Maringá, the State University of Londrina, the Federal University of Bahia (UFBA), and others.



Historically, almost every Japanese community (or a community cluster) in Brazil also sustained a Nihongo-gakkō or Japanese Language School. This tradition has been expanded through the setting up of new schools managed by private initiatives or by Japanese religious groups.

In the second category, there is a substantial tradition of Japanese-Brazilian ethnic studies. Early fieldwork in the area of social sciences dealing with the Japanese-Brazilian community was done by such local scholars as Herbert Baldus, Emílio Willems, Tavares de Almeida, Zempati Andō, and Hiroshi Saito (from the University of São Paulo). But this work was carried out more consistently and constantly by researchers from Japan, such as the late Prof. Seiichi Izumi (from the University of Tokyo), Prof. Takashi Maeyama (from the University of Shizuoka), Prof. Hirochika Nakamaki (from the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka), and others. Eventually, no other ethnic group from Asia received as much research attention as the Japanese, as can be attested by the thirty year old publication *The Japanese and Their Descendants in Brazil: An Annotated Bibliography* (by Robert J. Smith, John B. Cornell, Hiroshi Saito, and Takashi Maeyama. São Paulo: Centro de Estudos Nipo-Brasileiros, 1967), with 658 entries.

In the third category, studies on Japan-Brazil relations consist mainly of works on the fields of international relations, cooperation, economics, trade, and management.

Among specific institutions, the University of São Paulo has a major philological tradition, probably because of the great influence of the so-called "French Mission" to Brazil in the 1930s, which included such authorities as Claude Lévi-Strauss. This can be seen in the Department of Oriental Languages, where there are courses at the B.A. level in Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, Hebrew, Russian, and Armenian languages. In 1996, it opened the first Brazilian graduate program in Japanese studies. However, it is curious that, although having an orientation toward classical Japanese language and literature, it does not include or presuppose the study of Indian and Chinese classics

(or even the history of these matrix nations). There are other researchers on Japan in this University's Institute for Advanced Studies, Center for Strategic Studies, Department of Economics, School of Communication and Arts, and others.

In the University of Brasilia (Brasilia city's public institution) the strength of Japanese studies has been fortified by the establishment of a B.A. course in Japanese language and literature in 1997. Meanwhile its Center for Asian Studies (NEASIA or Núcleo de Estudos Asiáticos) is making efforts to enrich and diversify its agenda in an attempt to include as many topics and nations as possible from the Asia-Pacific. One of the Center's main advantages is that it has been developing a close relationship with foreign embassies as well as with the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; also the University has the only course in international relations among Brazilian public universities, which provides the majority of junior researchers to the Center for Asian Studies. (to be continued)

Based on a paper given at the conference "Cultural Encounters Between Latin America and the Pacific Rim" held at the University of California, San Diego, March 6-7, 1998.

Japanese Studies in Asia: An Overview of China

Prof. Shu Keiken (Zhou Qi-qian)
Japan Research Institute
Tianjin Social Studies Institute

After the normalization of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1972, Chinese research on Japan entered into a new, more active phase. Now there are more than twenty formal entities and organizations involved, including for example the Chinese Japan Association, the Chinese Japanese History Association, the Chinese Japanese Language Teaching Research Group, the Chinese National Japanese Economy Association, the Chinese National Japanese Philosophy Association, the Japanese Culture Research Group, the Chinese Sino-Japanese Diplomatic History Association, and so on. In various regions of China, there are academic

groups for research on Japan in individual departments or government controlled locations.

Sites involved in research on Japan number about fifty, and can generally be divided into three types. One type is connected to social research institutes: the Japan Research Institute of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and Japan research sites in the social science institutes of government controlled cities. A second type is Japan research institutes or centers established in universities; the third type is research sites established in connection with government agencies. Until the present, researchers have been concentrated in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, the northeast regions, and the southeast coastal regions. At the moment research is being advanced in the interior provinces of China.

Among periodical literature on Japanese studies, the generalist publications include those such as *Japan Academic* (bimonthly, from the Chinese Japan Association and Chinese Social Science Institute's Japan Institute); *Japan Research* (quarterly, from the Japan Research Institute of Liaoning University), *Japan Research Questions* (from the Japan Research Institute of Hebei University); or *Contemporary Japan* (quarterly, from the Tianjin Contemporary Japan Research Institute). Among the specialized publications are those such as *Modern Japanese Economy* (February, from Jilin University); *Japanese Science and Technology* (bimonthly, from the Jilin Science Publications Research Institute); or *Japanese Language Practice and Research* (quarterly, from the Foreign Economic and Trade University. There are also other occasional publications.

To very briefly describe research in each field:

In classical literature, as part of a Japanese Literature Series, the *Makura sōshi*, *Tsurezuregusa*, *The Tale of Genji*, and the *Manyōshū* have been translated and published. Selected collections have been published for numerous major modern authors.

In Japanese history and Sino-Japanese diplomatic relations, literature on the legendary voyage of the



Chinese Taoist Jōfuku to Japan has become extensive and has treated both positive and negative arguments. For the modern period, there are represented various positions concerning the character of the Meiji Restoration, the bourgeois revolution, the absolutist imperial system, and the bourgeois popular democratic movements considered as a bourgeois revolution. There is research concerning the periodization of the Meiji Restoration, often treating the Perry arrival in 1853 as the initial boundary, but providing a variety of interpretations of the ending boundary; for example, the period may be 1853 to 1869 (*bakumatsu*, restoration and civil war) or it may be 1853 to 1911 (the whole bourgeois revolution). (Perhaps even various other dates serve as the boundary: the promulgation of the constitution in 1889, the opening of the Diet in 1890, or the Sino-Japanese War of 1894.) The work *Sixty Years of China and Japan*, by Wang Yi-sheng, collects primary sources concerning the Sino-Japanese relationship between 1870 and 1930. (It was first published in 1930, and reissued with corrections in 1970.) Since the mid 1980s, a work achieved by the efforts of many Chinese scholars called *Japanese History in Asian History* (13 volumes as published in Japanese) presents Japanese history and the Sino-Japanese relationship from ancient up to modern times.

In studies of the Japanese economy, there is a focus on its advanced maturation, and many problems have been researched including the experience of managing small and midsize enterprises, macro-control, the development of science and technology, the roles of technology and trade in national security, public finance, money supply, foreign capital, the trends of the post-Cold War Japanese economy, the economy's position in Asia, and economic cooperation. Within the ten-volume work *Postwar Japan Library*, the contents of eight volumes concern economics, and touch on industrial policy, infrastructure, public finance, foreign trade, monopoly capital, and economic and social statistics. Current research is concerned with anticipating future prospects, and explores the areas of change in industrial structure, the tuning of economic structures, and the viewpoint from science, technology and foreign economic relations.

Concerning Japanese politics and law, there has been a focus on the postwar system and reforms, and in this context research has touched upon the Constitution and Diet, economic and educational law, diplomatic normalization policy, and the reform of factionalized civil service and administration. Research on Japanese foreign policy and general security strategy has since the Meiji Restoration emphasized the "rich nation, strong defense" policy and broad military strategy. It also examined various topics beginning with the reconstruction of the postwar period: under the heading of strategies for economic superiority the goal was to establish Japan as a great trading power. After that, as Japan aimed to become a major political power and international player, economics was moved to the background and diplomacy and national defense were strengthened. Japan was active as an ally of the U.S. and thus, as one of the western powers, with its weight in the Asia-Pacific region, it was expected to establish a world position.

Finally, due to limited space, I will omit any material concerning research on philosophy and religion. Regarding the comprehensive picture of research on Japan in China, detailed information may be found in the *Annual Report on Japanese Studies in China*, from the Beijing Japanese Studies Research Center.

Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan (Reischauer Institute, Sponsor): Japanese Academic Resources on the Internet Proliferate

Kuniko Yamada McVey,
Documentation Center Director

The number of Japan-based scholarly and knowledge-intensive databases available via the Internet is growing. Some of these sites are labors of independent love; some are generously funded and have official coloration. They are worth exploring.

The National Center for Science

Information Systems (NACSIS) reports that 2,313 databases were created with Ministry of Education funding during the 1997-98 fiscal year. The NACSIS website (<http://www.nacsis.ac.jp/ir/dbdr/dbdr.html>) provides a full list of such databases, as well as links to 375 sites. This listing is not selective, but rather and necessarily exhaustive.

The annotations are better, and the selection more discriminating, for the links surveyed by a number of individual academics in their own websites such as Academic Resource Guide (<http://www.ne.jp/asahi/coffee/house/ARG/index.html>) and The Underground Theatre (<http://www.hongo.ecc.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~ee77030/index-j.html>). These sites treat both government-sponsored and free-lance "vanity" sites, with many of the latter standing out for the high quality of their content.

Note that government sites tend to provide "free" access only for an undefined "experimental" period, and only after users submit a registration form. A few URLs are characterized below.

1. The Japanese Literature Text File (<http://kuzan.f-edu.fukui-u.ac.jp/bungaku.htm>) provides annotated links to some 150 sites from which one can access full texts of Japanese literature, from the *Kojiki* to Riichi Yokomitsu. The site is maintained by Akihiro Okajima, whose communication log with users and contributors is an interesting and informative read.

2. The National Institute for Japanese Literature (<http://www.nijl.ac.jp/>) provides registered users with online access to its collection catalogs and Japanese literature Index, as well as access to its famous medieval *waka* collections, starting with *Kokin wakashū* (<http://www.nijl.ac.jp/forum/waka21Forum.html>).

3. The University of Tokyo Historiographical Institute (HI) (<http://www.hi.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>) is producing and offering full-text databases of major historical documents and archives, as well as its catalog of holdings. This ongoing text database project will be an essential virtual resource of primary materials for historians.



4. The Institute of Developing Economies (<http://www.ide.go.jp/>) provides a bibliographic database on contemporary Asian affairs, based on its collection that includes research materials not available elsewhere. Note especially its useful statistical database for twenty-one Asian countries, starting in the early 1990s.

5. The Economic Literature database (<http://rio.andrew.ac.jp/econ/bunken.html>), created by Jun Matsuo, searches over 50,000 records very efficiently. Osaka City University's ERI-Biblio (<http://sm1.eri.osaka-cu.ac.jp/>) is another useful index of economics-related articles from 1,500 Japanese journals since August 1994.

6. The Fiscal Policy databank (<http://www.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/~tdoi/pfdata.html>) offers numerical data broken out by prefecture and going back as far as the mid-1950s. The database, created by Takeo Doi, is in Lotus 123 and Excel-ready format. He also offers links to retrieve full-text discussion papers on fiscal policy.

7. In his Socius Pro (<http://www.honya.co.jp/contents/knomura/links/link.html#09>) website, Kazuo Nomura selects, annotates and provides links to websites maintained by Japanese scholars in sociology and related fields.

8. SOCIO (<http://sociodb.rikkyo.ac.jp/default.htm>) is a sociology bibliography with 12,000 records, including books and journal articles published in Japan from 1991. SOCIO is maintained by a consortium backed by the Japan Association of Sociology.

9. The Institute of Social Science in the University of Tokyo (<http://www.iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp/>) is compiling social science databases, such as an archive of labor surveys taken from the 1940's into the 1960's. The institute invites social scientists to share their original data for use in the creation of new research databases, which is a rather new approach in Japan. Users are required to submit an official application form to gain access to the data.

10. The Ohara Institute for Social Research (<http://oohara.mt.tama>

hosei.ac.jp/) is well-known for its useful labor bibliography database and other resources on labor. It has recently added data files in 22 labor categories, such as the population of female workers by age, for the period after 1945.

11. The International Research Center for Japanese Studies (<http://www.nichibunken.ac.jp/dbse1.html>) makes available its image databases of old photos, illustrations on Japanese culture, and photos of Japanese arts held in overseas museums, as well as a bibliographic database of books on Japan in western languages published prior to 1900. Registered users can access the databases for free during an "experimental" period.

The Japanese Collection of the Harvard-Yenching Library: An Update

James K. M. Cheng and
Toshiyuki Aoki,
Harvard-Yenching Library

The Harvard Yenching Library was founded in 1928 as the Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard Yenching Institute at Harvard University. The Institute, which was named for the two universities that were instrumental in its establishment — Harvard and the former Yenching University at Peiping (now Beijing) in China — is an independent foundation whose primary purpose is to promote higher education in Asia, particularly the study of the history and cultures of the region. The Library was founded to facilitate the development of an East Asian Studies program at Harvard, where professional advice would be continuously available to the Institute, and where East Asian scholars could come to develop their skills with the contact and advice of international scholars in a broad range of disciplines in the social sciences and humanities. Building on a collection of several thousand volumes of Chinese and Japanese books that the Harvard College Library had collected since 1879, the Library grew rapidly in the ensuing years to become the largest library for East Asian research among

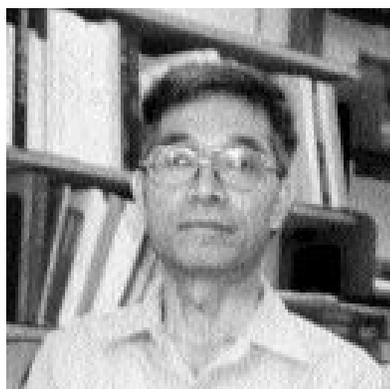
academic libraries outside of Asia. The Library took its present name in 1965 and remained under the administration of the Harvard-Yenching Institute until 1976, when it became an administrative unit of the Harvard College Library.

The beginning of the Japanese collection at Harvard can be traced to 1914 when two Japanese professors, Anesaki Masaharu (1878-1949), a Buddhistologist, and Hattori Unokichi (1867-1939), a Sinologist, both of the Tokyo Imperial University, came to lecture at Harvard and donated several important groups of Japanese publications on Buddhism and Sinology to the Harvard College Library. But it was not until 1959 that the first Japanese bibliographer was appointed to guide the steady growth of the Japanese collection in ensuing years. Since then, the Japanese collection has developed strengths that cover many subject areas.

In 1948, the Library acquired the Petzold Buddhist Library of 6,500 volumes. Dr. Bruno Petzold, an Austrian scholar who resided in Japan for many years and became a practicing Buddhist, studied and practiced Mahayana Buddhism, especially the doctrines of the Tendai sect. His collection contained a wealth of iconographic matter and many important studies printed in the Tokugawa period (1600-1868), as well as about 200 manuscripts from the 13th and 14th centuries.

Both classical and modern Japanese literature are well represented in the Japanese collection, often in multi-volume sets. In modern Japanese fiction, the Library's holdings are particularly extensive, and every significant contemporary Japanese novelist is represented. Poetry is also a strong element in the collections, which include modern studies and texts of all the classic anthologies.

With numerous reproductions of manuscripts—from monasteries, from the collections of feudal lords, and from government and private libraries—Japanese history is also richly represented in the Japanese collection. The Library's holdings on Japanese prefecture histories are extensive and represent one of the best in the country. The Library's



Toshiyuki Aoki was born in Niigata Prefecture in Japan and came to the United States to study at Columbia University in 1956. He received a B.S. Degree in geography in 1959, and an M.L.S. Degree in library science from the same university in 1962. After working as a research assistant and bibliographer in the Department of Chinese and Japanese at Columbia University, in 1964 he went to Yale University Library to work as a Japanese cataloger and then bibliographer in its East Asian collection. In March 1968 he came to Harvard-Yenching Library to become head of its Japanese Section, where he now works as Assistant Librarian for the Japanese Collection. In 1983, he received an M.A. Degree in political science from Northeastern University. Among his publications, he compiled *Current Japanese-language Serials in the Social Sciences and Humanities at Harvard Yenching Library* in 1979. With Professor Masahiko Oka of the National Institute of Japanese Literature in Tokyo, he compiled *Early Japanese Books at Harvard-Yenching Library*, published as the Library's *Bibliographical Series IV* in 1994. Between 1975 and 1995, he introduced new Japanese reference works and periodicals in the *Occasional Reference Notes* published by the Harvard-Yenching Library.

Japanese microfilm collection includes the only complete set of the Maruzen Meiji Microfilm Collection in the United States, donated to Harvard in 1991 as a gift of the Nikko Securities Company of Tokyo. Consisting of 15,000 reels, the collection comprises 120,000 titles, representing almost 70% of all of the books published in Japan during the Meiji era (1868-1912). The Microfilm Collection is housed in a special reading room located on the second floor of the Harvard-Yenching Library.

The Library's collection on the Japanese economy is strong, including a file of the annual reports of the Ministry of Finance that stretches unbroken from 1875 to the present, and a file of a foreign trade annual that begins in 1893. Histories, company records, and reports of the major corporations are also included. There is also a representative collection devoted to Japanese political institutions, political thought, and political parties, supplemented by runs of legal publications and collections of laws and statutes. Japan's colonial rule of Taiwan (1895-1945) and Korea (1910-1945) is also well covered by an extensive collection of the files of administrative and statistical reports issued by the offices of the respective governors-general. And the course of the Pacific War (1941-1945) can be studied from the Japanese viewpoint through the compilations of official archives from the Japanese Foreign Office, the Imperial Navy, and the Imperial Army.

Generally speaking, the Japanese collection in the Harvard-Yenching Library has developed into one of the

premier Japanese collections in North America. It has become an important, well-rounded research collection that is particularly strong in areas covering Japanese language, literature, history, Buddhism, and Sinology. However, it should be noted that it is comparatively weak in holdings of rare books and manuscripts and of Edo period block-print editions, and that gaps still exist in serials and newspapers.

Like the Harvard-Yenching Library as a whole, the Japanese collection functions as a regional, national, and even an international research collection due to its breadth and depth. In addition to serving Harvard faculty and students, the Japanese collection is heavily used by researchers from institutions across the country and from abroad. Each year, the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies financially supports six travel grants to enable scholars from institutions where Japanese library resources are inadequate to come to Harvard to consult the Japanese collection. The competition for these travel grants is intense and there are usually more applications than there are grants available.

A great library is always defined by its collections. After a period of steady growth in the past seven decades, the Japanese collection in the Harvard-Yenching Library has grown to almost 250,000 volumes, with an average annual growth rate of 5,000 volumes. Japan has a very good bibliographic control system, and Japanese book exporters are familiar with the needs and operations of the East Asian libraries in the West. However, we cannot depend solely on

commercial book vendors to develop our collections. No matter how large our annual book budget is, our library collections will never be great if our only source of supply is the book exporters. We must strive to establish a network of personal connections and exchange programs with libraries and research institutions in Japan to augment our intake of new publications from commercial dealers. Many publications needed to fill in gaps in the Japanese collection are no longer available in the open market. Certain new scholarly publications are circulated among scholars only. Thus, regular acquisitions trips to Japan to observe and learn of the current status of its book trade and its publishing activities first hand should be made. In collection development, we need to be bold, imaginative, energetic, aggressive, and entrepreneurial. This proactive approach will mark our new efforts in developing the Japanese collection at Harvard in the future.

Although the annual budget allocated for Japanese materials is sizeable now, we hope to increase the annual Japanese book budget. We should also work closely with the Japanese Studies faculty and graduate students on campus to develop a Collection Development Policy to guide our acquisitions programs. This Collection Development Policy should be flexible and reviewed annually to reflect the needs and interests of the teaching and research programs on campus. At the same time, adequate manpower must be given to the Japanese acquisitions staff so that they can fulfill their duties and accomplish the tasks at hand. It is important to keep a proper balance between the annual materials



budget and the staffing levels required. Short of that, cataloging backlogs may develop and the quality of acquisitions will suffer.

Like many East Asian libraries across the country, the Harvard-Yenching Library has been affected by the information explosion with an ever-increasing cost but a shrinking budget. Self-sufficiency for libraries can no longer be sustained. We simply cannot afford to acquire everything that we would like to acquire. Under these circumstances, we at the Harvard-Yenching Library must work with our colleagues at other library units on campus that also collect Japanese materials and with colleagues at other institutions in the New England region in particular and across the country in general to develop cooperative acquisitions programs to maximize our resources. In this endeavor, it is necessary for us to become more visible in the national and international scene and take a leading role in present and future cooperative programs. After all, the Harvard-Yenching Library functions as a national and an international resource center, as mentioned above. Thus, it is imperative for us to become an active player in the national collection sharing programs sponsored by the National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources (NCC), supported by funds from the Japan-United States Friendship Commission. Harvard-Yenching should also be represented at the workshops and staff training programs on the application of new library technologies and the use of electronic databases, sponsored by CEAL's Committee on Japanese Materials and supported and funded by the Japan Foundation in recent years. All in all, we must go beyond the confines of 2 Divinity Avenue and make our presence known nationally and internationally.

As part of our recent efforts in improving public services in the Harvard Yenching Library, the Japanese reference collection in the Reading Room was reviewed and updated last summer by Mr. Toshiyuki Aoki, Assistant Librarian for the Japanese Collection. All Japanese reference books were re-cataloged by the cataloging staff and are now put together under the Library of Congress classification scheme. In the coming months, the Japanese collection development staff

will make efforts to evaluate the Japanese periodicals displayed in the Reading Room, with the view that more scholarly and academic journals will be displayed there to address some of the concerns expressed by the faculty and students. More current Japanese newspapers will also be subscribed to, in order to meet the needs of some students.

Funded by special allocations from the Harvard College Library Administration, a special project of completely overhauling and re-organizing the book stacks in the Harvard-Yenching Library is currently underway. Due to the magnitude of the project, which entails the shifting of over 650,000 volumes, it will take two years to finish the job. Work has already begun to re-organize the Japanese collection in the book stacks. When the project is complete, the Japanese collection in the book stacks will be put in order, books lying on floors will be put on shelves, and there will be a continuous call number sequence for the entire collection.

The advent of electronic databases covering East Asian subjects is having an increasing impact on the operations and services of East Asian libraries in recent years. The impact is particularly keenly felt in the area of public and reference services. Japan has become a leader in the development of electronic databases and an increasing number of Japanese online databases have become available. Although most of the databases produced so far are mainly bibliographic in nature, a number of full-text databases covering various subjects are also available. These provide a powerful engine in helping researchers use and interpret the printed texts. In this area, the Harvard-Yenching Library is unfortunately lagging behind its peers. Although the Library has pooled resources with the Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan in the Reischauer Institute to acquire a site license from the Nichigai Web Service to introduce two Japanese journal index databases for reference services — *Zasshi Kiji Sakuin* and *Jānarū Indekkusū* — more needs to be done. Plans are underway, working in alliance with the Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan again, to subscribe to a host of the electronic databases covering social sciences

and humanities offered by NACSIS (The National Center for Science Information Systems). The Library has the responsibility to acquire, or subscribe to, the available Japanese electronic databases and offer them to library patrons. Librarians have the professional duty and responsibility to get themselves well trained so that they can in turn train and orient library users on how to navigate these databases.

The provision of reference services should not be considered as a passive task for a librarian. The librarians are not doing a good job if they just sit in their offices and wait for library patrons to come to them. Instead, librarians should be encouraged to adopt a pro-active approach, taking the initiative to go to the users, be they faculty members or students. Subject bibliographers must be aware of the current teaching and research needs of our faculty and students. Librarians should not only be able to meet current demands but also be able to anticipate future needs of our primary clientele. Efforts will be made to improve the communication between the library staff and library users.

The Harvard-Yenching Library is in the midst of completing a special retrospective conversion project of all of its CJK (Chinese-Japanese-Korean) holdings. Started in the fall of 1996, this five-year project entails the conversion of nearly 300,000 CJK bibliographic records in the printed card catalogs from the Library's inception in 1928 to 1989. The Harvard-Yenching Library has been using the OCLC-CJK Plus system in cataloging its materials since 1989; and materials added to the Harvard-Yenching collections since then are all online in HOLLIS (Harvard Online Library Information System). Supported by funds from Harvard University and the Harvard-Yenching Institute, this special program represents the largest retrospective conversion project ever undertaken by an East Asian library in North America. When completed, in June 2001, all of Harvard-Yenching Library's holdings will be online and will be searchable locally through Harvard's HOLLIS system and nationally and internationally through the OCLC-CJK and RLIN-CJK systems.

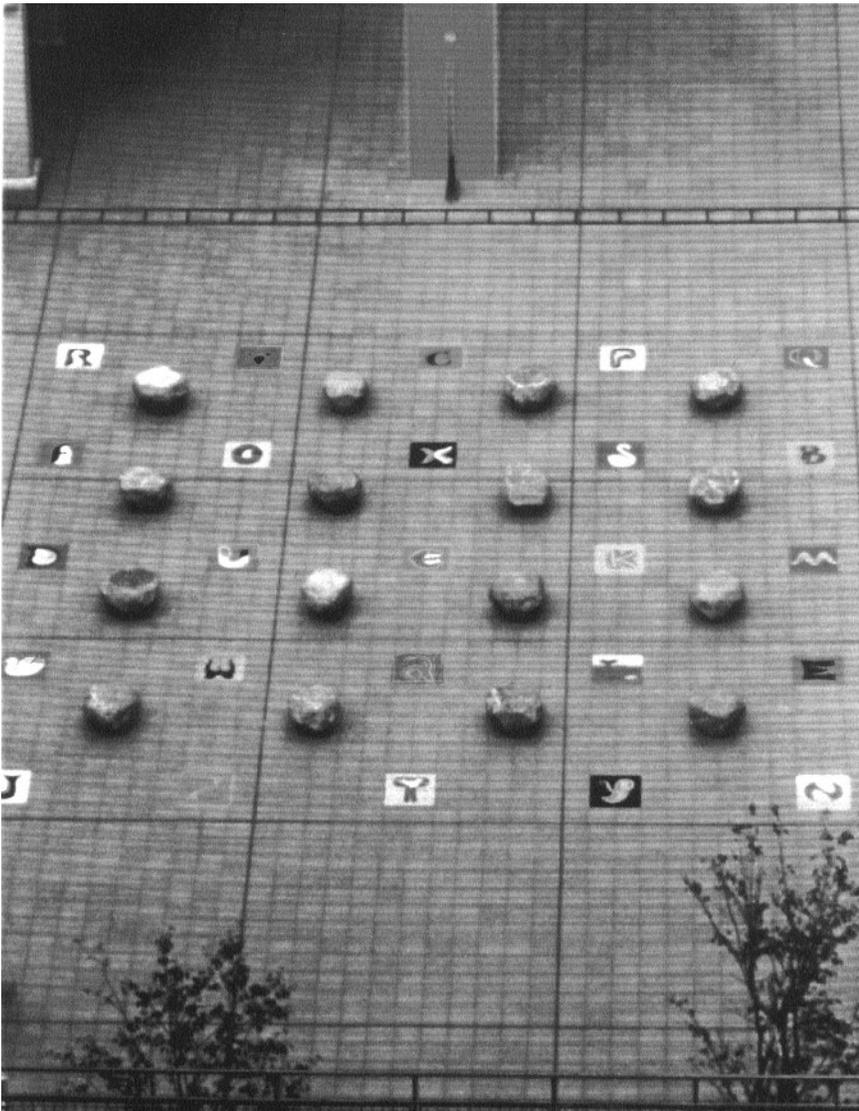
The successful completion of this



special retrospective conversion project will have far-reaching implications not only for the Harvard-Yenching Library but for other East Asian libraries as well. Harvard faculty and students who have access to HOLLIS will be able to search the Library's holdings from their homes, dormitories, offices, and various locations on campus. Researchers across the country and around the world who have access to the OCLC and RLIN online systems will be able to search the Library's holdings worldwide. The dream of "A Library without

Walls" will finally be realized. Circulation services in the Harvard-Yenching Library can then be automated as well. Although Harvard's HOLLIS system at present does not have the capability of displaying CJK vernacular scripts, the new HOLLIS 2 system, under development and expected to be implemented in the summer of 2000, will be able to display CJK vernacular characters. Indeed, new library technologies bring a host of welcome promises to the Harvard-Yenching Library in the not too distant future.

James K.M. Cheng has been Director of the Harvard-Yenching Library since 1998. Toshiyuki Aoki is Assistant Librarian for the Japanese Collection.



The bright spots of tile pavement in this plaza in Japan ("I"-Plaza, Kohoku New Town, near Yokohama) were designed by Harvard students. (The supervisor was Toshihiro Katayama, Professor Emeritus, member of the Reischauer Institute Committee, and former Director of the Carpenter Center for the Visual Arts at Harvard)



Reischauer Institute News Notes

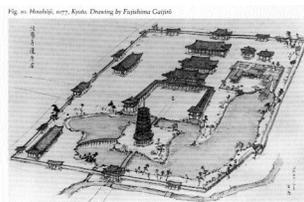
Research and Publication in the Harvard Japanese Studies Community

The Reischauer Institute is inaugurating the publication of a series of occasional papers, which will have their origins in public presentations given in the Japan Forum lecture series, as well as contributions by Harvard graduate students and faculty members of the Institute. We hope such publications will encourage the dissemination of important ideas in various fields of research concerned with Japan. The first of these papers, by Prof. Akiko Hashimoto of the University of Pittsburgh, is entitled "Japanese and German Projects of Moral Recovery: Toward a New Understanding of War Memories in Defeated Nations" and will be published in January 1999. Institute Associates will be sent copies automatically. Others interested in receiving this or future papers should contact the Institute directly in care of Margot Chamberlain (e-mail address: chamber2@fas.harvard.edu) A small prepaid fee will be requested to cover copying and mailing costs.

The most recent publication on Japan of the Harvard University Asia Center Publications Office is:

Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan, *Hiraizumi: Buddhist Art and Regional Politics in Twelfth-Century Japan*. (Professor of Japanese Art History at Yale)

Fig. 10. Kanihachi Inraku panel, 1192



Illustrations from Yiengpruksawan, *Hiraizumi*

Studies on Japan forthcoming this spring from the Publications Office include:

Deborah J. Milly, *Poverty, Equality, and Growth: The Politics of Economic Need in Postwar Japan* (Associate Professor of Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University)

Edward Pratt, *Japan's Protoindustrial Elite: The Economic Foundations of the Gōnō*. (Associate Professor of Japanese History, College of William and Mary)

Aviad E. Raz, *Riding the Black Ship: Japan and Tokyo Disneyland* (Assistant Professor of Sociology at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)

Atsuko Sakaki, *Recontextualizing Texts: Narrative Performances in Modern Japanese Fiction* (Associate Professor of Japanese Literature at Harvard University)

John Solt, *Shredding the Tapestry of Meaning: The Poetry and Poetics of Kitasono Katsue (1902-1978)* (independent scholar)

See Heng Teow, *Japanese Cultural Policy Toward China, 1918-1931: A Comparative Perspective* (Head of the Department of Japanese Studies at the National University of Singapore)

The *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* publishes articles and book reviews on a wide range of topics con-

cerning the humanities in East Asia. Issue 59.1 (June 1999) will include the following articles on Japan:

"The Persistence of the Personal in Late Medieval *Uta*" by Steven D. Carter

"Japanese Perceptions of China: The Sinophilic Fiction of Tanizaki Jun'ichirō" by Atsuko Sakaki.

Annual subscription rates (two issues) are \$30 for individuals and \$45 for institutions. Send inquiries to *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

Special Events

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS
Harvard Graduate Conference for Japanese Studies: Again following the strong response to the previous year's conference, the Society for Japanese Studies at Harvard, in conjunction with the Reischauer Institute, is now soliciting papers for the 1999 Harvard Graduate Conference for Japanese Studies, to be held on Saturday, April 10, 1999. Only papers submitted by graduate students will be considered, although everyone is welcome to attend. Full panels and individual papers will be accepted. Papers may also be delivered in Japanese.

To submit a paper, please send us a one-page abstract and a paragraph of biographical information, including your name, contact address (including e-mail if available), and institutional affiliation. Presentations will be limited to twenty minutes.

For pre-registration forms and additional information, please contact:

Harvard Graduate Student Conference for Japanese Studies
 Reischauer Institute, Room 319
 Coolidge Hall
 Harvard University
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138
 FAX (617)496-8083 (Attn: Graduate Student Conf.)
 E-mail: sjsh@gsc.student.harvard.edu
<http://hcs.harvard.edu/~sjsh>



RECENT SPECIAL EVENTS On October 9, 1998, the Edwin O. Reischauer/Kodansha Ltd. Commemorative Symposium took place at the Reischauer/ Kodansha House in Belmont, Massachusetts. After opening remarks by Mr. **Tadayuki Tashiro** of Kodansha, Professor **Akira Iriye** of Harvard University discussed the importance of non-governmental organizations as a source of hope in the next century. Afterwards, Mr. Tashiro presented the Noma-Reischauer Prizes for best student essays to this year's winners, **John Rogers** (graduate student) and **Sarah Kemble** (undergraduate). Other guests from Kodansha included Mr. **Tetsuo Yamamoto**, Mr. **Jiro Onoda** and Ms. **Kay Ohara**; the Japan Forum was represented by Mr. **Nobukazu Takashima** and Mr. **Yukio Itoh**. The Symposium was accompanied by a photo exhibit depicting Prof. Reischauer's activities during the ambassadorial years. The Noma-Reischauer awards were established by Kodansha in October 1995 to honor the memory of the late Prof. Reischauer, who began to teach at Harvard in 1938.



Kodansha awards ceremony for 1998

On September 22, 1998 Professor **Takayoshi Matsuo**, Emeritus of Kyoto University, talked with Harvard graduate students in the Reischauer lounge.

On September 28, the Institute sponsored a showing of the John Nathan film *Full Moon Lunch*; in attendance was Mr. **Sugiura**, one of the original stars of the film.

On October 30, the Institute sponsored its annual Associates' Dinner. The speaker was Professor **Henry D. Smith** of Columbia University. Prof. Smith spoke on "Why is the Japanese Writing System so Complicated? —

Some Thoughts on Historical Causes and Consequences."

On November 13, the Institute sponsored the biannual International House lecture. The speaker was Mr. **Takakazu Kuriyama**, former Ambassador of Japan to the United States. Ambassador Kuriyama spoke on "Japan and the U.S.: A Partnership in Need of Repair."

From the Editor

The Reischauer Institute is updating its website with a new design, including a search engine. Please let us know if you find it useful.

Address ideas and correspondence about *Tsushin* to Dr. Galen Amstutz, Institute Coordinator, at the Reischauer Institute address, or via e-mail to gamsstutz@fas.harvard.edu. Most of the content of *Tsushin* is available on the Reischauer Institute's Internet website: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~rijs>.

The Reischauer Institute would like to thank the following persons who have specially contributed recently:

Kuniko Yamada McVey, Document Center Director

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Hiromi Maeda, Translator/Editor

The Institute offers its sincere thanks to all those individuals and institutions who have submitted articles and information featured in this issue.

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The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies Japan Forum/Events: Spring 1999

February 12	<u>ERIC RATH</u> Harvard University <i>"Historical Perspectives on Ritual in Noh Theater"</i>
February 18 (Thursday)	<u>SATOMI KUROSU</u> (Visiting Scholar talk ; held 2 to 4 PM, Coolidge Hall Seminar Room 2) International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken) <i>"'Breaking Up Is (Not So) Hard to Do': Marriage, Divorce and Tokugawa Demographic Studies"</i>
February 26	<u>ANNE WALTHALL</u> University of California at Irvine <i>"From Peasant Daughter to Samurai Wife: The Letters of Yoshino Michi"</i>
March 5	<u>ROBERT KHAN</u> (co-sponsored with the Asian Cultural Studies Workshop) Harvard University <i>"'Partings at Dawn' and 'Le Roman de Silence': Crossdressing Medieval Romance Heroines and the Enchantments of Genealogy"</i>
March 8 (Monday)	<u>ROBERT CAMPBELL</u> (co-sponsored with the Asian Cultural Studies Workshop) National Institute of Japanese Literature <i>"The Progress of the Literary Publisher, Tokyo 1882-1888"</i>
March 19	<u>GENZO YAMAMOTO</u> Boston University <i>"Defending Japan's Civilization and Mission: The Resilience and Triumph of Illiberalism in the House of Peers, 1919-1934"</i>
March 26	<u>MARILYN IVY</u> Columbia University <i>"Dark Enlightenment in the Photographs of Naitō Masatoshi"</i>
April 9	<u>EVE ZIMMERMAN</u> Boston University <i>"'Curling Up Tight': Patterns of Regression in the Fiction of Tsushima Yūko"</i>
April 16	<u>JOHN WHITMAN</u> Cornell University <i>"The Prehistory of Japanese: Linguistic and Archaeological Evidence"</i>
April 22 (Thursday)	<u>LESLIE PINCUS</u> (co-sponsored with the Asian Cultural Studies Workshop and the Center for Literary and Cultural Studies) University of Michigan (SPECIALLY HELD IN BARKER CENTER Room 114) <i>"Taking It to the Streets: From Modernist Meditations to Social Transformation in 20th Century Japan"</i>
April 30	<u>MICHAEL MOLASKY</u> Connecticut College <i>"Prostitution and the U.S. Occupation: The Chastity of Japan or the Chastizing of America?"</i>
May 7	<u>ROSEMARIE BERNARD</u> Harvard University <i>"Shintō and the Invention of Tradition: Reconfigurations of Gender and Imperial Symbolism in Ise Jingū Since 1945"</i>
May 14	<u>JOHN ROGERS</u> Harvard University <i>"Praying for the End: Japanese Apocalyptic Paramilitary Cults, 1868 to 2000"</i>

Excluding any exceptions noted, events are part of the JAPAN FORUM series of the Reischauer Institute. Except as noted events are held on Fridays, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m., Seminar Room 3, Coolidge Hall, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge