Creating Global Communication for Japanese Studies

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The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies was originally established in 1973 as the Japan Institute. Renamed in 1985 in honor of its founder, the Institute’s mission is to provide leadership to Japanese studies at Harvard and more broadly.

In 1995 the Reischauer Institute celebrated fifty years since the end of the Pacific War and our own twenty-year anniversary. The fifty years since 1945 have been five decades of peace and friendship between Japan and the United States, and it is that peace and friendship which have made possible the flowering of Japanese studies into a vigorous, interdisciplinary area of academic inquiry. As we celebrate the achievements of the past, we must consider also the needs of the future and lay the groundwork for enhanced development of the field.

(continued on page 2)
The need for informed, self-critical area studies has arguably never been greater than at the present time. The end of the Cold War has produced many uncertainties, and the trends and problems that will engage us for the next fifty years are only slowly becoming clear. At this historical watershed, it is appropriate to recall that Japanese studies in the United States has played a significant role in the cultural exchange between the two countries and has done much to establish the mutual understanding and interdependence that preserve the peace, and this is also true of Japanese studies in Britain, continental Europe, and Australia. The recent founding of research institutes and courses of study regarding Japan in East Asian nations is a promising development indeed, and it is much to be hoped that they will play similar roles in the establishment of wide ranging relations of cultural exchange.

At this juncture, the Reischauer Institute undertakes to publish a bilingual newsletter to provide a global forum of communication for the field of Japanese studies. We seek to provide a forum for the discussion of issues of common concern and to disseminate information useful in the promotion of the field. The newsletter will seek to create links with research institutes in this and other countries for the undertaking of shared research and intellectual exchange. We invite your communications and solicit your views on all matters affecting Japanese studies. In future issues we hope particularly to address such issues as the following:

- Japanese studies, like other branches of area studies, has been the object of criticism in the disciplines for insufficient theoretical sophistication and orientalism; the field must respond to these critiques directly and demonstrate its continued intellectual viability.
- Research in Japanese studies requires strong financial support; it is important for the field to be informed on trends in research funding and to act vigorously to secure a high level of support for graduate student research. Japanese studies requires on-going dialogue with funding bodies in Japan and a forum for the dissemination of this information.
- Japanese studies requires accurate and up-to-date information on such matters as the following:
  a) Numbers of faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates;
  b) Enrollments in Japanese language courses;
  c) Distribution of students and faculty by discipline or field;
  d) Trends in funding for new faculty positions, replacement of retiring faculty, faculty research, graduate student support, undergraduate student summer research and internships.

Japanese studies depends directly on Japanese language training; it is essential for members of the field to receive new information on Japanese language pedagogy and trends in Japanese teaching.

As the Reischauer Institute enters its third decade, I hope very much that it can provide a valuable service to Japanese studies throughout the world, and that readers will respond. We will provide space to present your views to the field as a whole and hope thereby to contribute to the field's global communications.

Helen Hardacre, Institute Director
Merry White (Associate in Research, Reischauer Institute, and Professor of Sociology, Boston University) recently met with Paul van der Velde of the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden, The Netherlands, to discuss potential cooperation and communication between institutes of Asian studies in Europe and the United States. The IIAS represents 400 such institutes, 300 organizations of Asian studies in Europe, and acts as a clearinghouse for information on institutions, research, publications, seminars, lectures and conferences, as well as maintaining a database containing information on researchers and current research topics.

The IIAS is itself a post-doctoral institute established collaboratively by the University of Amsterdam, the Free University of Amsterdam, the University of Leiden and the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. It has facilities for post-doctoral research fellows and visiting senior fellows. Post-doctoral researchers, invited for up to three years, engage in academic activities with their affiliated institutions and produce publications during their sojourn. Senior fellows are encouraged to conduct collaborative research with the post-doctoral researchers.

What really distinguishes this organization is its ability to link scholars across Europe, Asia and the western hemisphere, by institute, discipline and research area. In the Netherlands alone, there are over 1,800 Asianists and according to van der Velde, there are over 12,000 across Europe. The newsletter van der Velde publishes is a compendium of events and meetings, but even more, it offers a taste of the varieties of research interests and current debates in the field.

Members of the Association of Asian Studies might recently have read the first installment in the AAS Newsletter of an IIAS contribution written by van der Velde, which will be a regular feature. In the article he outlines the various ways in which IIAS helps to "internationalize" Asian studies. The institute also intends to publish a World Guide to Institutes in Asian Studies, probably available at the next AAS conference, to be held in Honolulu in April 1996.

## The Correspondence Address for IIAS is:

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**Facsimile:** 31-71-527-4162

**E-mail:** IIAS@RULLET.LeidenUniv.NL

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**Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies**

**Harvard University**

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Dr. Iguchi received his B.A. in Business Economics from Brown University in 1986, and an M.A. and Ph.D., both in History, from the University of Chicago in 1990 and 1995, respectively. He has published the article, "Ayukawa Yoshisuke’s Quest for U.S.-Japan Rapprochement, 1940," in The Journal of American-East Asian Relations (Spring, 1996). Some of his areas of interest are: Japanese economic, political and social history; Japanese foreign relations; and U.S. political and economic history. His dissertation is entitled, “Yoshisuke Ayukawa and U.S.-Japan Business and Diplomatic Relations: Nissan, Manchuria and Colonial Subjects as Other.”

Dr. Han was awarded a B.A. in Anthropology from Seoul University in 1986. She received an M.A. in Social Anthropology in 1994 and a Ph.D. in the same field in 1995, both from Harvard University. In addition, she was a research student at Tokyo University, 1990-92. Her areas of academic interest are: economic anthropology; relationship between nation-state and locality; nationalism, colonialism and postcoloniality; arts, material culture and identity. Her dissertation is entitled, “From Regional Craft to National Arts: Politics and Identity in a Japanese Regional Industry.”
Dr. Tsang earned a B.A. in History at Columbia University in 1988, and a Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages at Harvard University in 1995. She has published "Rekishi to josei no ichi kōsatsu" (A Review on History and Women) in Sōgō joseishi kenkyū (Annual Review of Women's History, May 1994). She has particular interest in the areas of: social and political aspects of religion in pre-modern Japan; village Japan in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries; and popular unrest and the nature of authority in medieval Japan. Her dissertation is entitled, “The Development of Ikkō Ikki, 1500-1570.”

Dr. Sand received his B.A. from Columbia University in East Asian Studies in 1984. In 1988, he received a Master's degree from Tokyo University in Architecture History. He returned to Columbia in 1990, and completed his Ph.D. in History there in 1995. His most recent publication is entitled Tsukuda ni watashi ga atta (When There was a Boatcrossing to Tsukuda), a book of photographs, interviews and historical essays about Tokyo’s last fishing community. His interests include urban and regional history, oral history, family history, gender studies, material culture and museology. His dissertation is entitled “House and Home in Modern Japan: Domesticity in the Formation of a Middle Class, 1880 - 1923.”
February 1  HOSEA HIRATA  
Assistant Professor of Modern Japanese Literature  
Princeton University  
“The Emergence of History in Sōseki’s Kokoro”

February 8  JORDAN SAND  
Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow  
“At Home in the Meiji Period: Modernity and Domesticity in Japan”

March 7  KENT CALDER  
Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Woodrow Wilson School  
Princeton University  
“Japanese Politics – Current State of Analysis”

March 14  WILLIAM COALDRAKE  
Foundation Professor of Japanese University of Melbourne  
“The Casteltown of Matsushiro and the 1998 Nagano Olympics”

March 21  JENNIFER ROBERTSON  
Associate Professor of Anthropology and Women’s Studies  
University of Michigan  
“When and Where Japan Enters: American Anthropology, 1945 to the Present”

April 4  RUĐOLOF JANSSENS  
Associate, Program on U.S.-Japan Relations  

April 18  IKUMI KAMINISHI  
Assistant Professor of Asian Art History  
Tufts University  
“Taima Mandala Etoki: On Visualization”

May 2  KIMI COALDRAKE  
Senior Lecturer in Music (Ethnomusicology) University of Adelaide  
“Hearing Women’s Voices: Representations of Gender in Japanese Music Theater”

FROM THE EDITOR:

The first issue of this newsletter comes as part of a major expansion and at a time of considerable transition for the Reischauer Institute. In addition to the installation of a new director, Helen Hardacre, a number of new staff and faculty appointments have been made which will increase the range and quality of Institute programs. Moreover, the Institute office area itself is undergoing a limited physical facelift to create a more aesthetically pleasing environment. The seminar room is being readied for expanded use with installation of satellite T.V. from Japan for use in Japanese language instruction and to provide access to scholars in connection with their research. We invite all who have the opportunity to visit us on the third floor of Coolidge Hall at Harvard.

It is hoped that this newsletter, with its bilingual format, will become a forum for exchange of information on Japan studies around the world. We welcome information concerning research on topics related to Japan from any and all institutions. As we become more accustomed to the newsletter format, we expect to improve the presentation and expand the scope of our publication. Any comments on the content or layout of this newsletter would be very much appreciated.

The JAPAN FORUM is sponsored by the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University and is held on the above listed THURSDAYS from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., Seminar Room 2, Coolidge Hall, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

Nancy Deptula Retires From Reischauer Institute

Nancy Deptula, who has been with the Reischauer Institute since its foundation in 1973, retired from her position as Executive Director at the end of December, 1995. A reception in her honor was held on December 18 to commemorate the more than forty years of service she has rendered to Harvard. The staff and faculty will miss Nancy very much, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

他のニュースレターの発行は、当ライシャワ研究所の組織変更の時期にあたり、今後の事業拡大の一環として企画されたものです。今年度は、所長としてヘレン・ハーディーを歓迎しただけでなく、多角的にプログラムをすすめていくために新しいスタッフと教授陣が加わりました。さらに、研究所内の設備も改善されつつあります。たとえば、セミナールームは日本からの衛星放送受信設備を備えて、日本語の授業や研究題材を集めることに活用していただく予定です。どうぞクリッジホール3階の当研究所にお気軽にお越しください。

この2か国語のニュースレターを通じて、世界各国からの日本に関する情報が活発に交換されるようにと願っております。したがって、日本研究に関することでしたら、どの国のどの研究機関からの情報でも是非お寄せいただきたいと思います。今後は紙面内容もより充実したものとなっていくと存じます。ニュースレターの内容につきましても、どうぞご意見ご要望をお寄せください。

編集責任者 アンドルー・マスキ
**Films 映画**

**Japanese Cinema: The Last Fifty Years**

**PART II: New Directors**

at The Harvard Film Archives

**Carpenter Center, 24 Quincy Street**

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**Friday March 8, 9pm.**

**Kikuichi: Tokyo Cleaning Man**

*Kikuichi*, Japan 1991, 68 min.

This award-winning (Berlin Film Festival, 1991) first feature film by the manga cartoon artist Iwamoto is an adventurously styled and uncompromising debut, financed independently and made with a small, young crew. In the words of one critic, "minimalism meets surrealism at the dry cleaner's" in this story about a Tokyo laundromat employee in love with a checkout girl at a local convenience store. Through the silent and lonely Kikuichi, Iwamoto comments on urban alienation in contemporary Japan, and the result is a work that has been likened to David Lynch's cult classic, *Eraserhead.*

Directed by Kenichi Iwamoto, with Jirô Yoshimura, Misa Fukuma, and Yasuhiro Ôka (Japanese with English subtitles, color, 35mm)

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**Friday March 15, 9pm.**

**Grave of the Fireflies**

*Hotaru no haka*, Japan 1988, 88 min.

Based on the award-winning novel by Akiyuki Nosaka, this film by top animation director Takahata movingly portrays the effects of war on two young children trying to survive in the devastated Kobe countryside. From the startling first scene that takes place after Japan's defeat, the film unravels in an innovative flashback that spans the last three months of the war, beginning with the B-29 air raid on Kobe and its environs on June 5, 1945. Now considered one of the finest animated films of the eighties, this film opened to favorable critical acclaim alongside the popular *My Neighbor Totoro.*

Directed by Isao Takahata, (Japanese with English subtitles, color animation and video projection)

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**Friday April 19, 9pm.**

**To Sleep So As To Dream**

*Yume miru yô ni nemuritai*, Japan 1986, 81 min.

A nostalgic, enchanting, and unusual paean by a young director to Japan's silent cinema, this film set in Taisho Japan (1912-26) is about two detectives who become involved in an intricate case that leads them into an uncompleted silent serial. This whimsical debut film by Hayashi features a striking score, as well as cameo performances by the late *benshi* lecturer Shunsui Matsuda and silent screen star Fujiko Fukamizu. A must-see for all silent film fans.

Directed by Kaizô Hayashi, with Moe Yoshimura, Shirô Sano, Kôji Otake, Fujiko Fukamizu (Japanese with English subtitles, bw, 16mm standard)

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**Friday April 26, 9pm.**

**Beijing Watermelon**

*Beijin no suika*, Japan 1990, 135 min.

A true pioneer who made his first film at age six, Ôbayashi worked in experimental 8mm and 16mm films during the sixties before going commercial in 1977, and is now considered a veteran among the new generation of filmmakers who made their reputation as feature directors during the 1980s. In this sharp-witted social satire about a Tokyo grocer whose generosity toward a group of poor Chinese students has potentially disastrous results, Ôbayashi sets the pace for the subsequent trend toward movies that focused on the plight of "other" Asians in Japan.

Directed by Nobuhiko Ôbayashi, (Japanese with English subtitles, color, 35mm)

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**Films 映画**

日本映画 / 戦後50年＜第2部＞

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**3月8日（金）午後9時**

菊地 監督／イワモト ケンイチ

**3月15日（金）午後9時**

**3月19日（金）午後9時**

**4月2日（金）午後9時**

**4月6日（金）午後9時**

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Director Helen Hardacre and yamabushi (mountain priest) Hoshino Fumihiro.

ヘレン・ハードーク所長と山伏の星野文雄さん

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Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies
Harvard University
Harvard Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Japanese Studies for the Academic Year 1996-7

The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University will offer several postdoctoral fellowships in Japanese studies for young scholars of exceptional promise, in order to give them the opportunity to turn their dissertations into publishable manuscripts.

Applicants should have received their Ph.D. degree since 1991, in Japanese studies in any area of the humanities or social sciences. Applicants who have not yet received their degree must complete all degree requirements by July 30, 1996. Preference will be given to those who do not hold continuing teaching positions.

Each fellowship will cover a 10 or 12 month period, beginning July 1 or September 1, 1996, with a stipend of $27,000. First option for publication of manuscripts will rest with the Council on East Asian Studies for its East Asia Monograph Series or with the East Asia Series of the Harvard University Press.

Applications must be mailed in time to reach the Reischauer Institute by March 1, 1996. Applications should consist of the following: a placement dossier and/or a curriculum vitae which includes Social Security Number, citizenship, academic degrees (with dates of conferment, discipline, institution), list of publications, present and permanent addresses and telephone numbers; at least two letters of recommendation; and an abstract and table of contents of the dissertation. If the dissertation is not yet finished, a timetable for its completion must also be submitted, along with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of faculty supervisors.


APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1, 1996
AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT: APRIL 20, 1996

In conjunction with the expanded operations at the Reischauer Institute, many people have been taken on board in various capacities to help us with our programs. These include:

Barbara Ambros  Alfred Fraijo
Shingo Ashizawa  Michael Hess
Eric Cho         Adam Kern
Bradley Edmister Duncan Williams

The Reischauer Institute staff wishes to offer sincere thanks for their continued efforts.

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