We are appallingly ignorant of what fellow Japan scholars do in parts of the world other than our own. How much, for example, do North American anthropologists of Japan know about Korean scholarship on Japanese anthropology? And what do European historians of Japan know of historical research on Japan by Chinese scholars?

The level of our scholarship on Japan as a whole can be enormously enhanced, I submit, by eliminating such neighborly ignorance, and instead by promoting cross-fertilization of ideas from colleagues in different regions of the world, where radical differences in conceptual and theoretical thinking and cultural and historical legacy have produced diverse kinds of Japanese studies, creating a variety of views of “Japan as Other.”

To illustrate: Koreans, who were subjected to colonial exploitation by Japan and now experience understandably strong, anti-Japanese nationalism, are likely to have a radically different understanding of Japan from that of scholars in the U.S., which celebrates itself as a victor over Japan. To take another example, why did U.S. scholars in the 1960’s become so enthralled by modernization theory, while European scholars remained aloof from the idea? Appreciating such differences as these through dialogue across far-flung regions among which communication is rare, if not absent, should reveal the implicit historical and cultural premises on which, in different parts of the globe, scholarship on Japan operates. It should thus result in deepened understanding of Japan and ultimately bring scholarship on Japan to a much higher level. (Please see OTHERNESSES OF JAPAN edited by Harumi Befu and Josef Kreiner (München, Iudicium, 1992) for details of this argument.)

In this process of building a sustained community of Japan scholars worldwide, we
Over the past two semesters, the Reischauer Institute has been examining the postwar development of Japanese studies in the United States, hosting presentations of essays which will form a publication celebrating the Institute’s twenty-fifth anniversary in 1998. This work represents the Institute’s first collaborative research publication and the first collection of comprehensive essays across the disciplines contributing to the study of Japan. Recent essay presentations, especially those by Professors Norma Field and Andrew Gordon, have highlighted the importance of responding to critiques of area studies. Since the end of the Cold War, area studies have been called into question in a way which exposes a simplistic understandings of their origins, aligning them with governmental intelligence work. If there is no longer a threat to the United States from a communist block, the cruder critics suggest, then there is no longer a need for systematic research on other societies outside the West. Proponents of rational choice theory criticize area studies from another perspective, asserting that “rational actors” obey universal rules of economic advantage, and that these rules are the proper object of study, not ephemeral differences of culture and history. Less dogmatic critics, especially vocal in the social sciences, hold that area studies specialists make few contributions to disciplinary theory in, say, economics and political science, and that their expertise is therefore of less value than that of full-time theorists. Clearly, area studies is called upon to make a forceful

Continued on page 10
February 6  
JOHN ROSENFIELD*  
Harvard University  
“History of Japanese Art Since 1945”

February 13  
DAVID GOODMAN  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“Antisemitism and Apocalyptic Thinking in Japan”

February 20  
RONALD TOBY  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
“Peoples of 10,000 Lands: Discovering and Imagining the Other in Early-modern Japan”

February 27  
TIM GEORGE  
Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow  
“Minamata and Democracy in Postwar Japan”

March 6  
KYE HYUN KIM  
Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow  
“Parliamentarianism and the Public Sphere in Early Meiji Japan”

March 7  
HIROAKI MATSUZAWA  
SPECIAL  
Reischauer Visiting Professor  
“Japanese Social Science and Theory and America—Focusing on Maruyama Masao”

March 11  
CHRISTINE YANO  
Tuesday  
Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow  
“Imagining Japan: Nostalgia and the Nation in Japanese Popular Song”

March 19  
KENZABURO OE  
SPECIAL  
1995 Nobel Prize for Literature  
Science Center  
“A Japanese Writer’s Creed”

April 3  
KIM BRANDT  
Amherst College  
“Mingei and the Japanese Renovation of Asia”

April 10  
CONSTANTINE VAPORIS  
University of Maryland at Baltimore County  
“Beyond History: Edo Archaeology and Japan’s Urban Past”

April 24  
PHILIP BROWN  
Ohio State University  
“Communal Land-holding in Early Modern Japan: the Warichi and Related Systems of Corporate Tenures of Arable Land”

*Denotes speaker in the Reischauer Institute’s Twenty-fifth Anniversary Symposium on the Postwar Development of Japanese Studies.

With the exceptions noted, events are part of the Japan Forum series of the Reischauer Institute. Also except as noted, events are held on Thursdays from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. in Seminar Room 2, Coolidge Hall, 1737 Cambridge Street, Cambridge.
The Documentation Center on Contemporary Japan (DCJ) holds 250 active serial titles in both English and Japanese, ranging from mainstream journals like CHÜÖ KÖRON, SEKAI and the JOURNAL OF JAPANESE STUDIES to non-commercial newsletters and reports issued by various institutions. A list of these titles is available at DCJ’s web site (http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~rijs/dcj/).

Several recently emergent and relatively unknown titles are described below. All of these journals originate in Japan; DCJ’s holdings of them are not duplicated elsewhere within Harvard, and in some cases in the region. They tend not to be covered by Western scholarly indexes.

**GOVERNMENTAL AND POLICY STUDIES**

**Bōei Kenkyû 『防衛研究』 (Defense Studies; annual; in Japanese)**
Published by the National Institute for Defense Studies, Bōei Kenkyû is one of only a few serials devoted to Japanese and regional security. The series changed its format in 1994, when it began to publish papers individually. Contributors include military analysts and defense policy experts. Titles from recent papers include “Terrorism and Japan’s Security,” “The Russian Far East and the Security in North-east Asia,” or “Korean Peninsula in 1995: A Survey.” With English summaries. DCJ holds all but No. 1 (1989).

**Shin Bōei Ronshû 『新防衛論集』 (The Journal of National Defense; quarterly; in Japanese)**
Published by Bōei Gakkai (The Society for National Defense), this journal carries papers by leading scholars in the field. With English summaries. DCJ’s run goes back to 1985.

**The Cost of Social Security in Japan (Annual)**

**Review of Social Policy (Annual)**

These English-language annuals originate from the Social Development Research Institute, a unit of the Ministry of Health and Welfare. COST is a statistical annual; it started in 1990, and its special 1993 number presents and analyzes statistics for the period 1969-90. The REVIEW was founded in 1992, and publishes social policy studies on Japan. These two journals, together with the same institute’s Kikan Shakukan Hoshō Kenkyû 『季刊社会保障研究』 (Quarterly of Social Security Research), are essential resources on Japanese social security.

**Yoron Chosa Nenkan 『世論調査年鑑』 (Almanac of Public Opinion Survey; in Japanese)**
Each year, the Prime Minister’s Office publishes this survey of public opinion polls conducted over the last year by institutions nationwide. These institutions include, in addition to national agencies, local governments, universities, the media, and private

Continued on page 9

Kumiko Yamada McVey, Documentation Center Director

馬克薇山田久仁子
This, the third issue of our Reischauer Institute newsletter, continues the kind of distribution of ideas and information to the Japanese studies community which was established in our first two issues. In her article, Professor Helen Hardacre, current Director of the Institute, discusses a new anthology of articles forthcoming from the Reischauer Institute concerned with the current state of Japanese studies as an academic field. Area studies as a whole have come under attack from narrow perspectives such as rational choice theory or discipline-bound theorizing. Yet area studies has made many solid contributions. Even more important, ideas that theory can proceed without specific contingent content, or that modern academic disciplines have fixed boundaries, are essentially inadequate. The best academic studies actually exemplify the interdisciplinary future of academic work.

Meanwhile, continuing our series of reports from Japanese studies institutions around the world, Professor Harumi Befu of Kyoto Bunkyø Daigaku notes the fragmentation of communities of Japan scholars. This results in a lack of awareness of how many visions of “Japan” actually exist. Japanese institutions make efforts to bring different sorts of Japan scholars together, but these are sporadic and insufficient. Befu recommends the foundation of a new World Association for Japanese Studies to create a more sophisticated forum of communication.

The Tsushin newsletter is meant to support this enhanced awareness of a need for improved international and multidisciplinary communications, and to create a forum of exchange on behalf of information specifically about academic Japanese studies around the globe. No international channel of information, or central clearinghouse, currently exists which is dedicated solely to academic Japanese studies. Of course, as you know, various valuable publications and newsletters deal broadly with Asia. These include for example the ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER of the Association for Asian Studies (Michigan, USA), or the INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER (Leiden, the Netherlands). Such organs have long communicated information about academic meetings, educational programs, scholarships, jobs, and so on. There are also various reference works and directories about Japanese studies institutions, especially those assembled by the Japan Foundation. However, it seems that none of the existing international publications focuses uniquely on current, changing information about academic Japan studies.

Such interests are bound up with my own research on Japan, which focuses on the way that Japanese Buddhism, particularly the largest institution, Jōdo Shinshū, has structured Japanese experience. In either a religious or secular framework, the large issues of cultural communication involve the interdependence of human knowledge.

Continued on page 6
Please address ideas and correspondence to Dr. Galen Amstutz, Institute Coordinator, at the Reischauer Institute address, or via e-mail to gamstutz@fas.harvard.edu

Meanwhile, don’t forget that 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 very specially contributed to our operations over the past months:

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

From the Editor

Continuation from Page 5

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Continuation from Page 5

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Special Events

Upcoming Special Events

On March 7, 1997 Professor Matsuzawa Hiroaki, the 1996-1997 Edwin O. Reischauer Visiting Professor of Japanese Studies, will deliver his Visiting Professor’s lecture on “The Social Sciences and Theory in Japan and the United States–The Case of Maruyama Masao.” The lecture will take place in Coolidge Hall, 1737 Cambridge St., at noon.

On March 19, 1997 Dr. Oe Kenzaburo, winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize for Literature, will speak in English on the topic “A Japanese Writer’s Creed.” The talk will take place in the Science Center at noon.

Recent Special Events

On October 11, the Edwin O. Reischauer/Kodansha Ltd. Commemorative Symposium took place at the Reischauer/Kodansha House in Belmont, Massachusetts. After opening remarks by Mr. Tashiro Tadayuki, Vice President of Kodansha, George Packard, formerly secretary to the late Prof. Reischauer, discussed Prof. Reischauer’s ambassadorial years in Japan. Afterwards, Mr. Tashiro presented the Noma-Reischauer Prizes for best student essays to this year’s winners, Christine Millet (graduate) and Mark Freeman (undergraduate). Other guests from Kodansha included Mr. Yamamoto Tetsuo, Mr. Onada Jiro and Ms. Ohara Kay. 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.

* * *

On September 10, the Reischauer Institute co-sponsored (together with the Japan Society of Boston, the Japan Society of New York, the International House of Japan, and the United-States Japan Foundation) a conference on “Ethics and the Media in Japan.” The focus was the problematic Japanese media coverage of the Aum Shinrikyo religion, which generated great controversy in Japan. The keynote speakers included Mr. Hanyu Kenji of the Tokyo Broadcasting System and Mr. Tase Yasuhiro of Nihon Keizai Shimbun, and the moderator was Prof. Helen Hardacre.

On September 17, visiting scholar Professor Sakagami Yuko (Seiwa Junior College) presented her research on the topic “Family Therapy in the Japanese Public School System.”

On November 4, Professor Aawayu Kentaro (Rikkyo University), the leading specialist on the documents relating to the Tokyo war crimes trials, presented his research on the topic “The Tokyo War Crimes Trials and Research on Modern Japanese History.”

On November 8, Professor Yasumaru Yoshio (Hitotsubashi University), a leading specialist on early modern Japanese religious movements, presented his research on the topic “Popular Religious Movements and the Experience of the Modern.”

On November 15, Professor Irokawa Daiichi (Tokyo Economics University), founder of “people’s history” in modern Japan, presented his research on the topic “Crime Since World War II as Seen in the State and the People: An Analysis of Popular Ideological History.”
NEW DIRECTIONS IN THE STUDY OF MEIJI JAPAN is the title of a publication forthcoming in May 1997 from E.J. Brill Publishers. Edited by Helen Hardacre, with Adam L. Kern as assistant editor, this volume of proceedings from the Conference on Meiji Studies (held at Harvard University May 4-6, 1994) presents a rare multinational interchange among professors, researchers, and graduate students investigating Japan. The authors present an array of intellectual perspectives on topics in the social sciences, humanities, and arts, employing a variety of theories and methodologies. The fifty-three essays reflect both an appreciation of past scholarship and a determination to destabilize existing paradigms about Meiji Japan in favor of a multiplicity of perspectives, perspectives that privilege subjectivity and non-elite groups. Attention to relations of power challenges the notions of modernization as the master narrative in Japan’s recent history and of consensus as the primary characteristic of social interaction in Japan. The book will be useful not only to Meiji scholars, but also to those interested in contemporary Japan and postmodern theories of power.

The HARVARD JOURNAL OF ASIATIC STUDIES publishes articles and book reviews on topics that fall within the fields of the humanities and concern East Asia. Scholars of Japan will find of particular interest the following articles: “Izumi Kyōka and Language” by Charles Shirō Inouye; “Bridges to Nowhere: Yasuda Yojirō’s Language of Violence and Desire,” by Alan Tansman; and a review article, “The Emergence of the Samurai” and the Military History of Early Japan,” by Martin Collcutt—all published in Issue 56.1 (June 1996); and “Putting the Fox Back into the Wild Fox Kōan: The Intersection of Philosophical and Popular Religious Elements in the Ch’an/Zen Tradition,” by Steven Heine; and “The Suwa Pillar Festival Revisited,” by Elaine Gerbert, to be published in Issue 56.2 (December 1996).

Authors who are interested in submitting articles should consult the inside front cover of the JOURNAL or feel free to write to the Editors. For manuscripts that are accepted, final drafts may be prepared with either Macintosh or IBM programs.

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.
corporations and organizations. A subject index enables users to take the pulse of Japanese public opinion quickly, or to focus on specific indices, such as public support of the current cabinet. DCJ’s run goes back to 1993.

**NON-MAINSTREAM PRESS**

**AMPO: Japan-Asia Quarterly Review (Quarterly; in English)**

One of the oldest (founded 1969) leftist English-language journals in postwar Japan. AMPO derives its name from the **US-Japan Security Treaty**, and is published by the Pacific Asia Resource Center as a “major means of communicating for people’s movements in the capitalist nations of Asia.” Recent issues have been devoted to World War II, human rights, minorities, the women’s movement, foreign aid, and the environment. DCJ’s holding starts in 1978. For a complete table of contents, see AMPO’s web site at (http://www.jca.jp/parc/ampo.htm).

**SHUKAN KINYOBI 週刊金曜日 (Weekly Friday; in Japanese)**

Started in November 1993. SHUKAN KINYOBI numbers among its contributors many activists in the citizen’s movement and other critics of government policy. Its current editors are Katsuichi Honda (journalist), Keiko Ochiai (feminist writer), Osamu Kuno (philosopher), Makoto Sataka (social critic), Makoto Shiina (writer), Tetsuya Chikushi (journalist). DCJ’s holding starts in May 1995. A complete table of SHUKAN KINYOBI’s contents, as well as Honda’s essay series “Impoveryed Spirit in Contemporary Japan” can be found at its web site, (http://www.iijnet.or.jp/ 2go-green /Env/Env.books/Friday /Friday.html)

**CURRENT AFFAIRS & ANALYSIS**

**SENTAKU 月刊シンタク (Monthly; in Japanese)**

This subscription-only journal is highly regarded for its sharp and accurate perceptions of the political and economic scene and for its wry insider slant. For example, it has run a series of articles on “Japan sanctuaries,” that is, institutions and individuals that remain essentially unexplored by the media (e.g., the Imperial Household). Yet despite its status (SENTAKU has been featured in articles in the Far Eastern Economic Review and elsewhere), it is infrequently cited. This is an excellent complement to daily Japanese newspapers. DCJ holdings cover the period 1985-89, and from 1993 on.
Having understood the nature of the criticism, the first order of business is to make clear the contributions of studies of Japan as they have developed in each discipline. The presentations delivered in the Institute’s TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM establish beyond doubt that Japanese studies have made strong contributions in every field, and that each discipline has been enriched significantly by scholars of Japan. The study of Japan has stretched every discipline’s understanding of the range of human variation and has led to an enhanced appreciation of Japan’s history, culture, and society. But the fact that these achievements have not been sufficient to persuade the critics suggests a need for a stronger response, not resting on past accomplishments, but probing the legitimacy of the criticism and outlining future directions.

Recent presentations by Professors Field and Gordon questioned critiques of area studies which enthrone “content-free” theorizing as a meaningful and prestigious activity within the contemporary academy. Both of them questioned the historical process by which it has come to be accepted that “doing theory” is possible without a deep, specialized knowledge of some particular human society at some specific time. They also underlined the central significance and ongoing necessity of language ability and archival research skills. They pointed to theoretical contributions of scholars in Japan, whose work remains unappreciated outside Japan, due in no small part to the parochialism of scholars who take Europe and America to define the entire human experience.

Interdisciplinary scholarship offers another hopeful basis for responding to critics of area studies. Area studies’ shirkest critics frequently uphold the claims of the disciplines as if these were timeless, universal criteria for evaluating all scholarship, refusing to admit their own partial and contingent character. It would seem that in the “hard” social sciences, especially, the tyranny of the disciplines is little questioned, and it is here that one finds the harshest criticism of area studies. Other fields, however, such as gender studies and religion, are inherently interdisciplinary, and it is significant that one does not hear criticism of area studies from these branches of the academy. The best studies of Japan have frequently represented interdisciplinary work combining the methods of more than one discipline. Combinations of history and economics, anthropology and history, sociology and psychology, and others have produced rich, historically informed work on Japan which stands up to or exceeds the standards of monodisciplinary scholarship. Moreover, one can see in interdisciplinary scholarship not only an additive enhancement of research, but the possibility of new knowledge formations producing new perspectives representing a qualitative advance beyond the reach of a monodisciplinary approach.

As we respond to critiques of area studies by clarifying the accomplishments of the past, it may be timely also to go on the offensive, to critique the critics, and to explore interdisciplinary research as one pathway for the future, and, where we can, to build our perspectives into universities and foundations which concern themselves with the study of Japan.
Call for a World Association for Japanese Studies

Continued from Page 1

should include not only scholars in North America, Europe, China, Korea, and other countries and regions where Japanese studies is thriving, but also our colleagues in areas of the world where the “density” of Japan scholarship is relatively sparse, such as Latin America and Africa. These colleagues should also be brought into the fold of our common enterprise, if this endeavor is to succeed.

Some might argue that Japanese are already performing this needed function by inviting foreign scholars around the world to numerous meetings of various sorts in Japan, where they can meet and mingle. However, such efforts are unsystematic and sustained. Moreover, the goals of such meetings in Japan are not primarily to probe the implicit cultural assumptions or historical bases underlying participants’ scholarship. Having Japanese take leadership on these matters is quite different from foreign scholars themselves taking the initiative to create a worldwide community and to set an agenda for their own research, in which “Japan as Other” is an unavoidable, ever-present, and pervasive viewpoint influencing the way they look at Japan.

In order to create a community with systematic and sustained global communication, I propose we organize a World Association for Japanese Studies. Its format will have to be decided by those who wish to be part of this community. My only hope and desire is that the organization will not be dominated by those representing one or two regions, but will truly represent all parts of the world.

If you wish to be part of this initiative, or if you have comments, please contact me at: Department of Cultural Anthropology,
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Uji-shi, Japan 611
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(Statements can be in either English or Japanese—Editor’s note)