

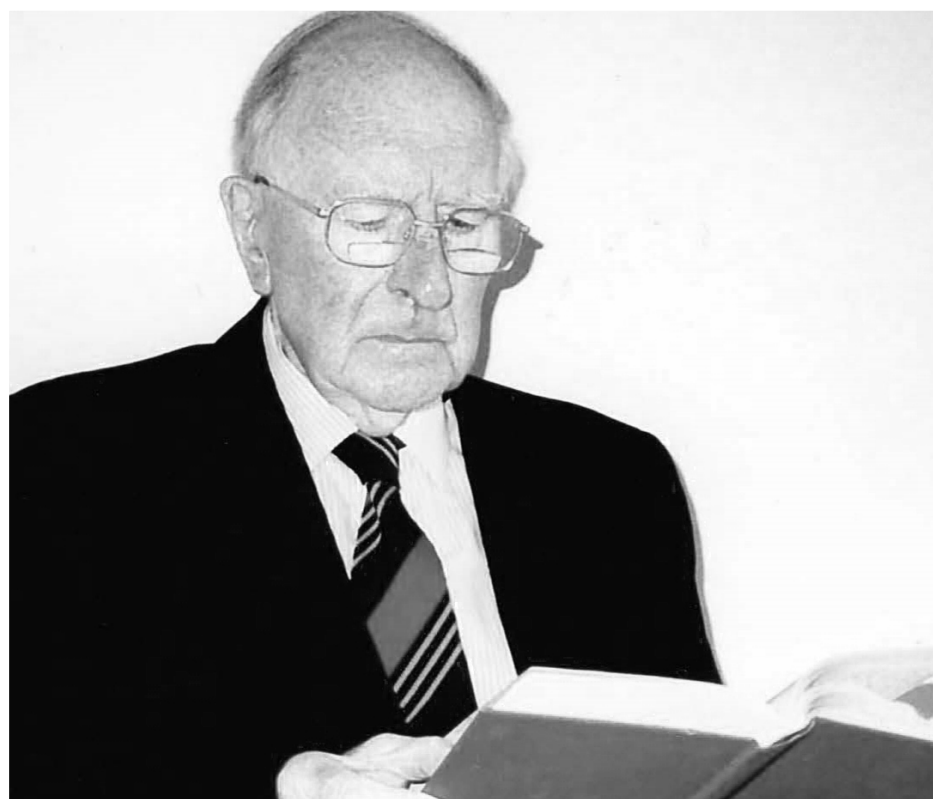
Donation from Mr McEnally supports the 2019 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture



We are very grateful for the generous support of Mr Stephen McEnally, which makes the 2019 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture possible. This annual lecture, created in 2013, provides an opportunity to commemorate the life and writings of SOAS historian Professor William

G Beasley (1919–2006). Professor Beasley was not only a leading figure in the development of Japanese Studies in Britain, he also had strong links with SOAS. During his tenure at SOAS, Professor Beasley headed the History and Far East departments and was the founding Chair of the Japanese Research Centre (1978-83).

Professor Philip Seaton (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies) gives the 2019 W.G. Beasley Memorial Lecture on 13 March 2019. His lecture, entitled “On the trail of Shiba Ryotaro and Jane Austen: Novels, Heritage, and Contents Tourism in Japan and the UK” explores how the “narrative worlds” created by novelists Shiba



Ryotaro and Jane Austen have triggered “contents tourism” at heritage sites in Japan and the UK.

Stephen McEnally is a JRC Senior Fellow and was CEO of the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation until his retirement in 2016. He joined the British Council in 1975 holding a variety of posts at home and overseas. From 1979 to 1983 he was the Council’s Assistant Representative in Tokyo and then Director of the Council’s Kyoto Office where he managed the first cohort of UK graduates to teach in Japan under the Wolfers’/BET Programme (now JET), an initiative he helped to set up in 1978.

Stephen’s interest in Japanese studies began in the early 1980s when he was the Council’s Regional (Desk) Officer for Japan and East Asia and continued during the 1990s when he moved to the Japan Foundation in London as its Director of Programmes.

Whilst at the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, and with generous grants from The Nippon Foundation in Tokyo, he set up two funding programmes to promote Japanese studies. The first was a £2.5 million project between 2008 and 2013 that funded 13 new lectureship posts in Japanese studies at 12 UK universities, including one post at SOAS. In 2014 he launched a second £1.2 million programme, the ‘Sasakawa Studentship Programme’, that is currently providing for 30 Japanese studies postgraduate studentships per year to UK universities, and from which SOAS is also benefitting.

In March 2017, Stephen was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun Gold Rays with Rosette by the Japanese Government in recognition of his distinguished contribution to promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the United Kingdom.