

Japanese Studies at SOAS, University of London
by
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This essay will appear in a volume on Japanese Studies in the UK, edited by Hugh Cortazzi and Peter Kornicki, to be published in 2016 by Renaissance Books under the auspices of the Japan Society. The editors have kindly given their permission for this essay to be put on the SOAS website.



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Since its formation out of London's University College and King's College in 1916, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) has had the overt purpose, more than perhaps any other University college, of serving the British nation. As its motto 'Knowledge is Power' asserts, the School has had a mission to train experts and foster knowledge on the 'Orient' and Africa. From its beginnings, solid language training has been at its core, and this is certainly the case for Japanese Studies.

The first Professor of Japanese at SOAS was Frank J. Daniels (1900-1983), who was appointed in 1961.¹ However, the first Professor of Japanese in the University of London was Joseph Henry Longford (1849-1925), who was appointed in 1902 to the Oriental Department of King's College London but he retired in 1916 when his department was moved to the newly established SOS (School of Oriental Studies, the School's formal title until 1938).² Longford had had a career as a member of the Japan Consular Service for thirty-three years alongside Sir Ernest Satow and William George Aston before taking up the University of London post.³ He taught about Japan but does not seem to have taught language. He published several books on Japan (*The story of Old Japan*, 1910; *Japan of the Japanese*, 1911) and edited the third volume of Murdoch's *History of Japan* (1926).

In his Inaugural Lecture, 'Japanese Studies in the University of London and Elsewhere', Daniels outlined Britain's efforts to develop resources for Japanese language learning and teaching. He cites a series of early publications on the language including Rutherford Alcock's *Elements of Japanese Grammar* (1861), W. G. Aston's *Short Grammar of Spoken Japanese* (1869), and *Grammar of Written Japanese* (1871). He

notes also that Basil Hall Chamberlain, appointed Professor of Japanese and Philology at Tokyo University in 1896, was the first 'British Professor of Japanese'.⁴ Chamberlain's *A Simplified Grammar of the Japanese Language (Modern Written Style)* (1886) was another important work. This tradition continued at SOAS with Japanese language textbooks produced by Daniels and his wife Otome, P. G. O'Neill, Charles Dunn, and more recently by John Breen, Stefan Kaiser and Helen Ballhatchet, as well as research on Japanese language and language teaching by Lone Takeuchi, Stefan Kaiser, Kazumi Tanaka, Barbara Pizziconi, Hiroto Hoshi, Mika Kizu, Noriko Iwasaki, and others.⁵

On the whole, British expertise on Japan until World War II was not acquired or transmitted within universities. Initially diplomats such as Satow and Aston and teachers employed in Japan like Chamberlain (not a diplomat but hired to be a teacher of English) learnt Japanese in Japan in the late nineteenth century. The Japan Consular Service which was established in 1859, soon after the re-opening of Japan following the Treaties of 1858, required its members to reach a high level of expertise in the Japanese language and many of its members went on to become Japanese scholars. They included Sir George Sansom in addition to Satow and Aston. Protestant missions also expected their evangelists to try to master the Japanese language and some attained high levels of proficiency. The historian Charles Boxer (1904-2000) and others learned Japanese in Japan as army or navy language officers. It was not until the post-war period that UK universities became major centres of learning and teaching on Japan.

SOAS began its teaching programmes in 1917 and Japanese was taught from the outset, always with students attending, although there were only two who took degrees in Japanese, one each in 1938 and 1939. Both the army and navy sent students to SOAS for language training in the 1920s. Daniels mentions three who taught Japanese in the 1920s and 1930s: W. M. McGovern (from 1919 to 1922), Yoshitake Saburō (from 1923 to 1942) and Commander N. E. Isemonger (from 1921 to 1943).

William Montgomery McGovern (1897-1964), who was appointed to the School in 1919, served only a few years but later became famous for his exploits in illegally entering Tibet in 1922. His 1924 book *To Lhasa in disguise: a secret expedition through mysterious Tibet* was a popular success. His adventures (including to the upper Amazon basin and

Peru in 1925-26, chronicled in his 1927 book, *Jungle paths and Inca ruins*) were well known in his day. He had learnt Japanese studying Buddhism in Kyoto at the Nishi Honganji temple before joining SOAS and he later had a long career at Northwestern University.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor and then the Japanese capture of Singapore, there was an urgent need for special courses at SOAS to train translators and interpreters for service in India and Burma. J. K. Rideout and F. S. G. Piggott (1883-1966) taught on these courses: Rideout was a specialist in Chinese while Piggott was a retired military officer who had been Military Attaché in Tokyo.⁶ A number of Japanese nationals were also recruited to teach Japanese during the war: one of them was Yanada Senji who stayed on after the war and worked closely with O'Neill.⁷ Another was Matsukawa Baikin. Of the Japanese nationals appointed, the School retains a personnel file on only one, Yanada Senji. After graduating from Tokyo Imperial University in 1931, he spent a year at Harvard University before coming to Britain in 1933. Between 1935 and 1941 he was the London correspondent of the *Yomiuri shinbun*. Briefly interned on the Isle of Man in 1942, he began teaching at the School from the September of that year. He remained a member of the academic staff until his death in 1972.

Arthur Waley (1889-1966), the renowned translator of Chinese and Japanese literature, who lived in the Bloomsbury area for much of his life, had various connections with SOAS and the nearby British Museum and Institute of Education.⁸ In the pre-war period he published translations in the *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies* and was made an 'additional lecturer' in Chinese poetry in 1924 and honorary lecturer in 1948. Waley gave consultations to students on Japanese literature and served as an external examiner for Japanese. He lived in a SOAS flat at 50 Gordon Square for several years. Ivan Morris, who completed a PhD at SOAS in 1951, was one of those who benefited from his guidance. Waley gave occasional lectures at the School after the war.

Daniels, after spending several years teaching in Japan, was appointed senior lecturer in Japanese at SOAS in 1941, arriving just before the Pearl Harbor attack. His appointment was spurred by the British military's plan to begin sending increasing

numbers of officers to SOAS for language training because of the impending war. He had gone to Japan in 1928 to work in the office of the Naval attaché in Tokyo hoping for a bit of adventure. He then worked at mastering the Japanese language and from 1933 he was a teacher of English at Otaru Commercial High School. He was head of the SOAS Japanese language programme under the general supervision of Professor Eve Edwards, professor of Chinese, during the war and afterwards until his retirement in 1967. He and his wife Otome were central to the language programme during the war and in the immediate post-war years.

The teaching of Japanese at SOAS during World War II (1942-1945) is relatively well documented with the book by Sadao Oba that was published in Japanese and then in English.⁹ The War Office had proposed that SOAS begin training students in Arabic, Japanese and Turkish from around 1939, and posts in these languages were created, but the military did not actively send any students, and it was not until after Pearl Harbor and the fall of Singapore that a programme of scholarships was started. A number of bright young schoolboys thought to have linguistic competence were recruited in 1942 for intensive courses in Japanese, Chinese, Persian and Turkish. As they were given accommodation at Dulwich school they came to be called the 'Dulwich boys'. They included Ronald Dore, who became an outstanding Japanese scholar specializing in Japanese education and society, and Peter Parker (1924-2002), who later had a distinguished career in business, becoming chairman of British Rail, author of the 'Parker Report' in 1986 on Oriental and African Languages and Area Studies, and namesake of the 'Peter Parker Japanese Speech Contest'.¹⁰

The armed forces, however, required many more linguists than the 'Dulwich boys' could provide and SOAS had to arrange special crash courses for young uniformed soldiers, sailors and airmen. Many of these had to live in barracks in London while others were billeted in London homes. Although most were men, there were some women as well. For example, a group of seven women in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force learned Japanese at SOAS in 1943, before joining the very large contingent of women who worked at Bletchley Park, the centre for code-breaking during the War.¹¹

Frank Daniels who had responsibility for organizing courses for the armed services was

under the general direction of Professor Eve Edwards, who led most of the negotiations with the authorities and doubtless behind the scenes smoothed inevitable difficulties and staff problems. Despite the strains of working under pressure in London during wartime bombardment, morale was generally good and many of the service language students were keen to get out to Asia where they could practise the skills as they had learnt.

There were initially two main courses of a year to eighteen months. These were termed the translators' and the interrogators' courses: as the names suggest, the translators' course concentrated on the written language and the interrogators' course on the spoken language. For both courses teaching materials had to be created from an almost non-existent base with a focus on military terminology.

Daniels and his assistants quickly had gramophone records made, in the old 78 rpm format, recording the voice of Yanada Senji using Japanese phrases which the students might need in conversation (e.g. *anata demasu ka? Hai demasu*). Those studying for the interrogators' course had to listen over and over again to these records mouthing what was said on the records. In small groups they would study elements of grammar and vocabulary and texts in rōmaji specially created for this purpose. Hugh Cortazzi, who was an airman on an interrogators' course between September 1943 and December 1944, recalls that the temporary teachers included retired missionaries such as Canon France and serving officers such as Squadron Leader Lomax.¹² Exceptional students, including Ronald Dore and Charles Dunn, were retained as assistant teachers and were not sent out to serve in the field. Those on the interrogators' courses also had daily 'one to one' sessions with temporary Japanese staff. Hugh Cortazzi recalls a Mr Takaira and Mr Shimizu, among former Japanese businessmen, as well as Canadian army Nisei, including sergeants Yamamoto and Yamaguchi.

The translators' courses were drilled in Japanese characters by various teachers including Major-General Piggott, who had spent three years in Japan in the 1930s as an army language student. He took them through the most commonly used characters in Rose-Innes' *Beginners' Dictionary of Chinese-Japanese Characters and Compounds*. This dictionary, as well as the *Kenkyusha Japanese-English Dictionary*, had to be

quickly reproduced by photolithograph process in sufficient quantities for the students to use.

It soon became apparent that the division between written and spoken Japanese was unsustainable and both courses were given tuition in both written and spoken Japanese. The courses were intense, with students expected to turn up every day Monday to Friday and work either in classes or tutorials from 9 to 5 with a good deal of home-work (not easy in a barrack room or perhaps unheated lodgings with food increasingly rationed).

SOAS was fortunate in having a building, which in those days was new and had not been destroyed in the blitz, although buildings nearby had been destroyed or badly damaged. The V1s (flying bombs) and the V2s (rockets) posed a threat to all in London in 1944. One V2 fell in Tottenham Court Road as some airmen were walking back to have some lunch at their barracks in Hallam Street. One airman studying Japanese was killed.

Student numbers gradually increased, and at the peak in the 1944-45 session, there were 183 in total (not just members of the armed forces) learning Japanese, all but six of them full-time. The intensive wartime courses were considered effective in getting students to a level of Japanese sufficient for work in Southeast Asia (mostly India and Burma) and conflict areas, where they were working on captured documents or interrogating Japanese prisoners. The programme organizers adopted a tightly structured and demanding approach to language teaching, driven by the Department of Phonetics and Linguistics under J. R. Firth, who had been its head since 1941 and was the first Professor of General Linguistics in Britain. This emphasis on the modern language with a strong foundation in the written language was to remain at the core of the SOAS approach to Japanese language teaching after the war.

Among the wartime students of Japanese who later became academics in Japanese Studies were Louis Allen (Durham University), John McEwan (Cambridge University), Douglas Mills (SOAS and Cambridge University) Carmen Blacker (Cambridge University), Ronald Dore (SOAS and LSE), P. G. O'Neill (SOAS), Charles Dunn (SOAS),

and Kenneth Gardner (librarian at SOAS and the British Library).¹³ Some of these were among the 'Dulwich Boys', who were given state scholarships to study language at SOAS and then entered the military. Many took degrees at SOAS after the war including Hugh Cortazzi, who eventually became British ambassador to Japan. William Beasley (1919-2006) was also of this generation but he was assigned to study Japanese at the US Navy Japanese Language School at Boulder, Colorado, as a Royal Navy officer.¹⁴

It has been remarked on by others that although many began learning Japanese when Britain was at war with Japan, the SOAS language programme still managed to instil in many of the students a respect for Japan that influenced their post-war development and the restoration of British relations with Japan. The programme's close links with the government continued in the post-war period, with special language training programmes being run for the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign & Commonwealth Office.

A new degree syllabus for the BA Honours in Japanese was introduced in 1946. As Daniels described it in his Inaugural Lecture, 'while including texts from the tenth century onwards, [it] put more emphasis on writing Japanese and included an oral examination. The practical aim we had set ourselves was to qualify students to begin research with only general supervision, either in the School or in a Japanese university.'

In 1946, as part of a review of provision for non-European studies in universities, the Scarborough Commission examined facilities for Oriental, Slavonic, East European and African Studies and recommended an expansion of Japanese studies into new disciplines. Daniels submitted an ambitious plan for the expansion of Japanese studies at SOAS to include social science disciplines, which was not followed initially but in the end resulted in several new 'language' posts and included a social science position filled by Ronald Dore. In the 1960s positions in the social sciences increased after the 1961 Hayter Report's recommendations for the expansion of Oriental and African Studies. As Dore noted in his biographical portrait of Daniels, Daniels can be credited with creating the first programme of modern Japanese studies across a range of disciplines in Britain. Over the years, the expansion of specialists on Japan has never been easy; it has been driven by government reviews (Scarborough in 1946, Hayter in 1961 and Parker in 1987)

and more recently by staff-expansion grants for three or five year partial or full funding. Grants from the following have greatly helped expand and maintain Japanese studies at SOAS: the Japan Foundation (Screech, Pizziconi, Surak, Miyamura posts), International Shinto Foundation (Dolce), Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures (Carpenter), and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation (Gerteis). Over the years, in addition to the 'language' departments, new 'discipline' departments were created within SOAS, most of which included specialists on Japan.

Japanese language study was the initial focus at SOAS, and members of the Japanese Section in the Far Eastern Department continued to contribute to scholarship on both contemporary and classical language. In 1959 Senji Yanada published a textbook with Charles Dunn, *Teach yourself Japanese*. P. G. O'Neill produced a number of books on language including *Introduction to written Japanese* (1963), *A programmed introduction to Literary Japanese* (1968) and *A reader of handwritten Japanese* (1984). Stefan Kaiser, who left in the mid-1990s to become Professor at Tsukuba University, published extensively on Japanese language including *Japanese: a comprehensive grammar* (2001). He also collaborated with Helen Ballhatchet on a completely revamped version of *Teach yourself Japanese* in 1979, and was one of a group of scholars who wrote the influential *Situational functional Japanese* (1991-92). Lone Takeuchi, who was at SOAS from 1983 to 1996, is a scholar of historical linguistics and classical literature and produced *A study of Classical Japanese tense and aspect* (1987) and *The structure and history of Japanese: from Yamatokotoba to Nihongo* (1999). Young scholars from Japan were regularly recruited to assist with language teaching in the 1960s and 1970s, such as Matsudaira Susumu, a scholar of Japanese theatre, and Ikeda Tadashi, who wrote a book in English on Japanese classical grammar.

Tanaka Kazumi, a scholar of language pedagogy, ran the SOAS language programme from 1993 and then left in 2009 to become a professor at ICU in Tokyo. She was the driving force behind the establishment of the British Association of Teachers of Japanese (BATJ) in 1998.

Japanese studies staff also conducted research on various aspects of Japanese culture and society, with many working on literary subjects. Daniels worked on language and

folklore, while Charles Dunn published two important books on Japanese theatre, *The early Japanese puppet drama* (1966) and *The Actors' Analects* (1969, with Torigoe Bunzō). In addition to his work on language, P. G. O'Neill also published *Early Nō drama: its background, character and development 1300-1450* (1958) and *A guide to Nō* (1954). Kenneth Strong (1925-1990) completed a BA in Japanese at SOAS in 1951 and then later taught at SOAS from 1964 to 1980. He published *Ox against the storm* (1977), a biography of Japan's conservationist pioneer Tanaka Shōzō, and several highly regarded translations of modern fiction: Niwa Fumio's *The Buddha tree* (1966), Tokutomi Kenjiro's *Footprints in the snow* (1970), Kinoshita Naoe's *Pillar of fire* (1972), Shimazaki Tōson's *The broken commandment* (1974) and Arishima Takeo's *A certain woman* (1978). Other scholars in the Far Eastern Department in this period included Akemi Horie-Webber, a scholar of theatre, who retired in 1994, and Miyoko Uruguchi Docherty, a scholar of modern Japanese literature, who left SOAS in 1994.

Many scholars began their careers at SOAS in the postwar period before moving to other institutions: Stanley Weinstein (Yale), Douglas Mills (Cambridge), Christopher Seely (Canterbury), Phillip Harries (Oxford), Nicola Liscutin (Birkbeck), and Susan Napier (Tufts); art historian John Clark (Sydney University) is another among them, as is John Carpenter (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York). Hugh Clarke, a scholar of Okinawan language and culture, taught at SOAS in the 1970s and then went on to become Professor of Japanese at Sydney University. David Chibbett wrote *The history of Japanese printing and book illustration* (1977) was librarian at SOAS before taking up a position in the British Library, but he died prematurely shortly afterwards. Helen Ballhatchet was both a student and then a lecturer at SOAS (1979-1991) before taking up a position at Keio University. Ivan Morris completed his PhD at SOAS in 1951 before taking up a position at Columbia.¹⁵

The Japanese programme was led by P. G. O'Neill from the late 1960s onwards. After his retirement in 1986, the School tried to expand the discipline range of Japanese studies in the department and in 1986 appointed Brian Moeran from the Anthropology Department to the chair of Japanese studies. Moeran resigned after a few years, however, to take up a position in Hong Kong. Andrew Gerstle was then appointed to the chair of Japanese studies in 1993. He was head of the AHRC funded Centre for Asian

and African Literatures (jointly with University College London) in 2000-2005, a project which stimulated comparative literature studies at SOAS, and he has co-organized two exhibitions at the British Museum on Osaka Kabuki in 2005 and *shunga* erotic art in 2013.

John Breen and Helen Ballhatchet report that in their time most professors and lecturers took a role in the language programme. O'Neill, Dunn and Kenneth Strong were all considered to be good language teachers and their textbooks were used in the courses. From around the year 1977, SOAS (and other programmes in the UK with honours degrees in Japanese) began to send students for a summer in Japan, initially at Nanzan University in Nagoya. Later SOAS developed its own programme of in-country language training at the Hokkaido University of Education for the third term of year one and the summer vacation. From 1997 SOAS undergraduate students have been sent to various Japanese universities for their entire second year (later third year). This in-country training altered considerably the teaching programme, and was a stimulus to learning and of course to students' fluency in the spoken language.

The language programme of the Japanese section continued to expand during the 1980s and 1990s and into the 21st century, and with it the number of Japanese native language teachers. Setsuko Cornish taught Japanese language for many years in the Department. Non-degree teaching of Japanese language is carried out by the SOAS Language Centre, which offers a variety of courses to the public. The leader of the team of Japanese language teachers is Okajima Shin'ichiro. Yoshiko Jones has been a key teacher in the Language Centre as well as in the degree programme for many years. The Centre collaborates with the London Japan Foundation office in teaching beginners' level courses, and in hosting the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

The current staff in what is now the Japan and Korea department is as follows.

[Professors and Lecturers] Stephen Dodd (modern literature), Andrew Gerstle (literature, drama, visual arts), Griseldis Kirsch (media), Barbara Pizziconi (linguistics), Nana Sato-Rossberg (translation studies) and Isolde Standish (film)

[Senior Teaching Fellows] Alan Cummings (literature, drama), Satona Suzuki (history)

[Principal and Senior Lectors in Japanese language] Furukawa Akiko, Harumi Seiko,

Kanehisa Misako, Kashiwagi Miwako, Shiraki Hitoshi and Taniguchi Kaori. The language staff continually produce teaching materials to supplement the language textbooks.

The Japan Research Centre (JRC) was founded in 1978 with William Beasley as inaugural chair. Sugihara Kaoru played an important role in expanding the activities of the JRC in the 1990s. The JRC supports research activities on Japan, such as regular weekly seminars, annual lectures (Meiji Jingu, Beasley, Tsuda), conferences/workshops, performance events, as well as hosting academic visitors from Japan and 'Research Associates' in the UK. It is also home to the SOAS Studies in Modern and Contemporary Japan series (editor, Christopher Gerteis), published by Bloomsbury Publishing. Currently it also hosts the journal *Japan forum*, edited by SOAS staff. The JRC includes all the SOAS staff who work on Japan in the various disciplinary departments, and they will be discussed below.

Literary Studies

Literature has been a key discipline in the programme. The publications of O'Neill, Dunn and Strong have been mentioned above. Other notable work on literature has been produced at SOAS by Douglas Mills (*A collection of tales from Uji: a study and translation of 'Uji shūi monogatari'*, 1970), Christopher Seeley (*A history of writing in Japan*, 1991), Phillip Harries (*The poetic memoirs of Lady Daibu*, 1980), Nicola Liscutin (*Cultural studies and cultural industries in Northeast Asia: what a difference a region makes*, 2009), and Susan Napier (*The fantastic in modern Japanese literature: the subversion of modernity*, 1996).

Film and media

The area of film and media studies has from the late 1990s developed considerably at SOAS, with two centres, one for film and one for media studies, and recently a BA in Global Cinema and Screen Arts was created in collaboration with Birkbeck College. Current staff members Isolde Standish and Griseldis Kirsch focus on Japanese film and

media.

History

Japanese history has been a core discipline from the outset with the appointment of Longford to King's College London. The eminent scholar of early European interactions with East Asia, C. R. Boxer (1904-2000), previously at Kings College London, was appointed Professor of the History of the Far East at SOAS in 1951.¹⁶ However, he served for only two years and was succeeded in the Chair by William Beasley, one of the most important scholars of Japanese history in the twentieth century. He began teaching at SOAS in 1947, became Professor of the Far East in 1954 and retired from SOAS in 1983. His focus was on Japan's transition from the Tokugawa to Meiji periods and on diplomatic history. His first book was *Great Britain and the opening of Japan* (1951); his monumental prize-winning work was *The Meiji Restoration* (1973), and his most widely read book *The rise of modern Japan* (1990). His *Japanese imperialism 1894-1945* (1987) is a bold and challenging reappraisal of Japan's colonial period. Beasley had many PhD students in both Chinese and Japanese modern history, including Ian Nish, who later taught at the LSE and wrote *The Anglo-Japanese alliance: the diplomacy of two island empires 1894-1907* (1966) and *The origins of the Russo-Japanese War* (1995). Beasley continued to be active and to publish long after his retirement from SOAS and the annual Beasley Lecture was established in 2013 in his honour.

G. W. Robinson was at the School for two years from 1955-57. Andrew Fraser, a scholar of Japanese local history who completed a PhD under Beasley and taught at SOAS in the early 1960s, moved to the Australian National University's Research School of Pacific Studies (*National election politics in Tokushima Prefecture, 1890-1902*, 1972). He was succeeded in 1966 by Richard Sims, who wrote *French policy towards the Bakufu and Meiji Japan, 1854-95* (1998) and *Japanese political history since the Meiji Restoration, 1868-2000* (2001). Sugihara Kaoru, a prolific scholar of economic history and of Japan's relations with Asia, was at SOAS in the 1980s to mid-1990s before moving to a Chair at Osaka University; he later wrote *Japan, China, and the growth of the Asian international economy, 1850-1949* (2005). He was very active at SOAS, particularly as Chair of the Japan Research Centre.

The historian John Breen had a long career at SOAS before becoming a professor at the International Research Center for Japanese Studies in Kyoto. His publications have been on state and religion, particularly Shinto; he is the author of *A new history of Shinto* (2010) and *Yasukuni, the war dead and the struggle for Japan's past* (2008), as well as two books in Japanese on the Ise Shrine. He is also editor of the journal *Japan review*. The current SOAS historians are Angus Lockyer and Christopher Gerteis; both focus on modern Japan. Japanese history is also taught in the art and religious studies departments.

Anthropology and sociology

Anthropology (and sociology) were established early in the post-war era, with Christoph von Fürer-Haimendorf as head of department, initially with a particularly strong focus on South Asia. Ronald Dore was appointed initially as a social science specialist, but not in the anthropology department. Dore, one of the most eminent scholars of Japan, produced many books on a variety of topics, from educational history to city life and economics. They include *City life in Japan: a study of a Tokyo ward* (1963), *Education in Tokugawa Japan* (1965), *Land Reform in Japan* (1984); *British factory, Japanese factory: the origins of national diversity in industrial relations* (1973) and *Shinohata: a portrait of a Japanese village* (1978).

Rodney Clark, who completed his PhD in the Department, was appointed lecturer in anthropology in 1974 but resigned in 1979 to work in the world of finance and to write plays. His book *The Japanese company* (1979) is well known and still widely cited. Brian Moeran, after completing his PhD at SOAS, was appointed lecturer in 1981. He is well known for his many publications on the pottery industry, advertising and media: *Lost innocence: folk craft potters of Onta, Japan* (1984), *A Japanese advertising agency: an anthropology of media and markets* (1996), and *Language and popular culture in Japan* (2011). Moeran gained some notoriety when his memoir on life as a professor of Japanese at SOAS was published in Japanese in 1988.

Dolores Martinez began teaching at SOAS in 1989, occupying a new post created following the Parker Report, initially as a replacement for Brian Moeran, who had moved

to the Far East Department as chair of Japanese studies. After Moeran left for Hong Kong in 1991, she became the only Japan specialist in the department. Martinez published on social rituals and film, including for example *Remaking Kurosawa: translations and permutations in global cinema* (2009). She was very active and supervised a number of successful PhD students before her retirement in 2012, when Fabio Gygi replaced her.

Economics

G. C. Allen (1900-82), a Fellow of the British Academy who taught for many years at University College London, was an important early scholar of the economy of Japan, and published many books on Japanese economic history including *Modern Japan and its problems* (1927) and *A short economic history of modern Japan, 1867-1937* (1946).¹⁷ He had learned Japanese in Japan in the 1920s while teaching economics there. His connections with SOAS were considerable and he left £3000 to SOAS in his will to establish a prize in the Economics of Japan.

The Department of Economics has a long history of encouraging staff to learn Japanese for research and teaching on the Japanese economy. Seymour Broadbridge, an early appointment in the department, learnt Japanese while at SOAS, although he left to return to Australia before teaching on Japan. Broadbridge was already an established economic historian with a PhD on British railway history in the nineteenth century. He studied Japanese language, and then researched small-scale industrial firms and published *Industrial dualism in Japan* (1966).

The first head of economics and politics at SOAS was Edith Penrose whose husband, E. F. Penrose, had been a major force in Japanese economic studies (*Population theories and their application, with special reference to Japan*, 1934). He was another who had worked in Japan in the 1920s. This connection led her to agree to the suggestion that lecturer Christopher Howe take up Japanese. Howe, a specialist on East Asian trade, taught on the economics of the region for more than forty years at SOAS, retiring from teaching in 2015. His major work on Japan is *The origins of Japanese trade supremacy: development and technology in Asia from 1540 to the Pacific War* (1996).

Professor Machiko Nissanke is a specialist on Africa but has contributed to teaching on Japan. Costas Lapavitsas is another who was given time to learn Japanese language in order to conduct research on Japan. His field is comparative political economy and finance, and in 2015 he was elected an MP in the Greek parliament. Miyamura Satoshi is the current specialist on Japan and East Asia in the department, and Ulrich Volz also teaches on the Japanese economy. Sugihara Kaoru, who was in the History department, was an important figure in Japanese economics during his time at SOAS in the 1980s-90s. Penelope Francks (Leeds University) is a notable graduate of the department; she has written *Technology and agricultural development in pre-war Japan* (1984) and *Japanese economic development: theory and practice* (1999). Another recent graduate is Ralph Paprzycki, who wrote *Inter-firm Networks in the Japanese Electronics Industry* (2005).

Linguistics

Linguistics and language research has been at the core of Japanese studies at SOAS. Kaiser and Takeuchi have already been mentioned. Barbara Pizziconi was appointed particularly with the aim of creating an Applied Linguistics & Language Pedagogy programme in Japanese and this has now been running for many years. Hoshi Hiroto taught theoretical linguistics from 1994 to 2004 before moving to Akita University. Mika Kizu replaced him and taught theoretical and applied Japanese linguistics until 2013. Noriko Iwasaki, a specialist on applied linguistics and language teaching, was appointed to a post in the linguistics department to develop this field at SOAS across its languages. Professor Peter Sells, who headed the SOAS linguistics department between 2007 and 2011, also contributed to research on Japanese theoretical linguistics, as did Andrew Simpson, who conducted several comparative studies including Japanese. Nana Sato-Rossberg was appointed in 2014 with the particular task of developing Japanese translation studies at SOAS.

Business and Finance Studies

This field developed initially from the distance-learning programme, where Sonja Ruehl has been a key figure. The department of financial and management studies, initially only for postgraduates, has recently expanded to include undergraduate degrees, including a BSc in International Management that includes a year in Japan, which started

in 2012. Helen Macnaughtan and Tuukka Toivonen are current specialists on Japan in the Department.

Politics

The politics department has been less successful in maintaining research and teaching on Japanese politics over the years. Richard Boyd, the author of *Asian states: beyond the developmental perspective* (2005), was lecturer in Japanese politics for many years before moving to Leiden University. Lesley Connors taught for a few years in the late 1990s, and Phil Deans and Kobayashi Yuka have included Japan as part of their teaching on East Asian international relations. Currently Kristin Surak is the specialist on Japan in the Department.

Geography

Japan was at the core of the geography department from the outset. Charles Fisher (1916-1982) founded the Department of Geography in 1965.¹⁸ He had been a prisoner of war in Changi and on the Burma Railway after the fall of Singapore, and was a specialist on East Asian geography. He wrote *Three times a guest: recollections of Japan and the Japanese, 1942-1969* (1979).

John Sargent, who died in 2013, began his PhD at SOAS in 1962 and was appointed to the newly established Geography Department in 1965.¹⁹ He served as head for seven years and retired in 1999. He published *Perspectives on Japan: towards the twenty-first century* (2000) and *Geographical studies & Japan* (1993). The latter was co-authored with Richard Wiltshire, who began teaching at SOAS in 1979 after spending several years in Japan teaching at Tohoku University. He also published *Relocating the Japanese worker: geographical perspectives on personnel transfers, career mobility and economic restructuring* (1995). Thus SOAS, unusually in the academic world outside Japan, had two specialists on Japanese geography able to use Japanese for research and teaching. Paul Waley of Leeds University, who published *Japanese Capitals in Historical Perspective: Place, Power and Memory in Kyoto, Edo and Tokyo* (2000), is a notable PhD graduate.

The department was small, however, and early in 2001 it merged with the larger one at

King's College London. Joint degrees continue to be offered in geography in collaboration with King's College. SOAS's loss was King's gain. Richard Wiltshire reports that student numbers for Japanese geography are far greater at Kings than at SOAS.

Art History

SOAS produced a PhD in Japanese art in 1980 before the Department of Art and Archaeology was established. This was Sebastian Izzard (now an important Japanese art dealer in New York City), who was supervised by William Watson, then professor of Chinese Art at the Percival David Foundation, who had a strong interest in Japan and was a central figure in the Royal Academy's *Great Japan Exhibition* of 1981-82.²⁰ The Department, which was founded in 1988, appointed its first Japan specialist, Timon Screech, in 1991. His position was initially supported by grants from the Japan Foundation and Sotheby's. Through his many publications, Screech has established himself as a world-renowned scholar of the art and visual history of the Edo period.

When the Sainsbury Institute for Japanese Arts and Cultures (SISJAC) was founded in Norwich in 1999, it was created with a London branch in SOAS, and Screech for the first five years was a joint appointment with SISJAC. John Carpenter was appointed to SOAS with SISJAC funding, and from 2004 was the SISJAC London office representative. After several years at SOAS, John Carpenter moved to become curator of Japanese art at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Carpenter's focus has been primarily on text and image in Japanese art, from the classical period to modern times, and he is the author of *Hokusai and his age: ukiyo-e painting, printmaking and book illustration in late Edo Japan* (2005) and *Designing nature: the Rinpa aesthetic in Japanese art* (2012). Recent PhDs include Alfred Haft, who is now at the British Museum and has written *Aesthetic strategies of the Floating World: 'mitate', 'yatsushi', and 'fūryū' in early modern Japanese popular culture* (2013), and Maezaki Shinya, a lecturer at Kyoto Women's University.

From early on the Department has run a Diploma in Japanese art on its own or in collaboration with Sotheby's. Arichi Meri, who received her PhD from the Department, has been key as convenor of this programme. Many students over the years have gone on to get postgraduate degrees in the Department after completing the Diploma.

Religious Studies

SOAS has a long tradition of the study of religion, although the department was formed relatively recently. Timothy Barrett, now emeritus Professor of East Asian History, moved from History to Religious studies a few years after the department was created in 1993 as a specialist on East Asian religion. Brian Bocking, who has written *The oracles of the three shrines: windows on Japanese religion* (2001) taught Japanese religion in the Department from 1999 to 2007 before moving to University College Cork in Ireland. John Breen played a crucial role in enabling SOAS to obtain a grant from the International Shinto Foundation for a post in Japanese religion and funding for the Centre for the Study of Japanese Religions. Lucia Dolce, a specialist on Japanese Buddhism, was appointed in 1998 and the Centre was launched in 1999. Under Dolce's leadership the Centre and the study of Japanese religions have flourished at SOAS. The department has also been the recipient of grants from the Numata Foundation, Bukkyō Dendō Kyōkai and Agonshū for research and positions on religion, and in that connection Vincent Tournier, a specialist on Buddhism, has joined the Department as Seiyu Kiriama Lecturer in Buddhist Studies.

Music

SOAS has had a long tradition of research on the traditional Japanese performing arts, with O'Neill (Noh), Dunn (Bunraku and Kabuki), Gerstle (Kabuki and Bunraku) and Cummings (Kabuki and contemporary music). However, the first specialist on music was David Hughes who taught at SOAS from 1987 to 2008. Upon arrival (before the Centre of Music Studies had become an official Department of Music), he covered the music of East and South East Asia, as well as general ethnomusicology. His main regional research focus was Japan, but he also worked on Indonesia. He has written *The Ashgate research companion to Japanese music* (2008, with Alison Tokita) and *Traditional folk song in modern Japan: sources, sentiment and society* (2008).

Hughes has been particularly active in organizing musical events and in leading traditional music groups, with over 100 events small and large during his time at SOAS and for these activities he was awarded the Japan Society award. He was also active in building up resources at SOAS on Japanese music. The SOAS Library has an

impressive collection of books and AV materials related to Japanese music and performing arts. The Department of Music owns a representative variety of Japanese instruments; several were gifts from individuals, while others were acquired through grants obtained in connection with various summer schools and short courses. After Hughes retired in 2008, he was replaced by a Southeast Asia specialist.

Law

East Asian law was taught and researched at SOAS from early in the expansion of law studies as a discipline in the 1980s. Donald Clarke, a specialist on Chinese law, taught Japanese law during his brief tenure at SOAS before moving on to the University of Washington and then George Washington University. Frank Bennett was the first appointment as a specialist in Japanese law in 1988. However, after he left in 1998 to take up a position in Nagoya University, there has not been a specialist of Japanese law at SOAS.

Library

The SOAS Library, as the National Library for Asian and African Studies, has had an important role to play in Japanese studies, not only at SOAS but nationally as well. SOAS has been able to have specialist librarians in order to enlarge and manage the collection. The list of successive Japanese librarians is: 1950-1955 K. B. Gardner (Far East); 1955-1955 G. W. Bonsall (Far East); 1958-1969 Miyamoto Shōzaburō (Far East; Japan from 1968-); 1969-1972 D. G. Chibbett [Japan and Korea]; 1972-1995 Brian Hickman; 1973-2010 Yasumura Yoshiko; 1995-present Kobayashi Fujiko.

The Library holds over 160,000 items for Japanese studies as of 2015. The Library has collected research and teaching materials in a wide range of academic disciplines except for the sciences (although it includes books on the history of science) and books for children.

The origin of the collection was a few hundred books, mainly in European languages, which were transferred from the London Institution to the newly founded School of Oriental Studies in 1917. During the first 30 years, the collection was slowly but steadily expanded by purchase and donations. Notable donations included the collections of

Richard Ponsonby-Fane (1878-1937), who resided in Japan from 1919 until his death, and Sir Henry Partlett (1842-1921) in the mid-1920s, and some 400 volumes of mainly 19th-century Japanese woodblock printed books donated by Ms S. de Watterville in memory of her brother Lieut.-Col. E. F. Calthrop, one time military attaché in Tokyo, in 1927.²¹ Other early donations include books and prints from Frederick Anderson, the Ernest Satow collection of early books, Arthur Waley's collection and Japanese books brought back from Japan by the Duke of Gloucester, during the 1928-29 academic session. The School purchased confiscated materials from the embassy of Japan in London in 1947. The total holding of Japanese-language books at that time was still less than 3,000.

The major step in building up the collection was a special grant received as a result of the Scarborough Report in 1947. In 1949 the substantial sum of £4,000 was spent on Japanese books, partly from School funds and partly from a special non-recurrent grant made available by the University Grants Committee. Also, £1,000-worth of Japanese Sinological materials was acquired. Walter Simon, the Professor of Chinese, and Frank Daniels visited China and Japan to obtain Chinese and Japanese texts to build up the Library.

During the 1950-51 academic year, the retiring Chairman of the Governing Body, Lord Harlech, presented to the School some 18th-19th century Japanese colour prints, book illustrations, and sketch albums, which formed a major part of the Japanese prints collection together with the works presented as a gift from Frederick Anderson, governor of the School from 1917 to 1939.

In the 1952-53 academic year, the School received some 2,000 volumes formerly kept in Japanese embassies and consulates in Europe during the 1939-45 war, which included many classified documents relating to Japanese foreign policy and activities abroad. Those books are still easily spotted by the stamp of the Imperial crest, a chrysanthemum with sixteen open petals, inside the books.

The Hayter Report on Oriental and African Studies (1961) recommended that the Library should operate as a national library in buying important material published in, or

relating to, Asia and Africa. It also recommended that the main expansion in Oriental and African studies during the next ten years should be in fields such as history, geography, law, economics, and social studies. Accordingly, the Library increased acquisitions relating to post-Meiji Japan.

Once SOAS was recognized as a National Library, the Library received grants and donations from external sources, including the Ford Foundation Far Eastern Studies Program (£10,000 in 1967-68), Mitsui and Co. Europe Ltd. (£5,000 for 6 years from 1982/83), TDK Ltd. (£5,000 to update the Japanese business collection in 1984/85) and Hamada & Matsumoto (£5,000 for the purchase of Japanese law-related materials in 1987/88). The Japan Foundation, Toshiba International Foundation, Kasumi Kaikan, Shoyu Club, the Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies and the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures are among the donors who have been supporting the collections in recent years.

Between 1975 and 1992, the UK Japan Library Group organized the National Co-operative Scheme for the Acquisition of Japanese Vernacular Monographs, financed by a grant from the Japan Foundation Endowment for the Promotion of Japanese Studies. SOAS focused its acquisitions on language, modern literature, law, folklore, and geography.

Two book-buying tours to Japan were made by SOAS librarians in order to improve the collection: Miyamoto Shōzaburō in 1968 on a grant from the Ford Foundation Far Eastern Studies and the School, and Brian Hickman in 1975 on a grant from the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee and the School. They also established contacts for exchange programmes with leading institutions and some are still active today.

The Burma Campaign Memorial Library, which includes over 300 Japanese-language books, was inaugurated in May 1999. This is a comprehensive collection of writings about the war in Burma (1942-1945). The Japanese books cover official military records, memorial publications from some Infantry Regiments, memoirs, and novels.

Electronic resources have become an increasingly important part of the Japan collection.

Teaching and research now benefit from using databases, and the Library provides access to many Western-language databases of primary sources, e-books, and journals. The number of e-resources available in Japanese is increasing every year, and major newspapers (*Asahi*, *Yomiuri* and *Nikkei*) and important reference works are available in the Library. The development of full-text Japanese journal databases for arts and humanities in Japan has been very slow so the Japan collections will depend on traditional paper copies for Japanese language resources for some time to come. The Japan collection will continue to change its focus to follow academic trends while it keeps the traditional materials as treasures of knowledge.

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