

67. 夏目漱石のロンドン生活(2)：構造理解

On November 1, Sōseki took a train to Cambridge to see Charles Andrews, the dean of Pembroke College. He had with him a letter of introduction written by Grace Catherine Nott, a missionary who had been stationed in Kumamoto and who, by coincidence, had just returned to her family in England as a fellow passenger on the Preussen. Dean Andrews introduced him to a Japanese exchange student who showed him around the campus that afternoon and the following morning.

By the time Sōseki returned to London that evening, he had decided against Cambridge. The tuition, 400 to 500 yen, would leave him no money to buy books.

Moreover, he had learned that Cambridge University men spent their afternoons playing sports and their evenings at social events, and that was not for him.

Sōseki conjectured that things at Oxford would be the same. He had toyed with the idea of going to the University of Edinburgh, but he was afraid that the Scottish brogue, which he likened to the “zu-zu” dialect of the Sendai area, would be more than he could handle. That left London, a tangle of noisy streets “buried under horse manure.”

In its favor, London offered the theaters in the West End and countless secondhand bookshops.
