



# The Asiatic Society of Japan

Honorary Patron: H.I.H. Princess Takamado

Cooperative Science and Research Body of the Science Council of Japan

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Bulletin No. 7

September 2017

**September Meeting:** Monday 25th September at 6:30 p.m. (**reservations required**)

Speaker: Mr. Chuk Beshar, Senior Advisor, GREE, Inc.

Subject: "Diversity and Imagination: The Personal Journey of a Russian-Japanese"

Place: PwC Otemachi Office, Otemachi Park Building 15th floor (N.B.), 1-1-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-0004

**Please note that neither photography (apart from that of the official photographers) nor video recording is permitted at this event**

## Registration for the September (not June, as stated in an earlier version) Meeting

As seating capacity is limited to 100 persons, ASJ members (in good standing) need to apply to attend the September meeting. The period for application will be until Monday, September 18th, by e-mail ([info@asjapan.org](mailto:info@asjapan.org)) or by fax (03-3795-2371) to the ASJ office; please send ① your full name, ② professional title and ③ e-mail or fax number. The ASJ office will send you confirmation of your application in due course.

Chuk Beshar writes:

"Born in Kobe, Japan, Beshar is a Japanese citizen of Russian descent. A son of stateless Russian refugee parents who immigrated to Japan from China after WWII, he was born Japanese due to a not-well-known definition of Japanese nationality according to Japan's Citizenship Law (*Kokusekiho*), originating in the Meiji period.

"Beshar has a broad range of experience in communication and government – spanning careers in politics, marketing, broadcasting, and government relations. Most recently, he was in charge of communication planning for the Olympics and FIFA World Cup as well as public affairs and sustainability at Coca-Cola Japan.

"Beshar is a graduate of Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs – where he received a graduate degree in East Asian Studies and Communication. His publications include books in Japanese, *Columbia University and International Affairs* and *Corporate Crisis Management*. He is a columnist for *Tokyo Headline*. Beshar currently works for Japan's leading IT firm, GREE, where he is involved in its media and advertising business. He lives in Tokyo with wife Yuki and two sons Noah (8) and Luka (6).

"Beshar believes the key to understanding the contemporary benefits and challenges of social diversity is imagination."

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## Coming Meeting

October Meeting: Monday 23rd October at 6:30 p.m. (**reservations required**)

Speaker: H. E. Sujan Chinoy, Ambassador of India to Japan

Subject: Japan-India relations

Place: Embassy of India, Tokyo

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## July Meeting

Title: "The Role of Soft Power in Building International Understanding"

Speaker: Mr. Matt Burney, Director Japan, British Council, and Cultural Counsellor, British Embassy

A goodly band of the faithful – in the expert opinion of our Secretary, Ms. Haru Taniguchi, almost seventy people – braved the summer heat: which reminded our President, Dr. Charles De Wolf, of the event at which our late Patron, H. I. H. Prince Takamado, spoke of how his ancestor the Emperor Meiji had looked forward to his move to Edo, away from the even more challenging summers of Kyoto. [Mrs. Shigeko Tanaka writes that notice of the lecture had been given by the Japan British Society, a number of whose members attended; we acknowledge this courtesy with gratitude].

"I feel", began Mr. Burney, that "my own personal cultural relations journey perhaps demonstrates the power of cultural relations at a micro, individual, level." ("Cultural relations", he explained, was a term he preferred to "soft power", as it incorporates a sense of mutuality.) "The JET Programme", Mr. Burney went on, "really did change my life. My intention of staying in Japan to learn just a smattering of the language and experience a different country for what I really thought was going to be a gap-year veered off course as soon as I started to live and work in a remote mountain village called Shimoyamamura in Aichi Prefecture.

"It was 1992, a time that predated mobile phones and the internet. After an exhilarating, albeit jet-lagged, orientation in Tokyo, the Aichi JET participants boarded the shinkansen to Nagoya to meet our new colleagues. As the journey progressed from Nagoya so did the height of the mountains, together with an increasing sense of isolation; as we made our way through the narrow winding roads, I started to question whether the decision I had made to come to Japan was the right one. I think I did a convincing job of conveying to my new colleagues from the *yakuba* and *kyoikuinkai* that I was not in the least bit scared of what lay ahead!" (Though inside, he confessed, he was a bag of nerves).

"After arriving at my house – made, of course, of wood and paper with no heating, cooling, or hot running water – I switched on the TV. The first thing I heard? The British National Anthem being played: Barcelona was hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games that year and one of Team GB's rowing crew had taken gold. I was beginning to feel really homesick; it felt like someone rubbing salt into a wound at a time I was already feeling very far from home.

"It goes without saying, of course, that people in the village were wonderful. But no-one spoke English... I was the only foreigner in the vicinity and I knew that if I was to connect I had to do so through the language. I started working on it almost immediately after arrival. But it was only after getting on the wrong bus from the nearest town, Okazaki-shi, which was an hour's bus ride away, one Saturday and landing in the wrong mountain village without having the language skills to

communicate, that I fully realised I would have to take learning seriously. Simply attempting to get by was no longer sufficient.” (Here Mr. Burney explained that he had become a minor celebrity: that the people in the wrong village had heard of him, and so were able to drive him back to the right one).

“That bus journey was the catalyst for learning the Japanese language, for entering a university in Nagoya where I undertook intensive language training, for...working in a totally Japanese environment for another university... That, in turn, has led to an almost 20-year career working for the British Council all around the world.

“I knew that if I learned the language to a certain standard, opportunities would come my way – which they did”. Mr. Burney was fortunate enough to be offered a position with the British Council as a locally engaged member of staff fronting its small Nagoya operation back in August 1997. Since then he had worked as a UK-appointed diplomat in various countries, “but it’s wonderful that on my 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary I am back in what I regard very firmly as my second home country.”

So what was the British Council? It worked in 110 different countries, and built people-to-people and institution-to-institution relationships – not government-to-government relationships, which tended to be managed by traditional diplomatic institutions such as the Embassy and Consulates. “And whilst there is a lot of crossover in that the Embassy and Consulate are also involved in soft power and I am, in fact, a diplomat serving as the Cultural Counsellor at the Embassy, the British Council’s primary currency is cultural relations or soft power.” What it tried to do was make a lasting difference to the UK’s international standing by increasing its influence and networks with important decision-makers, influencers and the wider public: to provide a strong foundation – through culture and education – from which the other relationships – trade, commercial, political, scientific and so on – could continue to grow.

Whilst hard power – or military action – needed, unfortunately, to be used in certain exceptional circumstances, “what we do at the British Council – through building friendly trust and understanding through education, the English language and the arts – is one of the most important ways in which nations can seek to increase their standing and influence around the world”. He had recently read an article by Andrew K. Rose, Professor of International Business at the University of California, who wrote: ‘A nation’s hard power is based on its ability to coerce, while its soft power depends on the attractiveness of its culture... Countries that are admired for their positive global influence export more.’” This was borne out by their 2015 study, *Trust Pays*, which showed that “involvement with the UK’s cultural and educational programmes has a direct positive correlation to other countries’ willingness to do business with us.”

The British Council was not a ministry nor a government department – “we are a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB). In many ways, this status – this ‘arms’ length-ness’ from government – helps us a great deal because we can avoid being accused of any claims of acting as a vehicle of the propaganda machinery that might exist within the machinery of government. The way we avoid propaganda is by government stepping back – and we are lucky that they are happy to do this even though a part (about 15%) of our funding comes from HM government.” The latter “fortunately recognises that by allowing curators, artists, teachers, museum directors, university lecturers, and programme makers – in other words, people – to set their own priorities and make their own decisions we have a much better chance of building trust in the UK.”

The British Council was in fact associated with the term “cultural propaganda” when the organisation was first established in 1934. “We were...set up in part as a response to some of the anti-British propaganda that was being spread around Europe at that time... The Wall Street Crash of 1929 led to the Great Depression of the early 1930s, with a huge drop in international trade, falls in living

standards, and high and persistent unemployment. The balance of power was shifting, and extreme ideologies were gaining ground"; and one "of the ways that the government reacted to the growing threat to British interests was to create the British Council."

"Nowadays", however, "we have moved to what I see as the more mature position of delivering cultural relations." While the Council listened to government, developed relationships with its ministers, and adapted to the changes that it made, "we don't necessarily represent – nor are we controlled by – it. And this allows us to be instantly adaptable; to cross borders others can't and operate in places other players find it difficult to get to. For example, even during the years between 2011 and 2014 when the UK and Iran had no formal diplomatic relations, the British Council was active in Iran in delivering a whole range of cultural relations programmes. While governments had to close embassies, we organised a successful UK-Iran Season of Culture in London and Tehran and built soft-power links where traditional forms of diplomacy had been exhausted. We would not have been able to do this had we not had an arms'-length relationship with government, because we ourselves would have been the government towards which there was a great deal of distrust at that particular time."

Mr. Burney then went on to discuss what he described as "the B-word" (chuckles all round): i. e., "the role of soft power in a post-Brexit world." In voting to leave the EU, the British people had "democratically sparked a complex process", and it was "in everyone's interests to effect change in as smooth and orderly a way as possible." Their key principles were:

- "The British Council respects the democratic outcome of the June referendum."
- "We passionately believe in the importance of cultural, educational and people-to-people connections between the UK and the other countries of Europe."
- "We support the UK's ambition to develop a stronger global profile and role, and believe that cultural relations should be at its heart."
- "We believe that internationalism can work for everyone, and if it is to play a stronger international role, the UK needs globally aware and engaged young people."

In thinking, Mr. Burney went on, "about how the UK might pursue strong international relationships, we should first ask ourselves the question of how others see us", e. g., "Is the UK, as a country, an attractive proposition? Are we trusted? Do others want to engage with us? How do we compare to other countries?" To try to understand the answers to those questions, they had commissioned surveys across the G20 nations involving over 19,000 young educated 18-34 year olds: "the pool from which the future's movers and shakers will emerge". The survey was carried out both before and after the referendum, and represented "one of the biggest studies to date to measure international levels of trust and attraction towards the UK and how they have been affected by Brexit".

The good news was that the results showed that, on average, the UK had maintained its status as an attractive country in the eyes of young people in the G20 (71% found the UK attractive before and after the referendum). Indeed – and interestingly – the country appeared to have enjoyed a slight increase in its standing as a global power since the vote (65% to 66%). But there were differences in relation to nationality: EU respondents reported a negative impact of Brexit (19% net negative impact on the UK's attractiveness). Conversely, there was a positive effect in the Commonwealth and the rest of the G20 countries (13% and 18% respectively). This suggested there were important and serious risks to the UK's relationships within Europe, but also significant opportunities beyond it.

Not so good news was the fact that, on average, across the entire G20 the vote to leave the EU had a net negative impact on young people's perceptions of the likelihood of pursuing business/trade with the UK. The only country to buck the trend was Japan, whose respondents reported that they would be more interested in doing trade with the UK in the survey carried out post-referendum. Mr. Burney

quipped that he would like to think this was due to the work of the British Council (ripple of laughter); but, alas, that it was more probably to be attributed to the relative weakness of sterling. He also informed his audience that the world-wide rating for UK universities, this year as well as last, was no. 2, while Japan had gone from no. 8 to no. 6. No. 1 this year was France, where last year it had been the US. “Surprised?” (the question was again met with laughter, which intensified when he hinted that it might have had something to do with the presidential elections in both countries).

But what the overall results told them was that it was crucial that the UK take on board the worrying views expressed by young people about the implications of other countries’ willingness to do business with the UK following Brexit. To address these concerns, in his view, greater soft power effort and resource would need to be committed to maintaining meaningful connections between the UK and organisations and institutions around the world. This required British people to develop the skills needed to connect globally – including languages and knowledge of other cultures and markets. This was why the British Council organises, together with Keio University, an Experience Japan Exhibition every year at the Royal Society. They invited a number of Japanese organisations and higher education institutions to talk to young British people to help them understand the benefits that might accrue from living and working in Japan and benefiting from that experience in the same way that he had.

Over the past few months, political debate had been dominated by the discussion of either a “hard” or “soft” Brexit. However, he would suggest, from a soft power perspective, that the most relevant question is around whether the UK secured, in the words, of the Foreign Secretary, an “open Brexit”. They needed urgently to reconnect with the social values of international education and culture and to demonstrate their benefits – especially to people who see them as irrelevant: for instance, to explain why international student mobility is an important part of the life-blood of UK society, as in the case of universities.

“Universities”, Mr. Burney declared, “speak for their nations in a way that no other institutions can – at the very highest levels, across the arts and sciences, and down the generations.” But they were not well-understood institutions. From the outside, they seemed like “big schools with big buildings, old-fashioned professors, quite a lot of money and other resources, and not a lot of connection to the world around them.” (Laughter *encore*). “But behind the scenes”, he went on, “they balance public good, charitable purpose, research and education, and commercial drivers.” UK universities generated around £10 billion per annum for the UK economy. And international education was its fifth largest export sector.

“Universities give students knowledge that helps societies thrive, engage, and adapt to complex changes. And universities create new knowledge to help societies grow and adapt sustainably as we place more and more pressure on our planet as well as ourselves. So we must help to demonstrate the importance of education and culture to our economy. Unfortunately, I feel we haven’t been as effective as we might have been, and it is my feeling that only when people understand the fiscal imperative behind soft power that they will afford it the seriousness it deserves.”

“Compared to universities, the economic argument for the creative economy is now better understood (particularly in the UK) than it used to be: the creative industries are the UK’s fastest-growing sector, worth more than £80 billion each year and constituting 9% of British service exports, which is quite amazing. But has this understanding spread to the role of the arts in creating jobs, or providing the foundation for international political and trade relations? I don’t think it has, and the British Council is requesting government to factor in the arts and education in the negotiations around Brexit in order to reflect their potential contribution to both the individual and society.

“During the Article 50 period, we will be strengthening the UK’s links with other cultural relations organisations across the continent. We recently initiated an ‘EU-UK Culture and Education Series’. The first conference in this series was held in Berlin just recently, and investigated the future structures for cross-border cooperation in the creative economy fields following Brexit. The series is a way to listen to the sector and the EU’s other 27 nations and it is crucial that we establish mechanisms to be able to listen to what partners want and how we can best respond in a post-Brexit scenario.

“One message coming through these conferences is that continued access to funding, residency rights and ease of movement for sector workers are top of the list of concerns. Large-scale performing arts – including opera, ballet and some theatre – draw on global talent, much of it European, both long-term and at very short notice. For example, 21% of British orchestra members come from the EU. And let’s not forget that the principal dancers of the Royal Ballet are both Japanese – Hirano Yoichi-san and Takada Akane-san. So this fluidity of movement of people will be crucial in strengthening our cultural relations efforts in the coming years if we are to improve the levels of trust – which as I’ve pointed out results in business wins – in the UK amongst the EU 27, Japan and the wider world.

“On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, the product of the EU-UK Culture and Education Series was released widely in the UK and across Europe. The ‘Communiqué’ outlines six specific recommendations to EU and UK leaders engaging in Brexit negotiations: residency rights; ease of movement; continued and enhanced participation in multilateral programmes; urging European leaders to ensure every young person in the UK and other European countries gains inter-cultural and international experience, either through study, work, performances, research, academia, training, language learning or other programmes or exchanges; cooperation over UK-EU intellectual property issues and regulation; urging EU and UK leaders to work with representatives from the education, culture and science sectors in the UK and in EU Europe throughout Brexit negotiations.

“So, in conclusion, stronger cultural, educational and scientific relationships will be essential in creating conditions for business and government connections to grow and thrive across borders. But my main message today is one of optimism. The UK’s soft power has been developed over generations and is based on significant strengths across a range of areas that are not dependent on short-term political change. But we need to utilise these soft power strengths more than ever. The UK has many soft power strengths – our great universities, world-leading arts and cultural institutions, the BBC, our system of justice and a free press – which all have their part to play. Their international influence existed before the EU and can endure beyond Brexit, provided their engagement with the world is not undermined by policy or process.

“I am confident that, as the UK is focusing on developing and refreshing a new set of global relationships, Japan will be central to this outward-facing Britain, and I would hope that the ASJ will play an important role in 2017 and beyond in facilitating an even stronger relationship between our peoples and nations.”

After sustained applause, Dr. De Wolf, thanking Mr. Burney, observed that, on this occasion at least, we might all agree that meeting in July had been a good idea. Then, remarking that the lecture had given us so many topics to talk about, he invited questions.

Q1. I was a post-graduate student in [Mr. Burney’s native] Manchester in the 1960s, and enjoyed greatly the opportunities I was offered, such as excursions, with the support of the British Council. However, some of my fellow-students, cynically perhaps, saw in this the hidden objective of attempting to exercise continuing influence in former colonial territories. How do you feel about this?

A1. Certainly we will from now on be re-engaging more with the Commonwealth countries; but I am not aware of any hidden agenda, certainly not in the time during which I have been associated with the Council. If there were any factor of this kind, it would be impossible for us to establish trust.

Q2. I regret greatly the closure of the former British Council library. Was this due to budget cuts? Do you expect further retrenchment with Brexit?

A2. It was a painful decision to give up books; but retaining them had become unsustainable, as people turned increasingly for information to the Internet. The British Council does receive a grant from our government; but if we were to lose it, we could continue without job losses and still remain in surplus, since we deliver services that people are willing to pay for, such as English teaching and the setting up of tests in the language; the Japanese Education Ministry pays us to retrain teachers of English in all 47 prefectures.

Q3. Surely some of these tests have become outdated?

A3. Yes; and that is why we have recently gone beyond providing simple assessment to the development of communication skills. With the help of specialists in the UK, we are working with the ministry to this end, which will include the development of cheaper and more flexible tests.

Q4. You have spoken of soft power, a term which has been invoked by Joseph Nye in terms of the Tohoku disaster: that there was an absence of panic among its victims, and a recognition that there were people even more unfortunate than they were. Is this something that could be applied internationally?

A4. I had not known of Prof. Nye's statements in this respect. But soft power has to do with a country or community's assets: Japan is known for the beauty of the interaction among its people in the face of disaster. I was outside this country at the time, but was greatly impressed by the images I saw of the respect and dignity involved: Prof. Nye was very astute.

Q5. The British Council was set up in Japan in the year that I went to Oxford, and I have always appreciated its heart and warmth. How does it get the people it has? What is its system of recruitment?

A5. Thank you for your kind words. No-one works for the British Council for the money; they do it because they are passionate about its ideals. So the Council tries to find such people: people for whom the work is a vocation rather than a career. It tries to find people with intercultural experience: in my own case, the involvement with the JET programme, and the linguistic facility that resulted, was what it was looking for. In fact, about half of the British diplomatic team at the moment have graduated from the JET programme, which speaks very highly for soft power.

Dr. De Wolf observed that he would be writing of this evening to his niece, who was currently involved with the programme, and called on our former President, Prof. Sarah Moate, to propose the vote of thanks. She said that the presentation had been extraordinarily incisive and stimulating, and exemplified what the speaker had been talking about. Nor was it simply in language that Mr. Burney had demonstrated his expertise: she had had some fascinating talks with him about Buddhism.

It had originally been planned to host a reception for the speaker at a nearby restaurant, but this unfortunately turned out to be impracticable due to his very full schedule. Instead our Webmaster, Ms. Patricia Yarrow, proposed a summer potluck party, for which she offered to bring a bottle of wine. Our President, Dr. Charles De Wolf, brought another, and Council member Mr. James Sharp a third. Two bottles of white wine, "nicely chilled", were donated by Ms. Rika Fukumoto. Other donations included "*ebi-senbei*, cookies, scones, taco chips with salsa sauce, cheese, *okaki* and mixed nuts", as well as fruit juice and tea. There is an almost biblical sense of inexplicable profusion about our Secretary, Ms. Haru Taniguchi's, account of the matter: that she had put reception tables outside the lecture room,

and that when she looked out again during the lecture, found it unnecessary to go shopping. We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to the party, described by its originator, Ms. Yarrow, as “energetic”, as well as to the team which cleared the space for it and tidied it afterwards. This also included Ms. Fukumoto, Ms. Reiko Ariyoshi, Ms. Makiko Komada, Ms. Junko Narui and Ms. Kyoko Yoshida, led by our Membership Secretary, Mrs. Keiko Makino.

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## News Notes

🎵🎵🎵🎵 We have an extra-special news item for this issue which we are extremely happy to share with our readers. Namely, that Ms. Haru Taniguchi, the Society’s hyper-efficient, ever-helpful and resourceful Secretary, informed us in August that she planned to get married at the end of the month; and of course we wished her every happiness and congratulated her husband-to-be. And now our readers may breathe freely again: she does not plan to abandon us in the immediate future. Every good wish from all of us, Haru San! 🎵🎵🎵🎵

📖 A member of the first group of our Society’s Young Scholars – in fact, the first of them (*Transactions*, IV, xxi, 149-54) – Maurice Fitzpatrick, was featured in the *Derry Journal* of July 11<sup>th</sup> and the *Irish News* of July 13<sup>th</sup> for a film he has directed on John Hume, winner of the Nobel Prize for his work on the peace process in Northern Ireland. *In the Name of Peace: John Hume in America* includes interviews with former US Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, as well as former British Prime Ministers John Major and Tony Blair, and is narrated by the Northern Irish Hollywood star Liam Neeson. An earlier film of Maurice Fitzpatrick’s, “The Boys of St. Columb’s”, traced the extraordinary generation that emerged from a single school in Derry, including Hume; fellow-Nobel Prizewinner Seamus Heaney; poet, novelist and intellectual historian Seamus Deane; and James Sharkey, former Ambassador of Ireland to Japan.

📖 *Eikokukizoku no Jōkan* (“Introduction to British Country Houses”) has been reprinted once again by its publisher, Kawade Shobo Shinsha, under the supervision of Mrs. Shigeko Tanaka. It was first published in January 1999, reprinted in July 2004 and again in September 2006, yet again with a new cover in January 2008, and with another new cover in April 2017. For the latest cover, photographs taken at Highclere Castle were chosen by the publisher, as it was the location for the filming of *Downton Abbey*, the British TV drama broadcast on NHK, which has attracted a large number of viewers. The author was Mrs. Tanaka’s late husband, Prof. Ryoza Tanaka: in the course of his research for it, he visited over 300 country houses in the UK, which stimulated Mrs. Tanaka’s own research on the oriental ceramics collected by the British aristocracy over the centuries (see recent issues of our *Transactions*).

📖 Mrs. Tanaka also reminds us that Dr. Carmen Blacker was at one time Recording Secretary of our Society, and gave us a number of lectures on Buddhism and Shinto; and that this year’s Carmen Blacker Lecture, organised jointly by the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures and the Japan Society, was delivered by Prof. Mamoru Saso, Professor of Japanese Archaeology and the History of Japanese Religion at Kokugakuin University, which kindly hosted our lecture last April. The Carmen Blacker Lecture Series each year invites a senior scholar to speak on a theme related to her research in the area of Japanese religion and folklore. Prof. Saso’s talk, given in London on July 17<sup>th</sup>, focused on Omiwa Shrine, the oldest surviving shrine in Japan, and Munakata Grand Shrine and the associated ritual sites on the island of Okinoshima; on the formation of ritual sites during the fourth and fifth centuries, and the relationship between the environment and the kami spirits nurtured through festivals.



¶ Mr. Tim Hitchens, former British Ambassador to Japan, has been elected President of Wolfson College, Oxford. He declared himself “committed to the college’s international and egalitarian ethic”, and stated that he hoped to contribute to keeping it and Oxford University “the world-beating institutions they deservedly are”. Tim Hitchens is Director-General, Economic and Consular, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and will take up the presidency of Wolfson College in early summer 2018. He spoke to the Society at its Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2016 on the topic “Beyond the Wires: Diplomacy and the Nation State”.

¶ Another former British Ambassador to Japan, Sir David Wright, gave a lecture described as “inspiring” to the pupils of the Perse School, Cambridge, of which he is Chair of Governors. Sir David joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on graduation from Cambridge and was sent to Japan to learn Japanese. This began a long and distinguished career, which included three years as Private Secretary to the Prince of Wales. He spoke of the importance of knowing a foreign language fluently (it “opens career doors”), of precision in the use of one’s own, and of presentation and public speaking skills, and answered a range of questions on such issues as the relationship between China and North Korea, and geopolitical tension in the South China Sea.

¶ Volume 9, Series V, of our *Transactions* has now gone to the printers; the Editors express their gratitude to all who have made it possible, and invite contributions for Volume 10. Especially welcome are proposals for book reviews and Scholarship in Brief, in particular from members of the Society wishing to publish in its journal for the first time. Proposals for Scholarship in Brief should go by e-mail attachment to the editor responsible (kmcphalen@gmail.com), and all others, including reviews, to the Editor-in-Chief (robertmorton1@yahoo.co.uk). Please note that our present printers require illustrations in electronic form, and copyright permission for these is the responsibility of the author. The deadline for completed copy (with illustrations) is March 31st; however, it is recommended that it be sent in as early as possible to ensure maximum attention and consultation.

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## Exhibitions

Owing to Mrs Shigeko Tanaka’s absence no complimentary tickets were available, but she hopes the following list may help members plan visits to exhibitions in Tokyo. Some of the leaflets were brought and shown on the table by Mrs Reiko Akiyoshi at the July meeting.

Discount tickets with leaflets:

1) “Uemura Shoen and Quintessential Bijimga. Paintings of Beautiful Women” at Yamatane Museum of Art, August 29<sup>th</sup> - October 22<sup>nd</sup>

Leaflets:

2) “Leonardo da Vinci e Michelangelo”, Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, June 17<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>

3) “Arcimboldo”, National Museum of Western Art, June 20<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>

4) “Sunshower: Contemporary Art from Southeast Asia 1980s to Now”, Mori Art Museum, July 5<sup>th</sup> - October 23<sup>rd</sup>

5) “Emperor Meiji and Modernizing Japan”, Meijijingu Bunkakan, Homotsutenjishitsu, July 8<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>

6) “AMBIENT Lifestyle Items Designed by Naoto Fukasawa”, Shiodome Museum, July 8<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>

7) “Geidai Collection”, Geidai Musuem, July 11<sup>th</sup> - August 6<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup> - September 10<sup>th</sup>

8) “Deep Ocean”, National Science Museum, July 11<sup>th</sup> - October 1<sup>st</sup>

9) “Life in the Mountains of Thailand 1969-1974”, Yokohama Museum of EurAsian Cultures, July 15<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>

- 10) "Fantastic Art in Belgium", Bunkamura The Museum, July 15<sup>th</sup> - September 24<sup>th</sup>
- 11) "Boston - Great Collectors: Masterpieces from the Museum of Fine Arts", Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, July 20<sup>th</sup> - October 9<sup>th</sup>
- 12) "Fujishima Takeji", Nerima Art Museum, July 23<sup>rd</sup> - September 18<sup>th</sup>
- 13) "Hiroshi Sugito, module or lacuna", Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, July 25<sup>th</sup> - October 9<sup>th</sup>
- 14) "Dining Table of Meiji Imperial Palace", Meiji Kinenkan, July 26<sup>th</sup> - November 9<sup>th</sup>. Dr Mary Redfern, who was our speaker at the Irish Embassy last December, will be one of the panelists at a meeting here on November 6<sup>th</sup>
- 15) "Yokohama Triennale 2017", Yokohama Museum, August 4<sup>th</sup> - November 5<sup>th</sup>
- 16) "French National Living Treasure", Tokyo National Museum, September 12<sup>th</sup> - November 26<sup>th</sup>
- 17) "Supporting Buddhist Images", Nezu Museum, September 14<sup>th</sup> - October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 18) "18th Century Koimari, New Discovery", Toguti Museum of Art, September 15<sup>th</sup> - December 20<sup>th</sup>
- 20) "The 120th Anniversary of the Birth of Seiji Togo", Sampo Japan Nipponkoa Museum of Art, September 16<sup>th</sup> - November 12<sup>th</sup>
- 21) "Kano Motonobu", Suntory Museum of Art, September 16<sup>th</sup> - November 5<sup>th</sup>
- 22) "Marc Chagall", Station Gallery, September 16<sup>th</sup> - December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 23) "Amazing technique of Craftsmanship, from Meiji Craft to Contemporary Art", Mitsui Memorial Museum, September 16<sup>th</sup> - December 3<sup>rd</sup>
- 24) "Unkei - The Great Master of Buddhist Sculpture", Tokyo National Museum, September 26<sup>th</sup> - November 26<sup>th</sup>
- 25) "Tadao Ando: Endeavors", National Art Center, Tokyo, September 27<sup>th</sup> - December 18<sup>th</sup>
- 26) "Otto Nebel and his Contemporaries - Chagall, Kandinsky, Klee", Bunkamura The Museum, October 7<sup>th</sup> - December 17<sup>th</sup>
- 27) "Kowai-e, Fear in Paintings", Ueno no Mori Museum, October 7<sup>th</sup> - December 17<sup>th</sup>
- 28) "Otto Nebel and his Contemporaries, Chagall, Kandinsky, Klee", Bunkamura Museum, October 7<sup>th</sup> - December 17<sup>th</sup>
- 29) "Painters of Passion: Adventures in Color by Kandinsky, Rouault, and their Contemporaries, Shiodome Museum, October 17<sup>th</sup> - December 20<sup>th</sup>
- 30) "Hokusai and Japonisme", National Museum of Western Art, October 21<sup>st</sup> - January 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- 31) "Glaze of Ko-Imari", Toguri Museum of Art, January 7<sup>th</sup> - March 21<sup>st</sup>
- 32) "Van Gogh & Japan", Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, October 24<sup>th</sup> - January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- 33) "The Empire of Imagination and Science of Rudolf II", Bunkamura the Musuem, January 6<sup>th</sup> - March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018
- 34) "Herend: Porcelain Manufacturer to Empress Elizabeth", Shiodome Museum, January 13<sup>th</sup> - March 21<sup>st</sup>
- 35) "Brueghel", Tokyo Metropolitan Art Museum, January 23<sup>rd</sup> - April 1<sup>st</sup>
- 36) "Buehrle Collection - Impressionist Masterpieces from the E.G. Buehrle Collection, Zurich, Switzerland", National Art Center, Tokyo, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 - May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018

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## Editorial Note

We are always happy, as one of the privileges of membership in the Society, to share any news items that our members may wish to be known: a promotion, a publication, an exhibition, an appeal for help with research, etc. In order, however slightly, to reduce traffic through our very busy Office, these may be sent direct to the Bulletin Editor, Dr. Ciaran Murray (ciaran@kd5.so-net.ne.jp).

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For assistance with the current issue, the Editor is indebted to Ms. Haru Taniguchi, Ms. Annabel James, Prof. Sarah Moate, Mr. Soichiro Mochidome, Dr. Robert Morton, Mrs. Shigeko Tanaka and Ms. Patricia Yarrow.

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*The Asiatic Society of Japan* is delighted to welcome you as a new member!!!

### Who We Are

The Asiatic Society of Japan (often referred to as the "ASJ" or simply "the Society") is a learned organization that strives to serve a general audience of well-read non-specialists who share intellectual interests in "things Japanese."

The Asiatic Society of Japan is Japan's oldest learned society. Meeting regularly since its establishment in 1872, the Society prides itself on having been the first academic organization in Japan to promote research and disseminate knowledge about Japan around the world. Among the Society pioneers are such famous Japanologists as Dr. James Hepburn, Sir Ernest Satow, Basil Hall Chamberlain, and William Aston. The historic inaugural meeting of the Society was held in the Yokohama foreign enclave in 1872, shortly after the Meiji Restoration.

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## *The Asiatic Society of Japan* APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

**Please write in block capitals**

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### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

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### PAYMENT OPTIONS

-Cash paid at lecture meetings

To The Asiatic Society of Japan/日本アジア協会

-Postal transfer to Postal Account No. 00120-0-167991

-Bank transfer to Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Aoyamadori Branch, Ordinary Account,  
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