

**10th International Conference
of the European Association for Japanese Studies
Warsaw, August 27-30, 2003**

Conference Report

Introduction

If we go by conferences, ten is not yet a number for an academic association to commemorate on a grand scale. With their taking place at a three-year interval, however, thirty years is already a respectable age. Should we consider these three decades as the EAJS's first generation and wish it *banzai*?

Looking at the photograph of the fifty participants of the founding conference in Oxford, 2-6 April 1973*, we realize that the number of conference participants has increased tenfold, with more than five hundred this time in Warsaw. Could a single photograph even have held us all?

Registration started on Wednesday afternoon, August 27. The students of the local Department of Japanese and Korean Studies had a hard time coping with the unexpectedly large number of visitors, and deserve our special thanks for their heroic efforts in answering the extraordinary demand for on-the-spot registration and payment.

The afternoon stood under a sulky, mostly clouded sky, hesitating between periods of warm light and a few drops of rain. At least in this the weather proved to be constant, for it was to stay like that all through the conference. The Auditorium Maximum of Warsaw University was just past the registration booths in Kazimierzowski Palace, and there the assembly of the Plenary Session was greeted with a spirited and sprightly "Gaudeamus igitur" sung from the balcony by the University Chamber Choir Collegium Musicum. The master of ceremonies

* Please see the opening page of the EAJS's Twentieth Anniversary issue, 1994.

Prof. Mikolaj Melanowicz then introduced each of the speakers in turn, from the EAJIS President who officially opened the conference, to Prof. Piotr Weglenski welcoming the Association as Rector of Warsaw University, to His Excellency Ono Masaaki, Ambassador of Japan to Poland, and to Mr Wakamatsu Sumio, Executive Vice-President of The Japan Foundation. As the Chairman of the Organizing Committee, Prof. Melanowicz himself addressed the audience both in Japanese and in English, giving an overview of Japanese studies in Poland and of the country's relations with Japan. The Collegium Musicum, led whole-heartedly by Andrzej Borzym, followed with another florilegium of contemporary choral songs inspired by Polish folk music.

The second half of the opening ceremony was devoted to the keynote speech of Prof. Okada Naoyuki, who gave us a vivid foretaste of what social life in Japan will look like in the very near future, if the present trends in information technology develop as projected. Rather than the usual nostalgic look into the past, one of the leading proponents of "e-Japan" provided us here with an enthusiastic vision of a hi-tech society within an environment of digital hi-vision systems using 5.1 channelling, of super-high-speed networks and global positioning, of electronic government, education and commercial transactions, and of the impact all this will have on politics, industry, science and, quite democratically, on everyday life.

Convinced that Japan's future holds as much in store as its past, the assembly turned to the present and to one of its more pleasant sides: to the splendid welcoming reception and buffet of Polish and Far-Eastern dishes laid out in the Golden Chamber, on the second floor of the Palace.

The contemplative visitor could all the while feast on the layout of documents on the history of Polish-Japanese relations and of Japanese studies in Poland, that Prof. Ewa Palasz-Rutkowska had discreetly and with great care put on display in the entrance hall.

The eight sections started their sessions on Thursday morning and carried through from 9:00-12:30 and from 14:30-18:00 until Saturday at 12.30. The rooms were all located on different levels of two adjacent university buildings, the Main Library on Dobra Street and the Faculty of Law just around the corner

on Lipowa Street. Both are very recent modern constructions with well-lit rooms and state-of-the-art equipment. Some sections (Linguistics, Literature, Anthropology) were so well attended that they had panel sessions running in three different rooms at the same time. Notable was the increasing number of papers given in Japanese, a result of the growing attractiveness of the EAJS conference for scholars from Japan, to whom it offers a platform to present their research to the international community. Just as numerous were participants from North America and Australia, for many of whom coming to far-off Poland represented a unique chance.

A mild but moody evening set in as everybody walked up to the nearby Academy of Music, where Krzysztof Gierzod, one of the foremost proponents of the Polish school of piano, gave a brilliant and convincing demonstration of how Chopin is played at home. Applause only reluctantly ceased after half a dozen encores. Another short walk and we found ourselves in the garden of Ostrogski Palace where the Takashima Foundation was the generous host of a cocktail party.

Buses awaited us after the second full day of sessions to take the whole EAJS membership to a Garden Party at the Residence of the Japanese Ambassador. Seeing the long procession of vehicles wind through the city may have given cause to wonder about the size of the ambassadorial garden, but all doubts dissolved as His Excellency received us on a sweeping compound that could easily have accommodated twice as many guests. Mr. Ono deserves very special thanks for having enthusiastically encouraged and supported this venue throughout the period of preparation. Prof. Melanowicz also introduced the audience to the film director Andrzej Wajda in whose Manggha Centre in Cracow a post-conference symposium was to be held on the following Sunday.

The conference itself closed with the General Assembly in the same Auditorium as the opening ceremony three days earlier. In the name of the EAJS, the Council expressed their most sincere thanks to the Organizing Committee presided over by Prof. Melanowicz and to the students of the local Japanese and Korean Studies Department, for the formidable task they had shouldered and carried out with such success.

The convenors of all eight sections then came forward to deliver their reports,

followed by the President who gave his account of the Association's and of its Council's activities since the last triennial conference in Lahti. The Treasurer, after having presented the financial situation, reported further on the process of giving the EAJS a legal existence as a not-for-profit organization under German law, a procedure for which he represents the EAJS in Munich. One consequence of this is that changes need to be made to the EAJS constitution; a draft incorporating these changes is published in this Bulletin (see p. 00-00) for approval by the membership through postal vote. The President thanked the outgoing Council and presented the newly elected members for the next term. The ceremony ended with the announcement of Vienna as the venue for our next International Conference, to be held, exceptionally, in two years' time in 2005 instead of 2006, and the address of the new President, Dr. Brian Powell.

A conference of such dimensions could not have been held without the unstinting support of the Japanese people, through its public and private institutions like The Japan Foundation in the first place, the Toshiba International Foundation and the Takashima Foundation, who all participated in making this venue not only possible but also a very enjoyable event. Thank you.

Dr. Josef A. Kyburz, President, EAJS, 2000-2003

Sectional reports:

[Pre-conference Session](#)

1. [Urban and Environmental Studies](#)
2. [Linguistics and Language Teaching](#)
3. [Literature](#)
4. [Visual and Performing Arts](#)
5. [Anthropology and Sociology](#)
6. [Economics, Economic and Social History](#)
7. [History, Politics and International Relations](#)
8. [Religion and History of Ideas](#)

Pre-conference Session:
Japanese Studies in Central and Eastern Europe –
26 August 2003, Warsaw University

Under the auspices of EAJS the Department of Japanese and Korean Studies of Warsaw University organized a special session devoted to the situation of Japanese Studies in Central and Eastern Europe. This special session was held at the Senate Room of Warsaw University on 26 August 2003. It was generously sponsored by the Toshiba International Foundation and co-hosted by the International Research Center for Japanese Studies (Nichibunken), Kyoto.

Seventeen papers were delivered and some 60 participants attended this special session. It was a unique opportunity for representatives of departments and university centres of Japanese Studies from Central and East European countries to present and discuss the present state and the future of Japanese studies in this region.

All the papers of this special session will be published as a separate volume edited by the Organizing Committee of 10th EAJS Conference in Warsaw. The reports are also to appear on the EAJS website and are to be published in EAJS bulletin.

The detailed programme of the session

Opening Words

Prof. Mikolaj Melanowicz (Warsaw University, Chairman of Organizing Committee)

Greetings

Mr. Takashi Watanabe (Managing Director of Toshiba International Foundation)
Prof. Shirahata Yozaburo (International Research Center for Japanese Studies/
Nichibunken/ Kyoto, Japan)

Prof. Dr. Franz Waldenberger (Representative from EAJS)

Papers

1. *Dr. Lyudmila Holodovich (Sofia University, Bulgaria):* Recent State of Japanese Studies in Bulgaria
2. *Dr. Jan Sykora (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic):* Japanese Studies in Czech Republic: Past, Present and Future
3. *Prof. Rein Raud (Estonian Institute of Humanities, Tallinn, Estonia):* Japanese Studies in Estonia
4. *Ms. Andrienn Szabo Igarashi (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary):* Hungarian Japanology. Teaching of Japanese Language and Japanese Studies at Eotvos Lorand University
5. *Ms. Yoshino Yamamoto (University of Latvia, Riga, Latvia):* Japanese Studies in Latvia
6. *Prof. Arvydas Alisauskas (Vytaunas Magnus University, Kaunas, Lithuania):* Japanese Studies Center at Vytautas Magnus University
7. *Ms. Dalia Svambaryte (Vilnius University, Lithuania):* Japanese Studies at Vilnius University
8. *Ms. Anca Forcaneanu (The University of Bucharest, Rumania):* Japanese Studies at the University of Bucharest
9. *Prof. Elgena Molodyakova (The Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia):* Russia perceiving Japan: about 2 centuries of Studies Absent
10. *Dr. Karine Marandjian (The Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia):* Japanese Studies Centers in St. Petersburg
11. *Ms. Jana Soucova (Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia):* The Japanese Studies in Slovakia
12. *Prof. Andrej Bekes (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia):* Bootstrapping the Japanese Studies Program at the University of Ljubljana

13. *Mr. Olexandr Kovalenko (The National University Kyiv Mohyla Academy, Kyiv, Ukraine): Japanese Studies at the National University "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy"*

The Representatives of Japanese Studies Centers from Poland

14. *Prof. Alfred F. Majewicz (Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznan): Japanese Studies at Adam Mickiewicz University*

15. *Prof. Romuald Huszcza (Jagiellonian University, Cracow): Japanese Studies at Jagiellonian University*

16. *Prof. Krzysztof Stefanski (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Torun): Japanese Studies at Nicolaus Copernicus University*

17. *Prof. Mikołaj Melanowicz (Warsaw University): Japanese Studies at Warsaw University*

The exchange of views was continued during the reception sponsored by International Research Center for Japanese Studies. The following representatives of this Center were present: Prof. Shirahata Yozaburo, Prof. Suzuki Sadami, Prof. Kasaya Kazuhiko, Prof. Mitsuda Kazunobu, Prof. Inaga Shigemi, Prof. Timothy Kern and Mr. Tani Otoji.

The Organizing Committee:

Prof. Mikołaj Melanowicz

Prof. Romuald Huszcza

Dr. Agnieszka Kozyra

Dr. Iwona Kordzinska-Nawrocka

Section Reports

Section 1: Urban and Environmental Studies

Convenors: Dr. Carolin Funck, Dr. André Sorensen

The keynote speaker of the Urban and Environmental Studies Session was Shun-ichi Watanabe, of the Tokyo University of Science, who delivered a paper titled "Toshi Keikaku vs Machizukuri: Emerging Paradigm of Civil Society in Japan". Professor Watanabe contrasted the old system of *toshi keikaku* (city planning), which was characterized by top-down bureaucratic control, and the prioritization of the national interest over local interests, with the evolution of *machizukuri* (literally 'community building or making') as a participatory planning system that involves citizens in their own town-building processes. From early cases in Kunitachi City in western Tokyo in the 1950s, and Maruyama and Mano areas in Kobe since the 1960s, machizukuri has developed into a widespread and diverse practice throughout the country in the 1990s. The recent passage of the NPO Law in 1998 Watanabe describes as the latest step in the evolution of more participatory methods of community building which involve citizens in defining their own version of the 'public interest'.

The first regular session was titled Urban and the Rural Space: Introductions. Two papers from distinguished senior scholars bracketed the broad sweep of contemporary urban and rural issues in Japan. Professor Yorifusa Ishida of Tokyo Metropolitan University presented the first paper titled "Concept of Machi-Sodate and Urban Planning: Professor Endo's concept and a case of Tokyû Den'en Toshi". He first introduced Endo's concept of Machi Sodate (the nursing of community husbandry: community design through dialogues and cooperative efforts), which was the subject of an award-winning book in 2001, and then illustrated it with a detailed case study of the 35-year involvement of his own family in community building in the Aobadai area of Yokohama. The next paper, presented by Professor Winfried Flüchter of the University of Duisburg-Essen, was titled "Japan: Rice farming and the rice market between

globalization, ideology and sustainability". Flüchter examined Japanese responses to strong pressures to open rice markets since the Uruguay Round of GATT, and posed the question: 'How are the Japanese responding to this challenge? What arguments are they advancing? ... What role do vested interests and cultural factors play?' He concludes that rice markets are an excellent example of the continuing power of national 'iron triangles' in policy making.

The second regular session was Urban Spaces 1: Machizukuri. The first paper, by Dr. David Potter, of Nanzan University near Nagoya, was titled "Machizukuri in Contemporary Japan: What role for the nonprofit sector". Taking advantage of the recent flurry of activity since the passage of the new NPO law in 1998 which eased state controls over the registration of non-profit organisations, Potter surveys the rapidly developing NPO scene in the Tokai Region of Aichi, Gifu and Mie prefectures. He uses several recent prefectural surveys to compare the size, age, and resources of the various new NPOs, of which about 38% declare an involvement in '*machizukuri*'. He finds that many are still quite small in scale and weakly institutionalised.

The second paper, titled "Machizukuri, Civil Society, and the Transformation of Japanese City Planning: Cases from Kobe" was presented by Dr. Carolin Funck and Dr. André Sorensen. The paper first outlined the ways in which the centralised governance system restricted the development and involvement of organised civil society actors in spatial planning issues, and then posed the question: 'in what ways has the spread of machizukuri changed the types of participants in city planning processes'? Intensive interviews with participants in several central Kobe groups revealed that the participation by women, in particular, had greatly increased with the growth of Machizukuri. This seems to represent a positive direction, and warrants further examination.

The third regular session was Urban Spaces 2: Tokyo, with two papers. The first was by a doctoral candidate at the University of Tokyo, DeWayne Anderson, titled "New Office Stock and the 2003 Problem". Anderson examined the recent surge in high quality office construction in Tokyo, and evaluated recent frequent predictions that office rents for Class A office space would slide 30-50% as a

result of the glut of space coming onto the market in 2003. Using current property market data for central Tokyo, Anderson predicts that much of this new premium office space will be quickly absorbed by the market, and that impacts will likely be much less severe than predicted. The second paper on Tokyo was that of Dr. Ralph Lützeler of the University of Bonn titled "Segregation in a 'Homogeneous' City: Tokyo and the new debate on fragmenting urban societies'. Lützeler puts Tokyo in the context of other globalising world cities in Europe and North America and suggests that some have argued that globalisation results in increased urban polarisation, that is a phenomenon that seems more prominent in Anglo-American countries, and especially the United States. While in continental Europe the social welfare system continues to moderate polarising tendencies, in Japan smaller disparities of income, much lower rates of foreign immigration, and highly fragmented metropolitan spatial structures have tended to minimize the spatial concentrations of poverty. He suggests that while Tôkyô is indeed heading towards a more segregated urban pattern, thus weakening notions of a "homogeneous urban society" in Japan, both the scope and intensity of segregation phenomena are much smaller than expected.

The fourth regular session was Urban Spaces 3: Kobe, with two papers. The first was presented by Dr. Hiroshi Nunokawa of Hiroshima University, and was titled "Machizukuri and Historical Identity in the Old City Center of Kobe". The paper looks at machizukuri activity in the districts of Nishide, Higashide and Higashikawasaki-machi in the old Meiji period center of Kobe city. There a movement has started to re-examine the historical memory in order to revive the area. The paper focuses on the interaction between the recognition of the present and the recognition of history through machizukuri movements and considers possibilities for further development. The second paper was by Dr. Atsuko Ito of Takasaki, City University of Economics, and was titled "Reconstruction Machizukuri and Citizen Participation". Ito describes the growth of reconstruction machizukuri movements after the Great Hanshin Earthquake of 1995 severely damaged the inner city area in Kobe. In many areas of Kobe activity to improve the community was led by the residents rather than the government. Groups promoting the improvement of living environments, welfare,

education, culture, social relationship emerged. She examines the diversity of citizen participation, and what kind of problems they have.

The fifth session on urban spaces concentrated on inner-urban areas. Sylvie Brosseau of Waseda University gave an introduction into the development of Tôkyô's public parks. The example of Hibiya Park showed how parks were used to introduce western style leisure in urban contexts to Tôkyô's citizens. Newer parks created in the context of waterfront redevelopment still have an educational aspect, now by promoting contact with water. Christoph Brumann's paper (University of Köln) covered an issue that is controversial in most Japanese cities, but even more so in Kyôto, where preserving the historic townscape has been a subject for conflict for many years, culminating in the discussions over the construction of the Kyôto Tower Hotel, the station building and the bridge crossing Kamogawa. *Manshon* projects are far more ubiquitous and so the struggles surrounding them show a wide range of different participation patterns and successful or unsuccessful endings.

The fifth regular session, on regional development, included three very different papers. Thomas Feldhoffs analysis (Duisburg Essen University) of Japan's construction lobby activities showed that, despite a rising critic of in public work projects, this sector is still very powerful. This presentation connected with the sessions on *machizukuri*, as the framework set by this reality is not to be neglected when discussing issues of citizen participation and empowerment in urban and regional development.

Dr. Wolfram Manzenreiter of the University of Vienna illustrated the role of sports in public policy and the links between the global and local level with the example of football. Stadiums built for the world cup in 2002 raised expectations for diffusion effects for the regional economy, but also for a vitalization of local sports participation. However, in reality, high media exposure and a rise in volunteer activities were the main benefits from the event. The J-League, on the other hand, shares the explicit aim of promoting sport as an integral part of every day life with the comprehensive community sports clubs promoted by the government since 2000.

Anthony J. Fielding (University of Sussex) based his description on migration

patterns and the life course in Japan and Britain on census data. His elaborated graphs gave an impressive illustration of the difference between both countries. Whereas in Japan, migration destinations of young people, mainly metropolitan areas with an abundance of universities and jobs, are also attractive for other age groups and many senior citizens follow their children into the urban conglomerations, destinations of the younger age groups are not attracting other migrants in Britain. Urban areas in Japan not only attract migrants from inside the country, but also foreign researchers. Although the section is named urban and environmental studies, the emphasis has traditionally been on urban issues. However, this time we were able to create two sessions on environmental issues, which were connected to the sessions on urban topics through the common theme of citizen participation. They also facilitated the integration of researchers from natural sciences.

Two papers took up issues in traffic and transport. Professor Brian Harrison (Chuo University) explained the technical, regulatory and legal aspects of road-generated noise in Japan. Dr. Christopher Hood (Cardiff University) used the five senses as a guide to the environmental evaluation of the Shinkansen. He came to the conclusion that the Shinkansen is a friend rather than a foe to the environment, mainly due to the better CO₂ emission values compared with other modes of transport, but also to new developments concerning noise control at tunnel exits and carriage construction with recycable materials.

In the sessions on urban spaces, an important part of the discussion focused on the different types of organizations that are active in machizukuri. Professor Gesine Foljanty-Jost (Halle University) continued this discussion with the comparison of networks between NPOs engaged in environmental policies in Germany and Japan and came to the conclusion that networking structures were rather weak between the main NPOs in Japan. Toshihisa Asano (Hiroshima University) also showed that networks and connections are a problematic issue for Japan's environmental groups, taking the changes of environmental movements concerned with water issues or wetland development as an example. Little continuity exists between the early movements against "kôgai", which addressed the threat to human health through water pollution and were often very radical in their positions, to the groups that took a wider approach

towards water and wetland as an indicator of general quality of the environment and were in some cases successful to halt public work projects that would have destroyed coastal areas. Finally, Dr. Mika Merviö (University of Shimane) addressed the issue of wildlife protection with the example of the Japanese Sea Lion, which was put under protection decades after it had become extinct.

The section ended with a very visual session on art and architecture, with introductions to art projects in inner urban areas in Tôkyô and Okinawa by Titus Spree (University of the Ryukyus) and to recent changes in Japanese architecture by Professor Botond Bogнар (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). His slides illustrated that better response to environmental issues, the new application of natural and environmentally friendly materials, a heightened awareness among architects of the rapid changes in the social conditions of Japan and an increased openness in Japanese society, have prompted the emergence of more open designs. This was a very positive as well as fitting ending to the whole section, as the evaluation of changes in urban and environmental issues had been the central theme in the call for papers.

Dr. Carolin Funck, Hiroshima University, Japan

Dr. André Sorensen, University of Toronto, Canada

Section 2: Linguistics and Language Teaching Section

Convenors: Dr. Andre Wlodarczyk, Prof. Dr. Romuals Huszcza

The constantly increasing number of participants in our section was accompanied by a considerable extension of the research scope. We had all in all 67 lectures distributed as follows: 10 lectures in general sessions (6 on *Cognitive & Computational approaches*, 4 on *Linguistic Theory*) and 57 lectures in panel sessions (22 of which were on *Language Teaching*). Such a large participation can be explained both by an increasing interest in the structure of the Japanese Language and by the broader opening of our section to the membership from Japan. The participation of the specialists of Computational approaches has also increased more remarkably than ever before. Every represented discipline and research field was marked by the presence of good specialists. In this respect, our section reached a very high scientific level of research. However, the section is today so large that it became rather difficult even for two convenors to manage. On the other hand and most of all, it became very clear that Language Teaching covers today more than one pedagogical issue. For this reason, both convenors proposed to the General Assembly held at the end of the Conference that a new section be created within the EAJIS. We propose that this new 9th section be named "*Language and Culture - Pedagogical Problems*" because we noticed that among the lectures read during the Conference many issues concerned culture (not only language) teaching. Hence, the name of the 2nd section should be changed and we proposed the heading "*Linguistics and Language Processing*" in order to make it more appropriate with respect to its new contents.

A new initiative has also been put forward during the General Assembly because the majority of the participants are aware of the necessity to meet more frequently than once every 3 years. Therefore, a proposal has been made to create a new joint association which could be named as "European Association for Japanese Linguistics and Language Processing (Euro JAL & LAP)".

One pending problem is the publication of the proceedings. Even after the selection process, it revealed difficult to publish as many papers as would be necessary in one book. The recent idea is to use new multimedia technology which

would enable us to make available all the lectures in the form of a CD-ROM. The copyright should however be left free for any publishing house wishing to publish a collection of selected papers.

*Dr. Andre Wlodarczyk, Etudes Japonaises, Universite
Charles-de-Gaulle (Lille 3), France*

*Prof. Dr. Romuals Huszcza, Department of Japanese
and Korean Studies, Warsaw University, Poland*

Section 3: Literature

Convenors: Dr. Stephen Dodd, Michel Vieillard-Baron

Until this year's conference in Warsaw, the EAJIS Japanese literature section has covered both pre- and post-Meiji literature. This time, however, there was an overwhelming number of proposals, with the result that my co-convenor Michel Vieillard-Baron (pre-modern) and I (modern) needed to split the literature section into two parallel sessions that ran throughout the conference period. In fact, on the pre-modern side, the demand was so great that even that section needed to be split again at certain times.

On a practical side, this meant that Michel and I both needed to chair all the panels of our respective sections throughout. I must admit that before the conference, this was a daunting prospect. As it turned out, for both Michel and I it was actually a great pleasure to attend all the talks. This was partly due to those who came to listen. In both pre-modern and modern sessions, there was a "hard-core" of people who stayed with us, and this led to a very stimulating atmosphere in which we were able to exchange ideas over an extended period. We would like to thank all those people for their sustained interest and invaluable contributions.

The centre of interest, of course, was the talks themselves, and in this we were not disappointed. In the modern sessions, I can only mention here a few of those who spoke due to restrictions of time. For instance, there was one group panel that included Prof. Komori Yoichi on Soseki that proved highly productive and showed, once again, how Soseki continues to influence our understanding of modern Japanese literature. The other speakers were individual contributors, but my own task of selection was made easier by the fact that it was often possible to put speakers together under linked themes. For instance, Profs. Yoichi Nagashima, Misuzu Danbara and John Timothy Wixted all spoke on Mori Ogai in a way that led to new and fruitful insights. Other presentations covered a wide range of topics, from Meiji novelists to tanka poetry appearing in today's newspapers. Whatever their themes, all the speakers revealed a real enthusiasm that helped confirm why our study of literature is often such a joy.

There were many papers of outstanding quality, but one example was Prof. Cecile Sakai's presentation on Kawabata, which was insightful and highly stimulating.

As it has already been said, the number of papers given in the pre-modern sessions was extremely high (almost forty) and naturally the range of themes exposed was also very wide: waka, monogatari, setsuwa, haikai, theory but also calligraphy, thought and history. One striking feature of this symposium was the importance devoted to the influences of Chinese literature on Japanese pre-modern literature (three entire panels were dealing with these questions). The scientific level of the papers was in general very good and many presentations have been the starting point of really stimulating discussions. Although it is always unfair to choose one paper rather than another, I can stress here the outstanding quality of the presentations given by Paola Moretti (Ca'Foscari University), Kanechiku Nobuyuki (Waseda University) and Raj Pandley (La Trobe University). The very good impression I had while in Warsaw was confirmed by the mails I received since: many scholars wrote me to tell how pleased they have been to exchange informations and incentives with people coming from different cultural areas.

Finally, it was a great pleasure to meet so many colleagues who until then were only familiar through their writings. People came from all over, including eastern and western Europe, North America and Japan. I hope we speak on behalf of all those who participated in the Japanese Section in saying that it was an overall success, and we look forward to the next conference in Vienna.

Dr. Stephen Dodd, SOAS, London University, United Kingdom

Michel Vieillard-Baron, INALCO, Paris, France

Section 4: Visual and Performing Arts

Convenors: Dr. Helen Parker, Matthi Forrer

There was an excellent response to our call for papers on tradition, innovation and fusion for this section, both in terms of the quality of the presentations and in terms of the diverse range of subjects, which stretched from *rakugo* to Zen gardens; from calligraphy to music education to film and television drama. Some members of the section explored tradition, innovation and fusion through sessions focusing on particular areas within the visual and performing arts, for example, through the panels on *manga* and Gio in mediaeval performance traditions and the extended panel examining perspectives on noh and kyogen. Others took up cross-disciplinary strands, as in the panel on creating celebrity and fame in Osaka, which looked at the use of woodblock prints in kabuki theatre from the point of view of actors and artists, and the session on how women are depicted, or depict themselves, on stage and page. We saw how innovations in weaving technology had benefited the traditions of the craft in the illustration used for the conference logo, a link which also took our theme on to the post-conference symposium on Japanese art.

Special thanks are due to Ogamo Rebecca Teele for her excellent keynote address on the vision shared by noh actors, who are performers, and noh mask carvers, who are artists. Drawing on examples from the work of her own teacher, Udaka Michishige, who is active in both acting and mask carving, she offered some powerfully illustrated and moving insights into how creativity in these fields works to conceive the masks and to bring them to life.

I am also grateful to Stanca Scholz-Cionca, Peter Eckersall, Shinko Kagaya and Brian Powell for their help in ensuring that things went smoothly at Warsaw, as well as to Matthi Forrer for his earlier input into convening the section. Finally, I am delighted that Stanca Scholz-Cionca and Sonja Servomaa have agreed to act as our new conveners in Vienna in 2005.

Dr. Helen S E Parker, University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom

Section 5: Anthropology and Sociology

Convenors: Dr. Jan van Bremen, Dr. Eyal Ben-Ari

In the report to the EAJS General Assembly, the conveners of Section 5 conveyed their thanks and appreciation to the EAJS council; the local organizing committee and their helpers; the keynote speaker; the chair and the participants in the plenary session; the organizers of the panels; the conveners and chairs of the general session; and everyone who read a paper. However, the conveners were bemused by the fact that the usual addition of - (JAWS session) - was missing from the name of Section 5.

From the perspective of mondialization it is encouraging that section 5 was convened in a mondial effort. The plenary panel, convened by William Kelly and chaired by Jennifer Robertson, represents an American initiative. The research panels convened by Rupert Cox, Christopher Brumann, Kasia Cwiertka and Bruce White represent a European input. The research panel on the cult of utaki convened by Naoki Yoshinari and Shinya Miyahira, is a Japanese initiative.

Section 5 was the largest section in the conference. It opened with the keynote address, followed by the plenary panel (5 participants). Then section 5 split into five parallel sessions. The general session for papers on the anthropology of Japan met seven times (20 papers). Four research panels met: No. 1 Making heritage in Japan (20 papers); No. 2 Women`s spiritual power and cult of Utaki in the Ryukyu islands (4 papers) (conducted in Japanese); No. 3 Japan`s possible futures (4 papers); and No. 4 Food and drink in contemporary Japan (10 papers). In all more than sixty papers were read. With five parallel sessions, section 5 has become too large. To relieve the pressure and reduce the seize, section 5 can no longer accommodate sociology in the next conferences.

Report on Research Panel 1: Making Heritage in Japan

By Christoph Brumann and Rupert Cox

Our open call for papers provoked a surprising number of paper proposals, many from JAWS first timers, making us go to Warsaw with heightened

anticipation. Participants had been asked to highlight the social uses of tradition and heritage in the present and followed this line of analysis with laudable consistency.

Rupert Cox (University of Manchester) opened the panel with "Automated Alterities: movement and identity in the history of the Japanese 'kobi doll'", showing the ironies and twists in the history of a now marginalised class of objects. Building on the *karakuri automata* tradition, the dolls came to comically represent black sailors in the harbours of Kobe. Foreign collectors who are the largest group today are often unaware of the Japanese origins while the racist connotations have impeded full recognition as heritage in Kobe. Jane Marie Law (Cornell University), in "Preservation, revival and innovation: Establishing successors to the great puppet head carvers in Japan, with a focus on *Awaji ningyō*", explored a touristically revitalised tradition that is endangered by the diminishing number of expert craftsmen. Impressed with the genuine dedication of hobby carvers, she made a plea not to be cynical about heritage by reducing it to its socio-political aspects. In "Noh mask collections: approaches to the preservation, selection and display of cultural heritage artefacts", Rachel Payne (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) pursued the commodity career of a collection of masks in the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. She depicted tensions between curators who prefer the masks untouched, historians who learn from patches and amendments made by former users, and practitioners who want the masks used, not put in glass cases. Marc McGuire (Cornell University), in "What's at stake in designating Japan's sacred peaks as UNESCO world heritage sites" introduced the movement to have a number of mountains sacred to *shūgendō* practitioners recognised in a particularly prestigious heritage category. Tourist-oriented compromises, such as staircases, diminish the physical hazards for the mountain ascetics who, however, see the spiritual value as decreasing correspondingly. In "Tea in Japan and LA: Changing meanings of 'Japanese' heritage", Kristin Surak (University of California at Los Angeles) explored the differences in the ways Japanese on two continents approach one of their most famous traditional arts. Japanese expatriates tend to ethnicise tea ceremony and their own "natural" access to it while within Japan, difficulty and distance from modern people's experience is emphasized instead.

On the second day, Katharina Steinkellner (University of Vienna) opened with "*Wayô setchû* Hybrid forms in contemporary Japanese interior design". Looking at recent interior design journals, she introduced a number of modern instances, such as raised tatami sections in otherwise "Western-style" rooms. Each of the two categories of *wa* and *yô* becomes reconstructed in the process. Christoph Brumann (University of Cologne), in "The inventiveness of tradition: 'Heritage anomalies' in Kyoto's *machiya* movement", spoke about the recent renaissance of Kyoto's traditional town houses. For their modern, often fashionable renovations, collective identities are less momentous than the houses' natural aspects and emotional effects, so the "invention of tradition" paradigm does not really fit. In "Establishing municipal heritage: *bunkajin*, local governments and open-air museums in post war Japan", Peter Siegenthaler (University of Texas at Austin) presented the case study of the Hida Minzoku Mura in Takayama, showing how, just as other post-war open air museums, it has been shaped by the initiative of a single founder personality. The approach of a "living" museum, with fireplaces being used within the *minka* farm houses relocated on the grounds, does not find favour with all preservation experts. Leonor Leiria (Oxford Brookes University), in "The materiality of heritage: Conserving *namban* lacquerware", explored the continual evolution of these artifacts. In a complex interplay of aging, restoration and repainting, they add layers of meaning, showing that conservation is never just a process of "freezing" things. In "*Nihonga* as process and symbolic action", Arunas Gelunas (Vilnius Academy of Fine Art) dwelt on how the Japaneseness of this style of painting is symbolically constructed in the current discourse of practitioners. This led him to question how current nihonga artists' self-identities are constituted. Amanda Mayer Stinchecum (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris), in "Tradition, transmission and transformation in Yaeyama: A sash as symbol of island identity", took us to the southernmost islands of the Ryûkyû archipelago. While a lot of the stories told about the traditional women's sashes can be shown to be recent creations, this piece of clothing has now become a token of local identity, using national and international recognition to hold its own against the regional centre Okinawa.

In "Forging the firm: Corporate identity, organizational memory and cultural

heritage in Sumitomo", Bart Gaens (University of Helsinki) analysed the ways this corporate giant displays its own past in museums, memorial halls, and a theme park. The darker sides of the past, such as labour unrest or environmental destruction, are muted and the promoted values are not followed in practice, such as e.g. when the founder's family is idolised even though employed managers pushed it aside in reality. Yohko Tsuji (Cornell University), in "Heritage of *ohaka*, Japanese graves: The family, the afterlife, and the commodification of death in contemporary Japan", showed how the family grave is a comparatively recent creation of Meiji period promotion of *ie* values. Nowadays, however, problems of cost and care lead people to explore a number of innovative funerary practices. In "Aesthetic every-ware: Heritage and the formation of pottery style in Mashiko, Japan", Gregory Miller (University of Pittsburgh) pursued the social history of one of the most popular pottery towns. Hamada Shôji and the *mingei* movement left a lasting imprint, but there is a great deal of diversity and innovation, nourished by non-natives, female potters and other groups often marginalised in other pottery centres. Mariko Okada (Kyoto City University of the Arts), in "*Geisha* as cultural performer", followed how *geisha* have mediated between Japan and the West in the course of time. While they are seen as embodiments of Japanese traditions by foreign observers today, their public performances and sense of mission were consciously modern and cosmopolitan during the Meiji period.

On the last day, Masaki Matsubara (Cornell University) took on "Maintaining a Zen tradition in Japan: The concrete problem of succession", emphasizing the increasing difficulty of finding suitable temple priests such as himself in the Rinzai school. Many compromises have to be made in their current education, and a number of other innovative strategies are also followed to forestall decline. Then, Michael Shackleton (Osaka Gakuin University) closed the proceedings with "Debating Heritage: Plotting the future of the past within Shinkyô a Japanese commune". After telling the remarkable history of a small group of ostracised villagers who rose to become a large *tatami* producer and then an institution for mentally handicapped adults, he tried to read the real motives of the charismatic founder, concluding that the current reconversion into an ordinary part of village society was not at all against his intentions. Although Ron

Carle (University of Edinburgh) and William Kelly (University of Oxford) had to withdraw for reasons beyond their control, we heard many well-argued and stimulating papers, followed by an audience of between 20 and 30 at most times. Two general discussions also raised a large number of parallels and interesting general points. We have decided to publish a collection of the reworked papers as an edited volume, most likely under the slightly amended title "Making Japanese Heritage". Paper revisions and inquiries with publishers are currently underway.

Report on Research Panel 3 : Japan's Possible Futures: Emerging Identities, Generations and Worldviews

By Bruce White

This panel (organised by Bruce White, Oxford Brookes University), explored some of the possible ways Japan might be seen and imagined in the world - and particularly in the wider Asian region - in the years and decades to come. What could emerging Japanese identities, generations and worldviews tell us about these possible future senses of Japaneseness?

Joy Hendry, (Oxford Brookes University), began by outlining some of the ways in which Japan had played a role in the world at large, and pointing out that it now has a multitude of identities that it can potentially take on its continuing quest for an improved sense of regional and global place.

Gordon Mathews, (Chinese University of Hong Kong), then provided a detailed ethnography of Japanese migrant identities in Hong Kong, revealing, amongst other things, how competing ideas of 'Japaneseness' reflected a wider societal tension between an entrenched homogeneity and an emerging pluralism.

Satoko Tachiki, (Yokohama City University), broadened the discussion to include attitudes towards Teatism in the world beyond Japan. Teatism was seen as one referent for appreciating the contemporary global milieu, and the question asked: might teatism be expanded beyond Japanese culture to speak to more universal cultural needs? Lastly, Bruce White reported on a series of interviews he had conducted with young Japanese in their 20s and 30s. These

interviews explored young people`s attitudes towards a common Asian identity, and revealed how many young Japanese wanted to see themselves in an Asian, rather than Western, context: a significant historical shift.

Collectively, the papers helped to emphasise that the notions of plurality and diversity are increasingly important in Japanese social life and identity. This is an era in which Japan is challenging some of the imaginative constructs of its post-war social order - its image of itself in the world, it`s perceived roles, and the choices it offers to its citizens to pursue particular lifecourses. To emerge from this era as a culturally relativised and regionally-located collective, with a rich variety of worldviews and perceived roles, is certainly one of Japan`s possible futures; a possible future that this panel and its participants envisioned across four separate research themes.

Report on Research Panel 4: Japanese food and drink

By Katarzyna J. Cwiertka

Our panel on Japanese food and drink took place on the 29th of August. We started at 9 o`clock with the lecture by Merry I. White from Boston University about the historical development of coffee drinking in Japan. She focused in her talk on the rise of caf  culture, concentrating especially on the Kyoto area. Next, Satomi Fukutomi, a graduate student from the University of Hawaii, discussed *chakaiseki ry ri* - meals served at tea ceremony gatherings. On the basis of her fieldwork at a tea utensils store in Tokyo, she explained characteristic features of the tea ceremony meals and the changes that they undergo in the process of commodification. The last paper before the coffee break was the one presented by Sylvie Guichard-Anguis, geographer at the French National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS), Paris-Sorbonne. She examined the production and consumption of *wagashi*, traditional Japanese confectionery, elaborating on the historical origins and the role that *wagashi* play in the lives of contemporary Japanese.

The second session started with Alyne E. Delaney`s paper on *nori*. Currently affiliated with the Institute for Fisheries Management in Denmark, Delaney discussed the diminishing value of *nori* as a commodity due to the increased

consumption, and the consequences of this development on the fate of the producers. Noriya Sumihara from Tenri University followed in the opposite direction, demonstrating the ways in which local producers cope with the crisis in the Japanese *sake* industry, caused by the diminishing consumption of the native liquor. After lunch, Todd J. M. Holden from Tohoku University gave a presentation on the topic of television food shows. He argued that food-talk on the Japanese television is a powerful tool for reproducing Japanese culture, its values and behaviors, and even engage *nihonjinron* - the theory of the uniqueness of Japanese culture. Next, Sachiko Tada, a graduate student from Doshisha University, discussed the process of institutionalization of sushi making in the United States. Based on her fieldwork at the California Sushi Academy in Los Angeles, she demonstrated the efforts on the part of Japanese entrepreneurs to reclaim Japanese control over the US sushi business. Finally, Katarzyna J. Cwiertka from Leiden University provided a historical overview of the Japanese food research, with particular reference to the life and work of the founding father of *shokubunka kenkyû*, Shinoda Osamu (1899-1978).

Despite the fact that our discussant, Theodore C. Bestor from Harvard University, had to cancel his trip to Warsaw only a few days before departure, this very first JAWS panel on food proved a fruitful and interesting experience. The publication of selected papers is being considered.

Section 6: Economics, Economic and Social History

Convenors: Prof. Dr. Cornelia Storz, Prof. Dr. Janet Hunter

As many well-known commentators on the Japanese economy have argued that the present problems of the Japanese economic system have resulted from the inability of a hitherto successful system to change to new structures, the general topic of the section has been *“Change, Rigidity and Adaptation in the Japanese Economic System, Past and Present”*.

Tetsuji Okazaki from Tokyo University, a renowned business historian, gave an introduction to this subject from a historical point of view. In a thought-provoking keynote lecture about *“Merger Waves, Related Lending and the Stability of the Financial System in Twentieth Century Japan”*, he analyzed the effects of bank consolidations on the financial system. Professor Okazaki focussed on the governance structure and performance of banks, and argued that the consolidations of banks had the effect of excluding unfavorable interlocking directorships between banks and related firms.

Afterwards, the section was subdivided into three subsections which are currently regarded as being especially exposed to change, namely (1) Economic Policy, (2) Management and Labour Issues, (3) Technology and Innovation.

Economic Policy

There were nine contributions within the area of Economic Policy. The presenters covered a wide area, dealing with regulation and deregulation within Japan's oil and pharmaceutical markets, and with financial policy, capital market and integration issues. The role of the Japanese government within the process of institutional change was evaluated differently: while some contributors argued that restructuring is inevitable, others stressed that structural reform does not necessarily follow long-term growth.

Management and Labour Issues

Within this panel, great attention was given to Japanese companies' human resource management and the labour market, with six participants calling attention to recent changes, for instance the growing number of labour disputes and increasing flexibility of work relationships. Others emphasized the adjustment of institutional settings to deal with the necessary changes in organizational structures and employment practices. Other areas of interest were women in the Japanese economy - characterized by contributions to female entrepreneurship and management of female workers, as well as corporate knowledge and information management. Further presentations were given on a topic that had already been raised in the keynote speech, namely the growing internationalization of M&A in Japan.

Technology and Innovation

The contributors to this panel emphasized the institutional factors relating to the development and acquisition of technology in Japanese firms. Attention was given to Delphi studies which evaluate upcoming technologies, and their influence on setting paradigms followed by the private sector, as well as the role of consumer preferences and country-specific institutional surroundings which result in differences in conducting internal, collaborative or external technology creation.

Panels

On the last day of the conference, two panels offered an environment for lively discussion on special topics, with the first one organized by the DIJ (German Institute for Japanese Studies) dealing with the Japanese economy and its ability to change (covering institutional change in Japan's "iron triangle" and remuneration practises, the preference of market relations instead of *keiretsu*-ties and external shocks in the financial system), while the second one analyzed the paradigm change in Japanese official development assistance (with contributions regarding the development of NPO, partnership programs in

Vietnam, and general changes in the history of technical cooperation). The panels successfully covered two broad areas where paradigm changes in the Japanese system are prevalent.

To discuss such a broad topic as institutional change in a section lasting for two days was definitely not easy. Perhaps even more questions than answers arose. Nevertheless, lively discussion in the question-and-answer periods following the presentations made it clear that focussing on a research subject was helpful for the success of the section. With an average audience of 30 people, there was a significant interest in the contributions of the section. Based on the contributions made to this section at the EAJS conference in Warsaw 2003, it is the intention of the organizers to approach an international publisher with a view to publishing some of the papers in a volume focussing on past and present institutional change in the Japanese economy.

*Alexander Müller,
Centre for Japanese Studies, Marburg University, Germany*

List of Contributors

Subsection: Economic Policy

Tetsuji Okazaki (keynote speech): Merger Waves, Related Lending and the Stability of the Financial System in Twentieth Century Japan.

Takamichi Mito: The political economy of regulation in postwar Japan: the case of oil market.

Anja Walke: The Japanese pharmaceutical market: regulatory changes in the 90s and new perspectives in the 21st century.

Richard Werner: No Recovery without Reform? An Evaluation of the Evidence in Support of the Structural Reform Argument in Japan.

Takaaki Suzuki: Global Finance, Democracy and the State in Japan.

Katalin Ferber: Accounting the Nation.

Mariusz Krawczyk: Crisis in Japan's banking industry and the ways out.

Mark Metzler: Japan`s Monetary Regime Shift of 1931.

Masato Kimura: Japan`s economic diplomacy during the interwar period: the role of national and international chambers of commerce.

Mechthild Schrooten: Japan and the World Economy - How to promote Financial Integration?

Subsection: Management and labour issues

Philippe Debroux: Female Entrepreneurship in Japan.

Helen Machnaughtan: The Management of Female workers in Japan`s Postwar Cotton Textile Industry.

Richard Nakamura: Corporate weddings - are they meaningful? Performance effects of M&As in Japan.

Sigrun Caspary: International M&A with Japanese Participation?

Silke Bromann: Information Management in Japanese Manufacturing SMEs.

Parissa Haghirian: Knowledge Transfer within Japanese Multinational Corporations.

Hiroshi Ono: Japanese Labor Market Reform: Why is it so Difficult?

Kay-Wah Chan: HRM and evolution legal culture in Japan.

Harukiyo Hasegawa: Recent Changes in managerial strategy and its relevance to labour markets.

Bruce Henry Lambert: Inward Migration for Global Competitiveness: Japan vs. the World?

Subsection: Technology and innovation

Patricia Sippel: Copper Mining and Technology: Regional Transformation and the Nation Economy in Japan`s Modern Era.

Gisela Philipsenburg: Knowledge Accumulation in Japan`s Industrial Research and Development: A Comparative Analysis of Semiconductors and

Pharmaceutics.

Kerstin Cuhls: Foresight in Japan.

Harald Fuess: From Ale to Lager: The role of consumer preferences in the adaptation of foreign technology.

Martin Hemmert: Institutional Factors Determining the Technology Acquisition Structure of Manufacturing Firms.

PANEL: The Japanese Economy and its ability to change

Dennis Tachiki: The Implication of Koizumi's Reform on Business.

Harald Conrad: Changes in Corporate Pensions and Remuneration Practices.

Andreas Moerke: Farewell keiretsu? Restructuring the Industrial Landscape.

Andreas Nabor: The Japanese Financial Market: On the Road to a Market-based System?

PANEL: Japanese Development Assistance within a Partnership Paradigm: Japanese Economy in Transition?

Marie Söderberg: The Japanese Citizens Increasing Participation in "Civil Society"; Implications for Foreign Aid.

Le Thanh Nguyen Forsberg: Japanese ODA policy and the challenges of partnership in development assistance in Vietnam - An approach from the recipient perspectives.

Annette Skovsted Hansen: Fellowship and Trainee programs in Technical Cooperation and Partnership.

*Prof. Dr. Cornelia Storz, Centre for Japanese Studies,
Marburg University, Germany*

*Prof. Dr. Janet Hunter, Department of Economic History, London School of
Economics & Polit. Science, London, United Kingdom*

Section 7: History, Politics and International Relations

Convenors: Prof. Dr. Rikki Kersten, Prof. Dr. Selçuk Esenbel

Section 7 was put together around the theme of Revisionism, with every panel referring in some way to this core theme. Revisionism could apply either to the content of academic work on a particular subject, the respective disciplines themselves, or to the field of Japanese Studies as a whole.

Altogether there were 11 panels featuring 35 speakers from all over the world. Several last minute cancellations were received, citing everything from misadventure to illness and being refused to enter the country because of the lack of a visa. Despite this, the remaining panellists performed magnificently, filling gaps and in some cases allowing for considerably more discussion time than usual (something that many attendees commented on as a positive development). Average attendance to Section 7 was 35-40 people per session over the three days, though the final day was considerably lower owing to an inexplicable clash between the session and a tour organised by the conference travel agent.

Topics and disciplines covered during the conference in Section 7 included: pre-modern history and databases, concepts of the environment in modern Japanese history, comparative nationalism, Emperor-centred revisionism, post-modern perspectives on Japanese history, ethnicity and gender in historiography, paradigm shift in Japanese politics and foreign policy, and the role of images in international relations. Discussion was a major feature of each session, and the high interest and participation of audiences was a notable feature of section 7.

For future reference, the following points may be of assistance to future coordinators of sections:

For 'new' attendees to EAJS, it would be helpful to have a clear explanation of expectations, tasks and deadlines in writing if the secretariat wishes to achieve an optimal outcome from each coordinator;

If the task of section coordinators is to merely arrange a program and not select

papers, then this should be made explicit to both coordinators and paper givers; Sessions featuring one speaker and one discussant will allow for greater depth in both the presentation and the ensuing discussion, and this should occur more than once in the course of each Section.

Finally, Section 7 would like to express its appreciation not only to the hosts in Warsaw, but especially to the students and assistants who were on hand throughout to help us and to sort out our concerns. They were magnificent ambassadors for Japanese Studies in Warsaw. Without the help of Iben Molenkamp, Section 7 would not have been such an interesting and vibrant part of the conference. Thank you, Iben!

*Dr. Rikki Kersten,
Centre for Japanese and Korean Studies,
Leiden University, The Netherlands*

Section 8: Religion and History of Ideas

Convenors: Dr. Bernhard Scheid, Dr. Birgit Staemmler

“Religion and History of Ideas” is traditionally one of the minor sized sections at EAJIS conferences and Warsaw was no exception. This puts the convenors in a comparatively comfortable position as regards the management of time and space. Indeed we had neither a problem to fill our schedule, nor were we forced to reject papers simply because we had already too many applications.

Unfortunately, however, our scheduled keynote-speaker, Abe Ryuichi from Columbia University, was forced to cancel his lecture at a time when it was no longer possible to find a substitute, so we had no key-note speech in our section this time. Moreover, one of us convenors, Birgit Staemmler, could not come to Warsaw, since this would have endangered the expected birth of her baby - circumstances that could not have been foreseen when we started to plan this event. Apart from these drop-outs, however, the section was a real success, at least in the eyes of the convenors. This was all the more to our delight, since we regarded our choice of the motto “Concepts of Secrecy” as a kind of experiment. In contrast to previous conferences, this topic really narrowed the possible range of approaches and was therefore bound to exclude a number of prospective contributors with different research interests. We therefore made clear in our Call for Papers that we did not expect every paper to fit into our scheme, and specifically encouraged papers on current developments in Japanese religions as an alternative. To our own surprise, however, only five out of 22 papers referred to a subject, which was not related to secrecy in one way or another. The section was thus characterised by the thematic contingency we had in mind from the beginning. This allowed for an ongoing discussion and often one speaker could continue at a point where another had stopped his considerations. In retrospect, we therefore felt greatly affirmed in our choice of the topic.

Given the thematic consistency it was only natural to arrange papers in chronological order, which could be maintained also in regard to the papers that did not deal with secrecy. The first day was dedicated to “Early” and “Medieval Esotericism”, with most papers covering the historical impact of Esoteric

Buddhism (*mikkyô*). At the very beginning we heard Martin Lehnert from the Chinese Studies department at Zurich University, on Tang period Buddhism. This lecture included a historical description of Buddhist Esotericism as it was brought from India to China, and theoretical considerations on the hermeneutics of secrecy in the context of *mijiao/mikkyô*. The inclusion of a research project from a different geographical sphere which nevertheless contributed to the understanding of our general theme proved all in all very productive. Spanning a bridge from China to Japan, Robert Borgen from Davis University, California, gave a talk on the Japanese Monk Jôin who left an extensive travelogue about his pilgrimage to China (1072-73), which also deals with the contemporary differences in esoteric ritualism in the two countries. Sergiy Kapranov, from Kyiv University, pursued the question to what degree religious thought and in particular esoteric religion, entered Japanese classical literature. He took as an example the *Ise monogatari zuinô*, a commentary on the *Ise monogatari* from the Kamakura period. The following session was dedicated to two papers which addressed secrecy in the realm of *kami* worship. Bernard Faure (Stanford) traced a couple of now only marginally known deities such as Shôten, Matarajin, and Jûzenji, which he called classified as “gods of obstacles.” All figured in a Shinto-Buddhist context, where magical power and obscure ritualism played an important role. According to Bernard Faure, they were connected with various associations ranging from the worship of the Big Dipper, to the placenta, and to paedophil sexuality. Marc Teeuwen from Oslo University took the *Reikiki*, a medieval collection of esoteric rituals of Shinto origin, as an example to illustrate how *mikkyô* ritualism found its way into *kami* worship. Moreover he tried to give a picture how that text might have been used in actual practice, which is not at all evident from the text alone. In the next session, two papers questioned the self-imposed distinction of “open” (*kengyô*) and “secret teachings” (*mikkyô*) in the realm of ancient and medieval religious culture. Christian Steineck (Bonn), shed some doubt on the perception of Dôgen’s demystifying, *kengyô*-biased way of reasoning by indicating that Dôgen too used secret or esoteric forms of practice to communicate religious “truth.” Lucia Dolce (SOAS) took the *Lotus Sutra* as an example and demonstrated that even this text, which is conventionally counted among the “open” doctrines, was subject to a process of

“esoterization” in the esoteric branches of the Tendai tradition (*taimitsu*), which flourished in the Heian and Kamakura periods. In the last session of Day 1, the problem how to get a picture of what was actually going on in medieval esoteric ritualism (which was already mentioned by Mark Teeuwen) was addressed again by William Bodiford (UCLA). He argued very vividly that the Tokugawa critique of medieval esotericism succeeded in pushing the whole culture of religious secrecy into oblivion. Even if we are in possession of the textual sources we are hardly capable to recover their intention, since the texts themselves provide no clue how to deal with them. Why this kind of secrecy? What are these texts and rituals all about? These questions were also asked by Fabio Rambelli who concluded the series of papers on medieval esotericism. Neither he nor anybody else would claim a final solution, but Rambelli stressed the fact, that if there is a kind of message, which has to be kept secret, it usually sounds quite trivial as soon as it is revealed. Hiding the truth therefore seems not be the point. Rather esoteric culture seems to look for a way of communication without using ordinary language or everyday rationality.

The second day was almost entirely dedicated to papers covering the Early Modern (Tokugawa) period. Incidentally, while the previous contributors were - with one exception - all male, this time the gender-ratio was exactly the other way round. (This arrangement was of course not intended by us convenors, but resulted from the basic diachronical principle). The first speaker, Anne Walthall from Irvine University, illustrated how the authority of Tokugawa Shoguns was fostered by hiding their personal appearance from public view. Even on the rare occasions when the Shogun was exposed to ordinary people (at New Year's Noh performance, for example) he would rather appear as a static picture than as a living person. Walthall showed similar examples of (not) presenting the ruler in other cultures, and by contrast pointed to the inversed pattern in the West. She also drew a comparison between palace and temple in Japan and between treasure house and women's quarters respectively. Beatrice Bodart Bailey (Tokyo) continued the topic of Tokugawa politics, by discussing the relationship between Shogunal ceremonies and political domination, notably among the Shoguns of the 17th century. Political ideology was also addressed by Kate Wildman Nakai (Sophia University) in her paper on the critique of secrecy in the

writings of the Late Mito School. She made clear that what the Mito thinkers had in mind when they criticized „medieval obscurantism“ was quite different from a „enlightened“ discourse in the sense of their European contemporaries. Esotericism was mainly condemned for leading astray from their main ideological endeavour to re-establish a central „public“ authority in the form of the emperor, which was to be recognized by everybody. Catharina Blomberg from Stockholm, shifted the topic to the way of the *bushi*, mentioning also the culture of mysticism around their most important weapon and status symbol, the sword. The subsequent pair of papers dealt with detailed, methodical studies of „esoteric“ writing. Ann Wehmeyer (Florida) concentrated on attempts to reconstruct the so-called „divine age script“ (*jindai moji*), which was supposedly created by the Japanese *kami*. This idea fascinated among others scholars of the Kokugaku School such as Hirata Atsutane. Karine Marandjian from St. Petersburg, on the other hand, dealt with the Sanskrit Studies of Keichû, who is otherwise known as one of the founding fathers of Kokugaku. Both papers offered an insight into the contradictory development of scientific methodology in the later Tokugawa period. In the last session of this day, two papers were related to Christianity: First, Bettina Gramlich Oka presented a portrait of the passionate anti-Christian woman writer Tadano Makuzu (1763-1825). Tadano's rhetoric was in fact quite similar to what we had heard from Kate Nakai, earlier this day. Next, Dorothea Filus, who is presently finishing her studies at Tokyo university, held a paper on *kakure kirishitan* (Hidden Christians) of the Nagasaki region. From an anthropological perspective she discussed the present state of these Christian believers, who were forced to practice their faith in secrecy due to political persecution under the Tokugawa and have maintained many peculiarities from that time up to the present day. The day was rounded up by Andriy Nakorchevski (Tokyo), who experimented with a two-typed conception of Japanese pilgrimage. Naturally this paper covered a vast period spanning from the beginnings of Japanese religious history to the industrial age.

The last two sessions on Day 3 dealt by and large with contemporary religion or intellectual thought. The first two papers were again anthropological descriptions of modern religious phenomena: Rosemarie Bernard (Waseda University) reported her fieldwork at Ise, stressing the change in ancient ritualism due to the

necessities of modern mass media. Monika Schrimpf (Tokyo) presented results of her fieldwork at Shinnyoen, a „new religion“ sect that developed from a branch of Shingon lay believers and is therefore still related to ancient *mikkyô* ritualism. Ernst Lokowandt (Tôyô University, Tokyo) tried to approach the complex matter of Shintô Ethics. His attempt to pin down some general features of Shinto, beyond historical change, led to one of the most vivid discussions in our section. The last paper was presented by Agnieszka Kozyra from Warsaw University, one of our hosts who was at the same time extremely active in organising the whole event. She committed all her efforts in the explanation of the paradoxical logic of Zen in non-paradoxical language, which led the audience into the field of philosophical reasoning, that had been almost completely neglected, so far. The matter proved so complex that the referee used all 45 minutes to read her paper, and we were forced to suspend the discussion this time.

All in all our section was dedicated to topics of religious history with a distinct emphasis on the historical impact of Esoteric Buddhism. This led in turn to a bias of earlier historical periods in regard to modern studies. Since I feel that this is quite contrary to the general trend in Japanese Studies, I see the choice of our topic also justified as a means to maintain a scope of approaches as broad as possible within the conference as a whole. The audience in our section seemed to have shared that feeling. It consisted to a significant degree of truly loyal listeners who spent most of their time with us. Of course I had not much opportunity to talk to people who thought differently, but the general feedback I got was strongly in favour of our rather selective approach.

Bernhard Scheid, Vienna University, Austria

[First published in "Bulletin of the European Association for Japanese Studies", no. 64 (October 2003)]