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The  
Japan Society  
of  
Scotland

# NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2021



[HTTP://JAPANSOCIETYOFSCOTLAND.ORG.UK/](http://japansocietyofscotland.org.uk/)



As we reach the end of another year The Japan Society of Scotland wishes all its members and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

We never thought a year ago that we wouldn't have been able to meet face-to-face during 2021 and that we'd be back facing tougher restrictions as we approach Christmas. However, we do hope that you have enjoyed the programme of online lectures that we have arranged throughout the year for you to enjoy from the comfort of your own homes.

We trust that you'll enjoy reading about the work of the Society and that you can join with us during 2022 for some of our events and activities, online in the early part of the year and then hopefully face-to-face if Scottish Government rules allow and we feel that it is safe to do so.

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## Message from Tadashi Fujiwara, Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh



I arrived in Scotland in November 2021 to begin my posting as Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh. I am very happy to begin close collaboration and engagement with the Japan Society of Scotland to ensure the further enhancement of our good relations.

Since 2020, we have all been experiencing an unprecedented time in history, with many hardships due to the effects of Covid-19. It has impeded various social, cultural and sporting exchanges across the globe.

However, despite my short time in Scotland, I am incredibly encouraged by the resilience and determination the people of Scotland have demonstrated. It is apparent to me that they are all making every effort to help quickly resume normal life.

On seeing this, I strongly believe that the Scotland-Japan relations and our friendship will also thrive firmly again. I am very looking forward to collaborating with all members of the Japan Society of Scotland as well as the people of Scotland

## COMMUNICATIONS

Whilst we regularly send out emails to members with details of events of interest such as those organised by the UK Japan Society, we also use our Facebook Page to share interesting content posted by Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh and many others. We are currently in the process of updating our Society Website to make it more useful and user-friendly.

The Japan Society of Scotland  
Published by Callum Farquhar · 29 July ·

### Japan made all of the medals for the 2021 Tokyo Olympics out of discarded smartphones and laptops.



WildAware is in Tokyo Japan.  
28 July ·

This year's Olympic Medals are made from e-waste that the Japanese residents were encouraged to donate.

#wildaware #recycle #recycling #Olympics #olympics2021

The Japan Society of Scotland  
Published by Callum Farquhar · 26 May ·



Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh · 26 May ·

Did you ever wonder whose faces are printed on Japanese yen currency? You may have assumed they were monarchs or politicians, but actually the portraits are ofte... See more

The Japan Society of Scotland  
Published by Callum Farquhar · 7 November ·

### Learning Japanese Music Through Noh

Sunday 14 November  
11月14日 (日曜日)  
10.00-11.30 (UK time)  
Musical instruments and Noh  
テーマ: 能楽と囃子  
時間: 午前 10.00-11.30 (イギリ時間)  
Online event on Zoom  
Zoom による  
オンラインイベント



日本の音楽と能楽  
武田宗典他

Takeda Munenori and Co

羽衣

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

online registration: オンラインフォームにご記入ください

The Japan Society of Scotland  
Published by Callum Farquhar · 2 October ·

Details of an upcoming online talk and how to sign up for it  
<https://www.pierartscentre.com/.../illustrated-online...>



PIERARTSCENTRE.COM

Illustrated Online Talk - Surveying Meiji Japan - Henry Scharbau and the Skaill House Journals — Pier Arts Centre

## ORDER OF THE RISING SUN PRESENTATION

Professor Ian Gow, Chairman of the Japan Society of Scotland was presented with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by departing Consul-General Mr Nozomu Takaoka on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2021.

Professor Gow has devoted his life to the study of Japan, helping to raise the profile of Japanese studies and has contributed to the establishment of Japan-related courses at several universities in the UK and abroad.

Professor Gow played an instrumental role in the Centre for Japanese Studies at the University of Stirling obtaining official government recognition as the Scottish Centre for Japanese Studies. He was Scotland's first professor of Japanese studies and launched Scotland's first undergraduate and master's degree in Japanese studies and Europe's first business degrees focussing on Japan.

Professor Gow made significant contributions in teaching and research in Japanese studies at UK universities including Aston, Warwick, Sheffield and Nottingham and continues to contribute to the teaching of Japanese studies as an Honorary Professor at the University of Edinburgh.

Professor Gow served as Chairman of the Japan Society of Scotland between 1988 and 1993, and again since 2019 taking the initiative in promoting friendly relations between Japan, UK and Scotland.



The conferment ceremony was held in the grounds of the Consul-General's residence and attended by Prof Gow's family, guests from the Japan Society of Scotland and the University of Edinburgh. Guests also joined live from Japan via ZOOM including Scotland's first ever Consul General who delighted the audience with his rendition of a Burns style poem he'd made up for the special occasion.



Later in the summer, Prof Gow was awarded a Order of the Scottish Samurai Taisho level for his services to Scotland/Japan relations.

Huge Congratulations from all of us in the Japan Society of Scotland.

## EDUCATIONAL TALKS

The Japan Society of Scotland has been organising online talks for schools throughout Scotland who have decided to study Japan as part of their curriculum because of the increased interest brought about by the 2019 Rugby World Cup and the postponed Tokyo Olympics.

We delivered 30-minute presentations on Food & Drink, Transport, Temples & Shrines, and Recovery after the Tsunami to seven schools in Aberdeenshire, Clackmannanshire, East Dunbarton and Perth & Kinross. The children were very attentive and asked lots of excellent questions. Hopefully, they learnt something new and they were certainly very interested in finding out all about Japan. We sent out some foodstuffs and soft drinks for the youngsters to try and that was one of their favourite lessons.

During the lockdown in the first few months of the year we assisted youth groups across the country by running an introductory session on Japanese Culture via ZOOM, making it interactive for those at secondary school using the SLIDO tool where they could respond via their mobile phones. We arranged talks to 23 different groups and it gave their Leaders a break from having to come up with an interesting online programme for them.



Some Beaver Scouts in Iwate Prefecture with their Scottish face-coverings



## SUPPORT FOR SCOTTISH SCHOOLS

The JTH Charitable Trust was set up by previous president and longtime supporter of the Japan Society of Scotland, James Thom Howat, who had a long association with and a love of Japan and its people during his lifetime. The Trust supports many organisations including the Japan Society of Scotland. Supported by £2K income from the JTH Charitable Trust annually, The Japan Society of Scotland helps schools with the purchase of resources that will bring Japan into the curriculum or support educational visits with a Japanese theme - basically, anything that will help promote a better understanding of Japan and its culture and customs to Scottish young people. This year's funded projects are detailed below.

### **Balmedie Primary, Aberdeenshire – Resources for teaching - £287**

The school wished to purchase a number of resources so that they were better able to use Japan as a Curriculum topic. They wanted a lot of craft materials such as origami paper, calligraphy brushes and ink, as well as some books, kimonos and decorative fans and of course some Japanese Food and Drink for their Japan Day celebration at the end of their topic.



## SOME OF OUR ONLINE HIGHLIGHTS

### Japanese Tea Ceremony with Anni Whitehead Via Zoom at 7pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> May



All members will receive an email with details of how to register for this event.

If interested, please message us.



The  
Japan Society  
of  
Scotland



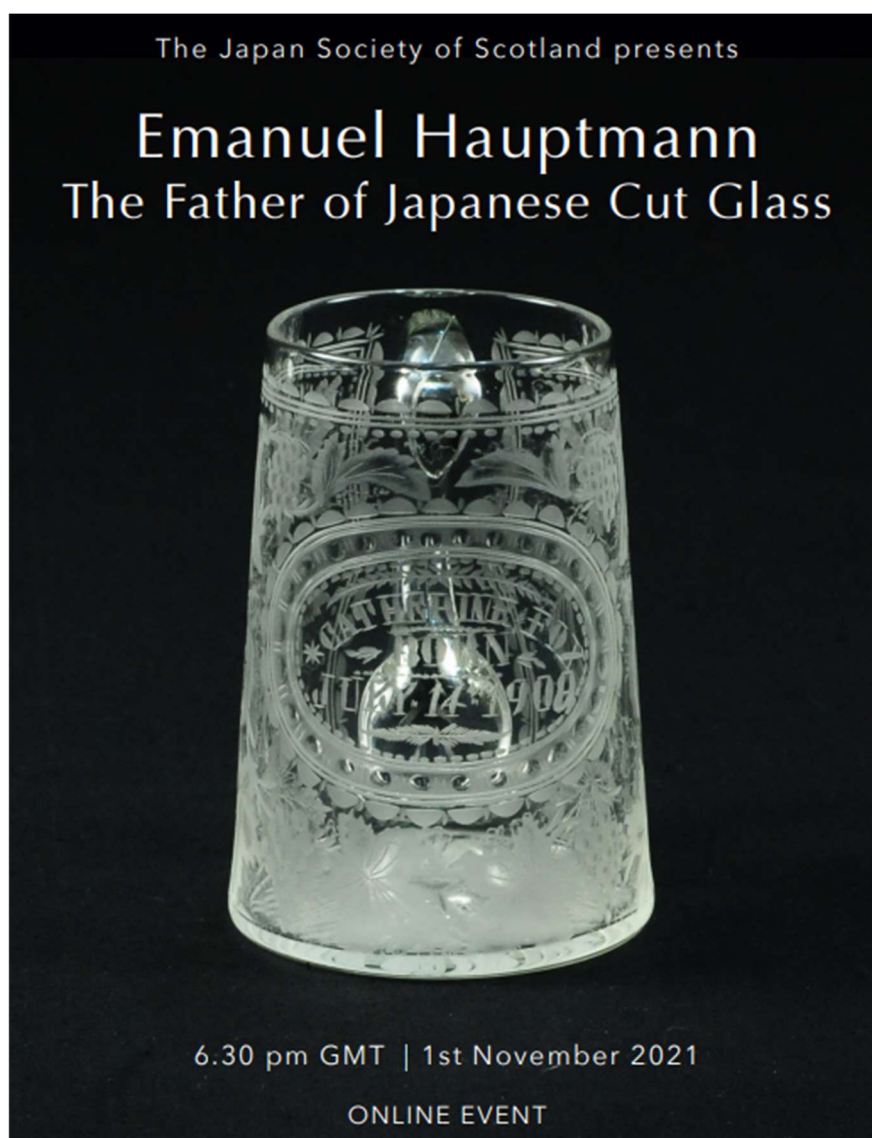
### The Japanese presence in modern Scottish literature Online Lecture by Derrick McClure 7pm on 18 Oct



Scottish literature in its best periods has always shown a receptiveness to foreign influences, and a fascination with Japanese culture is found, not surprisingly, in many other countries besides Scotland. What is noteworthy, however, is the success which some Scottish writers have had in naturalising Japanese literary influences to produce works which, while visibly reflecting their Japanese parentage, are still unmistakably Scottish. This talk will begin by showing how the radical poet Ian Hamilton Finlay drew on one particular Japanese poet, Shimpei Kusano, for inspiration; and will then focus principally on poets representing three generations and three culture areas of Scotland: George Bruce (the North-East), Alan Spence (Glasgow) and Kevin MacNeill (the Western Isles), and will examine their highly distinctive use of the haiku form. Mention will also be made of the Japanese short stories of Alan Spence and Michael Gardiner.

Register in advance for this lecture:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrD-yprDkjE9CaTA3R7KcNJLtOOsgUfB\\_j](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMrD-yprDkjE9CaTA3R7KcNJLtOOsgUfB_j)



On a spring day in 1881 a young Bohemian glass engraver stepped ashore in Japan, no doubt grateful to put his feet on land after six long weeks at sea sailing from Britain. Emanuel Hauptmann, skilled in both glass engraving and cutting, was to stay in the country little more than a year, but in that short time gave instruction which laid the foundation for today's Japanese cut-glass industry. He was one of a small team of British glassmakers who had been invited by the Meiji government of Japan to help with its modernisation programme, advising, assisting and teaching in Tokyo at Sinigawa glassworks specially created to bring modern western-style glassmaking to the nation. Today, nearly one hundred and forty years later, Emanuel Hauptmann is thought of by some as the 'father' of cut glass in Japan, even though Japanese copies of British, Irish and European glass decoration had been available since earlier in the century. The online lecture by Sally Haden was his story, and the story of the origins of Japanese cut glass and had input from Toru Horiguchi live from his glassworks in Tokyo.

## TEN YEARS AFTER GREAT EAST JAPAN EARTHQUAKE

Having been travelling to the coastal villages of Iwate for the past 30 years I have watched with great interest the reconstruction after the devastating tsunami and just how much has been achieved in the ten years since that fateful day in March 2011. As we rowed across the harbour in Yamada in the August of 2010, we were blissfully unaware of the damage that would be done less than six months later. The before and after pictures in which several of the same buildings can be seen, demonstrate scale of damage.



The pictures below of Kamaishi Harbour immediately afterwards and a little later once unsafe buildings had been removed show just how few buildings survived the after-effects of one of the strongest earthquakes to hit Japan at 9.1 on the Richter Scale. The busy fish market and nearby canning plant were some of the hardest hit. Now, there is a brand new canning plant and market taking pride of place in the town as seafood is one of their most important industries.



Lessons have been learnt and protective walls are being replaced with higher and stronger ones. Water pumps are being installed outside all public buildings so that even if the power is down, fresh, safe drinking water is available and there is a new combined public baths and garbage incinerator complex, ensuring that there is always a steady supply of piping hot water. Their new Rugby Stadium, built on the site of a Junior High School that had been destroyed in the Tsunami, proudly hosted matches in the 2019 Rugby World Cup and this provided a focus to enable Kamaishi to recover. Tourists from within Japan are returning to the area and I hope that Covid restrictions will have relaxed enough that I can visit again in 2022 and see for myself how the town and it's people have moved on. Their resilience is humbling and no matter what life throws at them, they very quickly recover. There have been major construction projects ongoing along the entire coastline throughout the past ten years and I am really looking forward to seeing the end result and catching up with old friends once again.



## PROGRAMME FOR 2022



It seems we are not yet out of the Covid crisis. This has affected us all, but one good thing that has come out of it is our development of online talks. This year we had 7 excellent zoom talks and one from our friends in the far North, the Orkney Japan Association.

We already have a number of agreed speakers for the beginning of the year although dates and times have not yet been agreed. However, we have been asked to assist with three major talks in January and February delivered by three organizations - JSOS supported by Japanese Department at Edinburgh University; The Asia-Scotland Institute; and The All-Party Committee on Japan of the Scottish Parliament.

Details of these three major lectures/seminars await some funding approvals from the Japanese Foreign Ministry. The subjects offered are:

- 1) Japan's Role as leader in the Comprehensive Trade Pact and how this can benefit Scotland.
- 2) Japan's highly supportive position at COP 26 in Scotland and the key developments in collaborative research between Japanese and Scottish organisations in this area
- 3) Japan's key role in the Security situation in the region and also the close working relationship between the Royal navy and the Japanese Maritime Defence Force contributions to the coalition of democratic Nations trying to contain Russian and especially Chinese military expansion in the region.

There is also a major conference on Thursday and Friday 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February organized by the Museum of St Andrews University and hopefully some may be online featuring Japanese art and Scottish links.

The speakers who have already agreed to provide online talks for us, probably starting in April are as follows:

1. Dr Ian Smith on two Scottish brothers and their contribution to education and banking and in the Meiji period
2. Dr Mairi Arbuckle on Japanese Students in engineering educated at Scottish institutions
3. Dr Luke Gartlan (St Andrews University) Scottish Photographers in 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan
4. Professor Marie Conte-Helm on the Japanese community in the North east of England's in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century

It should be obvious to people that we are mining a very rich seam on 19<sup>th</sup> century Japan and especially between Japan and Scotland. However, we need more on the 20<sup>th</sup> century (and 21<sup>st</sup> century) and more suggestions and offers of business talks and personal experiences in Japan by members and Japan experts. So please let us have any suggestions or offers for talks.

In the autumn, our Treasurer, Callum Farquhar, recipient of the Japanese Scout Association's Sakura Award will present a lecture celebrating the centenary of their Scouts and the more recent links between Scottish and Japanese Scouts. Hopefully in the summer of 2022 a party of Scouts from Iwate Prefecture will visit Scotland and a party from Fife will visit Iwate.





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[www.harajukukitchen.co.uk/menu](http://www.harajukukitchen.co.uk/menu)

Harajuku Kitchen fuses traditional family recipes that have been passed down for 3 generations, with innovative, AA Rosette level flair, to bring the finest Japanese cuisines to Edinburgh. We aim to provide wholesome Japanese food crafted with passion for utmost authentic and originality. We deliver the true flavours of Japan with a touch of style from Tokyo right in the heart of Edinburgh.

**10% discount on food bill on production of current  
Japan Society of Scotland Membership Card**

