

Conference "Centers and Peripheries in Heian Japan"

Barker Center, Harvard University (12 Quincy Street; Cambridge, MA), June 11-13, 2002

Students, scholars and anyone interested in Japan's Heian age are invited to attend this inter-disciplinary conference, sponsored by the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University and the Council on East Asian Studies at Yale University, which features presentations by seventeen scholars in addition to seven respondents from the United States, Japan and Europe.

Description: The focus of the conference is on the first three centuries of the Heian period (794-1086), which saw the consolidation of aristocratic authority in Kyoto, the emergence of powerful court factions and religious institutions as well as important adjustments in the Chinese-based system of rulership. It was also a period of fertile innovation and epochal achievements in literature and the arts. In our studies of these and other aspects of the period, the theme of "center and periphery" will be used as a way to find common ground for inquiries into various disciplinary fields and theoretical perspectives. "Centers and peripheries" can refer to geographical or spatial relationships, but it may also suggest various dynamics in, among and between institutions and collectives, clans and families, social classes and gender groups.

The conference, which is a collective effort to offer new approaches, bridge disciplinary divides and stimulate new research, is organized by G. Cameron Hurst III, Professor of Korean and Japanese History at the University of Pennsylvania; Edward Kamens, Professor of Japanese Literature at Yale University; Joan Piggott, Associate Professor of Japanese History at Cornell University; Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan, Professor of East Asian Art at Yale University; and Mikael Adolphson, Assistant Professor of Japanese History at Harvard University.

Registration: Pre-registration is required by May 3. Please send your name, institutional affiliation, mailing address (departmental or home), email contact, and intended dates of attendance (including intention of participation in visits to the Japanese collection on June 11, the Museum of Fine Arts on June 12, and the dinner on June 13) to Stacie Matsumoto at matsumot@fas.harvard.edu. Please specify "Heian Conference Registration" in the subject line.

Inquiries: Please direct general inquiries to Stacie Matsumoto at matsumot@fas.harvard.edu, or via mail to the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, Harvard University, 2 Divinity Avenue, Cambridge, MA 02138, USA. Questions regarding specific conference content may be directed to Professor Mikael Adolphson (now on sabbatical in Tokyo) at adolphs@fas.harvard.edu.

Mikael S. Adolphson
Assistant Professor, Japanese History
Harvard University

Stacie Matsumoto
Co-organizer and Ph.D. Candidate
Harvard University

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

8:30-9:30

Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:30-10:00 *Welcome Address*

Andrew Gordon
Professor of Japanese History, Harvard University
Director of the Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies

Mikael Adolphson
Assistant Professor of Japanese History, Harvard University

10:00-12:30

Panel One: *The Political Center and Its Peripheries*

"How Did a Regent Lead the Court: Centers and Peripheries in the Regency of Fujiwara no Tadahira"
Joan Piggott, Cornell University

"The World of the Heian Noble"
G. Cameron Hurst III, University of Pennsylvania

"Women and Men in Heian Japan"
Fukuto Sanae, Saitama Gakuen Daigaku

"Futile Warlords: Provincial Rebellion in the mid-Heian Age"
Karl Friday, University of Georgia

Respondents:

Martin Colclutt, Princeton University
Janet Goodwin, Aizu University (Emerita), Japan

Panel Chair:

Mikael Adolphson, Harvard University

12:30-2:00 *Lunch*

2:00-4:00

Panel Two: *Center and Periphery in Heian Literature*

"The Way of the Literati: Chinese Learning and Poetry in mid-Heian Japan"
Ivo Smits, Leiden University

"Terrains of Text in mid-Heian Court Culture"
Edward Kamens, Yale University

"The Exilic Condition in Heian Japan"
Richard Okada, Princeton University

Respondent:

Esperanza Ramirez-Christensen, University of Michigan

Panel Chair:

Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan, Yale University

4:00-4:30 *Coffee Break*

4:45-6:00

Viewing of Harvard Law School's Japanese Collection

Wednesday, June 12, 2002

8:30-9:30

Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:30-11:30

Panel Three: Religious Centers and Peripheries

"Buddhism and the State in the Early Heian Age: Diversity and Integration"

Mikael Adolphson, Harvard University

"The Heart Sutra and the Power of Healing in Heian Japan"

Ryūichi Abe, Columbia University

"Pilgrimage and Power in Heian Japan"

David Moerman, Barnard College

Respondent:

Jacqueline Stone, Princeton University

Panel Chair:

Joan Piggott, Cornell University

11:30-1:00 Lunch

1:00-3:00

Panel Four: Artistic and Cultural Paradigms in the Heian Age

"The Buddhist Transformation of Japan in the Ninth Century: The Case of Eleven-headed Kannon"

Samuel Morse, Amherst College

"The Emergence of Raigo-zu in Heian Japan"

Yoshimura Toshiko, Kanda University of International Studies

"Chinese Traders, Kyoto Aristocrats, and the Transmarine Factor in the Formation of Medieval Japanese Culture"

Mimi Hall Yiengpruksawan, Yale University

Respondent:

Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis, Boston University

Panel Chair:

Edward Kamens, Yale University

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

4:30-6:30

Viewing of Heian-Related Objects at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts (The Boston Museum of Fine Arts will be open until 9:45pm)

Thursday, June 13, 2002

8:30-9:30

Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:30-12:00

Panel Five: Foreign and Domestic Peripheries in the Heian Age

"Jōjin's Travels from Centers to Centers with Some Peripheries in Between"

Robert Borgen, University of California at Davis

"Cross-Border Traffic on the Kyushu Coast, 794-1086"

Bruce Batten, Obirin University

"Climate, Farming, and Famine in Early Japan"

Wayne Farris, University of Tennessee

"Life of Commoners in the Provinces: The Owari *gebumi* of 988"

Charlotte von Vershuer, École Pratique des Hautes Études, IVe Section, Sorbonne

Respondents:

Peter Bol, Harvard University

Dr. Detlev Taranczewski, Bonn University, Germany

Panel Chair:

G. Cameron Hurst III, University of Pennsylvania

12:00-1:30 Lunch

1:30-3:00 Concluding Discussion

Opening Remarks by Professor Hotate Michihisa, Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo

3:00-3:30 Coffee Break

7:00-10:00

Dinner at the Harvard Faculty Club (RSVP required)

Note: The Arthur M. Sackler Museum will present a special exhibit of selected items from its Japanese collections for the duration of the conference. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 10am -5pm and Sunday from 1-5pm.