

WORLD

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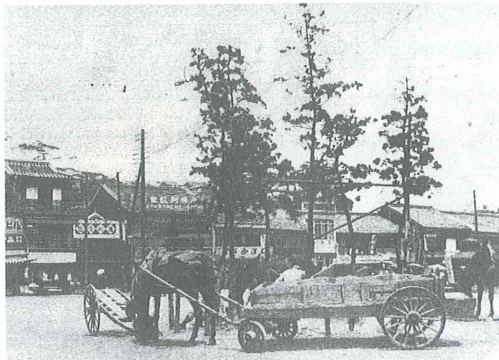


Shijo Bridge and surroundings (circa 1920)



Historical Kyoto

The transition from ancient capital to 20th century urban center



Kitano Tenmangu Shrine grounds (circa 1920)

In 1869, just five years after the Hamaguri Gomon War in which artillery guns caused numerous large-scale fires in Kyoto, the news that the city had ceased to be the nation's capital shocked the nation. Almost overnight, Tokyo became Japan's new capital. Within a very short time, the nobility, important government officials and powerful merchants aligned with the Imperial family packed up and moved to Tokyo. Many areas, full of abandoned family residences, took on a deserted feeling. In shock, the city was permeated by an atmosphere of empty quiet and confusion.

Faced with the challenge of major historical change, Kyoto citizens made far reaching, progressive plans for a new

future. With industrial aid from the new central government, the Kyoto prefectural and city governments energetically established a broad, local manufacturing and industrial infrastructure. At the same time, the layout of the city, which had hardly changed since the middle ages, was extensively altered. Further, remarkable and revolutionary educational reforms were undertaken, resulting in one of the nation's first district school systems, and major advances in secondary and female education. Kyoto was also successful in establishing the only other imperial university (present-day Kyoto University) outside of Tokyo.

In 1894, Kyoto celebrated its 1100th anniversary with the 4th World Industrial Exposition and announced to the world at large that the city was much more than just the former capital of Japan. In an astonishingly short time, the city had transformed itself from being a feudal city to a pioneering center for industrial modernization and educational reform.

Kyoto was the first Japanese city to have a power station and street lights, made possible by the genius of the Biwako Canal hydroelectric project. The city was also the first to complete an extensive local-area railroad network, a comprehensive streetcar system, and make the transition a feudal center to a functional, modern city. The present-day layout of Kyoto's city center, characterized by

medium height buildings adjacent to major roads (the basis of the street car system that was in use until the late 1960s) dates from this remarkable period of development and modernization.

Over the course of the latter part of the Meiji period (1868~1912) and early Taisho period (1912~1926), an intense concentration of banks and insurance companies rose up along on Sanjo-dori, which served as the Wall Street of Kyoto until the 1950s. All of these new companies were housed in modern, four or five story Western-style brick and stone buildings. Because these buildings were built to last for hundreds of years, Sanjo-dori was never included in street expansion projects. Today, the surrounding area is characterized by a mixture of modern buildings and traditional Japanese wooden structures called *machiya*.

Teramachi-dori, which runs south of the Sanjo at the eastern edge of the above mentioned area, had for centuries been a temple street, lined with large temple compounds. In 1872, the city government claimed much of this space for a new leisure area development centered along a new 550-meter-long street, running parallel to Teramachi, which had formerly been a park in the precincts of Seigan-ji Temple. Named Shinkyogoku, and



St. Agnes Episcopal Church (circa 1930)

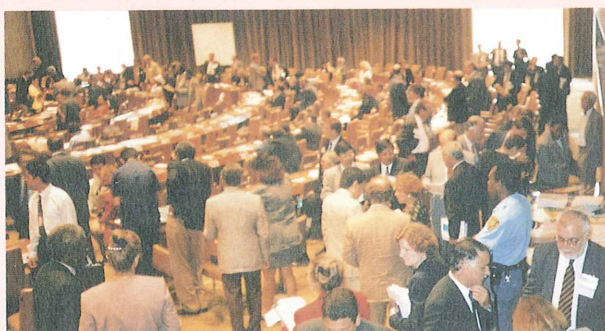
bordered on both sides with modern, exciting shops, it quickly became the busiest shopping center in the city. Today, nearly 100 years later, Shinkyogoku remains one of the busiest commercial streets in the city.

Kyoto's remarkable, revolutionary development reforms during the Meiji era, lead the entire nation into a bold new era. Celebrating its 1200th anniversary this year, the city continues to change with the times, while at the same time maintaining its ancient heritage and culture.

League of Historical Cities' Activities

Mayor of Kyoto and Acting Chairman of the League of Historical Cities, Mr. Tanabe Tomoyuki, received an invitation for 'Meeting of the International Associations of Towns and Local Authorities' on August. 17th, and for the 'International colloquium of Mayor's on Social Development' on August 18th and 19th, from the Mayor of Lisbon and Chairman of Untied Towns Organization, Mr. Jorge Sampaio. Mr. Tanabe dispatched two representatives from the City of Kyoto to the meetings.

The representatives attended the meetings and distributed brochures that featured a summary of the League, as well as the first issue of the League of World Historical Cities Newsletter, inform the wider public about the League and its activities. On the whole, the public responded positively and with enthusiasm.



Meeting Information Summary

1. Meeting of the International Associations of Towns and Local Authorities

Date: Aug. 17, 1994

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, New York City

Sponsors: United Towns Organization, International Union of Local Authorities, Metropolis, Summit Conference of Major Cities of the World

Participants: 50 people from associations of towns and local authorities

Subject: Roles that self-governing bodies of the world can take for the World Summit on Social Development to be held in April, 1995 in Copenhagen, and the Habitat II Conference to be held in June, 1996, in Istanbul.

2. International Colloquium of Mayor's on Social Development

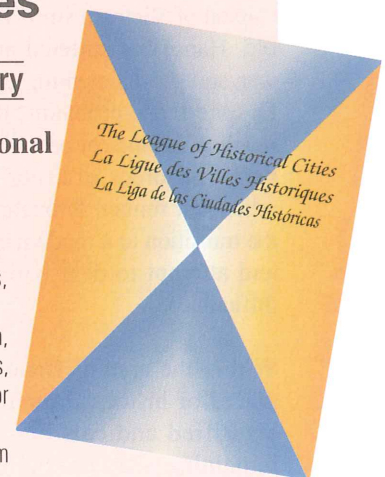
Date: Aug. 18 and 19, 1994

Venue: United Nations Headquarters, New York City

Sponsor: United Nations Development Program

Participants: 240 people from 150 cities of the world and NGOs, etc.

Events: Lectures, speeches by professionals and panel discussion on the following issues: Enhancement of Social Integration, Alleviation of Poverty, Expansion of Productive Employment, Sustainable Human Settlement in an Urban World.



Hanoi

An Asian historical city struggling to preserve its past

Following is the first part in a series of feature articles on preservation and development problems faced by world historical cities and how these cities are dealing with these problems, based on speeches given at the 4th World Conference of Historical Cities.



Capital of Vietnam since 1010 and nearly one thousand years old, Hanoi has suffered and survived protracted periods of war and the unrelenting considerable damage of time itself. Despite these problems, the city has managed to maintain much of its ancient past in the Old Quarter, in particular, and in the hundreds of historical, cultural, social and religious relics that remain throughout the city. However, in making the transition to a modern city, Hanoi has also had to confront and attempt to deal with numerous economic and social difficulties.

Within the area of Hanoi there are presently about 1300 places of historical interest, among these 290 have been classified and certified for special preservation. The remaining sites are being cataloged and considered for preservation. To preserve and restore antique constructions and historical heritage sites, the State of Vietnam has created a separate file for each site and carried out a process of site by site classification for the purpose of better control. The State has also invested extensively in the repair, restoration, improvement and expansion of important historical sites. An organized system of agencies, at national and regional levels, is responsible for the study and preservation of historical vestiges, research investment, and data collection. Further, national and international seminars continue to be organized to encourage people to realize the immense importance of historical preservation.

Many international organizations, such as UNESCO, have granted financial aid for historical preservation activities. In

addition to direct investment, the State publishes guide-books that encourage and promote investment and contributions from local and international organizations, as well as tourists. However, at present, such investment and income has been insufficient to insure the required maintenance and preservation of the city's many historical vestiges, and many continue to decay.

Restoration, total or partial, is all the more difficult due to the fact that local and economically feasible technological methods are considered to be outdated and substandard for the task at hand. Moreover, the study of and data

for such historical sites is inadequate to restore them to their original state. Numerous difficulties have also arisen in trying to obtain and produce the materials necessary for certain types of restoration.



Because of the rapid economic expansion and development taking place in Vietnam at present, the traditional surroundings of important historical sites, particularly those within the precincts of the city, are decreasing in size, giving way to more and more modern and unattractive structures. To clear certain areas of such structure and enforce adequate building guidelines, so as to maintain a traditional, preserved historical atmosphere, is one of the major challenges facing city planners at present. Hanoi's Old Quarter is an excellent example of the economic and social difficulties the city faces.

Hanoi's Old Quarter dates back to the very beginnings of the city, and has always functioned as the area's primary

commercial quarter. Most of the buildings in the quarter are at least two centuries old and clearly manifests the beautiful and remarkable characteristics of Vietnamese and East Asian urbanism and architecture. For this reason, it has become a great attraction to foreign tourists and researchers.

Approximately 80 hectares in size, the Old Quarter is today the principal trading center for the city. Nevertheless, the area is urgently in need of attention and has continued to be a key, albeit problematic, element in the city's master urban plan. The greater part of the ancient houses in the area, mostly brick and wooden structures, are now running the serious risk of collapse.

Moreover, infrastructure systems in the quarter are drastically outdated, abused and inadequate, especially the water supply, drainage, and sewer systems. Repair or reconstruction of these systems is very difficult and ultimately threatens the safety of the buildings in the area. However, the greatest danger to the quarter is the changing lifestyles of the inhabitants, who want larger living spaces and improved, modern facilities. Such change, because it is privately motivated and undertaken, occurs quickly and without a permit in most cases or outside of the stipulations of the permit.

In recent years, as national economic growth increases and living standards rise, the development of the quarter, particularly that of trade and services centers has been unable to keep up with demand. This has resulted in a dangerously high population (with densities of up to 4 times that of the surrounding city areas) concentration, partially because residents are not willing to move from the quarter, which guarantees important economic benefits. Since the population and income in the quarter is high, the desire for higher, bigger residential buildings is high and rising. All these factors together suggest that the situation will, if left unchecked, get completely out of control and, in the end, do permanent damage to the quarter. To date, many national seminars and one international conference have been held in Hanoi, under the sponsorship of international organizations, to come up with measures to preserve the city's traditional urban and architectural heritage. However, progress continues to be slow when contrasted with the current economic and social change taking place in the city at present.



The League of Historical Cities List

- Accra (Republic of Ghana)
- Alexandria (Arab Republic of Egypt)
- Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
- Athens (Hellenic Republic)
- Barcelona (Spain)
- Bordeaux (French Republic)
- Boston (United States of America)
- Bratislava (Slovak Republic)
- Brussels (Kingdom of Belgium)
- Budapest (Republic of Hungary)
- Chiang Mai (Kingdom of Thailand)
- Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany)
- Cracow (Republic of Poland)
- Cuzco (Republic of Peru)
- Dublin (Ireland)
- Edinburgh (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
- Fez (Kingdom of Morocco)
- Florence (Republic of Italy)
- Guadalajara (United Mexican States)
- Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)
- Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)
- Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)
- Jerusalem (State of Israel)
- Kaesong (Democratic People's Republic of Korea)
- Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal)
- Kiev (Ukraine)
- Kyongju (Republic of Korea)
- Kyoto (Japan)
- Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan)
- Lisbon (Portuguese Republic)
- Melbourne (Australia)
- Mexico City (United Mexican States)
- Montreal (Canada)
- Nanjing (People's Republic of China)
- Paris (French Republic)
- Prague (Czech Republic)
- Quebec (Canada)
- Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil)
- Rome (Republic of Italy)
- Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan)
- Tunis (Republic of Tunisia)
- Ulan Bator (Mongolia)
- Varanasi (India)
- Vienna (Republic of Austria)
- Xian (People's Republic of China)
- Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia)
- Zagreb (Republic of Croatia)
- Zurich (Swiss Confederation)

League Member Cities Introduction

Athens

(Hellenic Republic)

Mayor: Leonidas Kouris
Population: 1,000,000
Area: 50 km²

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The area of the urban district of Athens covers an area of 427 square kilometers, with the central city area covering 50 square kilometers. The latter area has a population of about 1 million people.

Athens is the political, economic and cultural center of Greece. It contains important archaeological sites reflecting the rich cultural heritage of the city. The city is the destination for approximately 4,000,000 tourists annually. Hosting almost all of the country's governmental activities, it is home to 7 major universities (with a total of 56,000 students), 26 museums, 2 opera houses, 23 theaters, and 51 movie theaters.

The gross per capita income for the urban district of Athens exceeds the respective national figure by 22%, whereas the unemployment rate is two units lower than the national average.

Currently, major infrastructure works are in progress including improvement of road networks, the expansion of the existing subway system, the construction of a tramway system for the city's historical center, and an overall technological upgrade. In addition, a new airport is under construction, which will be complemented by an integrated road network that will divert traffic away from the city center.

It is anticipated that the completion of the aforementioned projects will significantly improve the living and working conditions in Athens and result in the ecological reconstruction of the Athenian landscape and further modernization of the city's functional activities.

Accra

(Republic of Ghana)

Mayor: Nat Nunoo-Amarteifo
Population: 2,000,000
Area: 225 km²

Contact Person: Addo
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Presently the capital of the Republic of Ghana, Accra was from 1876 until 1957 the capital of the Gold Coast, a British colony. The city has, since its founding, served as a center of European culture in western Africa, as well as playing a major role in African ethnic activities since the late 19th century. Accra became the capital of Ghana in 1957, when the country won its independence from Britain.

A venue for a number of pan- African international conferences, Accra continues to be an important center for African politics and culture. With the founding of a modern port in 1961, the city has become an international city, known throughout Africa for its rapid industrial and commercial development.

Facing on to the Gulf of Guinea, with a comparatively cool, dry climate, Accra is overflowing with areas of greenery and surrounded in natural beauty. The city has always been prosperous, and home to the nations political institutions, major businesses, and shopping malls bustling with people.

The State House, standing in front of Independence Square, is a symbol of pride for the people of Ghana, which pioneered and continues to have a strong influence on the black African independence movement.

Bordeaux

(French Republic)

Mayor: Jacques Chaban-delmas
Population: 213,000
Area: 49 km²

Contact Person: Dmitri Lavroff
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The international reputation of Bordeaux, originally a Roman province, then a region long coveted by England, and later a major French port, has always been part of its historical identity.

Bordeaux today, at the centre of an urban district with a population of 630,000, has continued to rely on the vestiges of its prestigious past as a source from which to draw the determination necessary to meet the challenges of the future.

Open to the outside world through its seaboard and port, Bordeaux holds a strategic position at the crossroads of the lines running from North to South and from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean.

As a city of commerce and a worldwide center in the wine trade, alone representing a turnover of 14 billion Francs, Bordeaux is also home to a range of thriving economic activities, that combining tradition with modernity. For example, Bordeaux is one of the leading European centres for employment in the aerospace field, and a leader for the production of military and business aircraft.

Thanks to its industrial and scientific potential, to its universities, and to its remarkably rich architectural and cultural heritage, Bordeaux ranks as a European metropolis for business and tourism, playing host to many major international, trade and public exhibitions.

Cuzco

(Republic of Peru)

Mayor: Dr. Daniel Estrada Perez
Population: 300,000
Area: 50 km²

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Cuzco means "vital center of the world" in the ancient Quechua language (still spoken). Situated in a mountain valley at 3,400 meters above sea level, it is considered the oldest living city of the Americas, with the first urban structures were erected there some 3,000 years ago. Between the 11th and the 16th century Cuzco was the capital city for the Inka civilization, a "commonwealth" of Andean nations that ruled a territory equivalent to almost five modern-day South American countries. The city was originally laid out in an astoundingly organized fashion complete with canals, terraces, and over 20,000 km of well maintained roads.

As builders, the Inkas used techniques (still unknown) which allowed them to erect temples with stone blocks weighing over 100 tons. Among the precious gifts the Inkas left to mankind are potatoes and corn, which they discovered and cultivated. In terms of social organization they were able to govern a 15,000,000 people empire with economic surplus and without using any form of slavery.

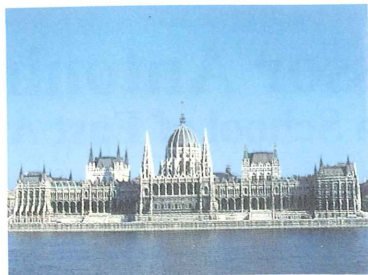
Cuzco is today a modern but ancient city that has maintained monuments of its glorious past as proof of its greatness. The public services provided to the people of Cuzco are among the best in South America. Modern electric illumination is available in 98% of the city; and well-organized sanitation services ensure that all waste is disposed of in sanitary pits. Currently, the city is working on a 80-year water supply plan. Cuzco is an ancient city built for eternity.

Budapest

(Republic of Hungary)

Mayor: Gábor Demszky
Population: 2,016,774
Area: 525.1 km²

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Budapest is one of Europe's oldest settlements, with archeological finds dating to the prehistoric era. Originally, the Celts established a flourishing town here, which later became the Roman Empire border town of Aquincum. Recognizing its favorable geographical location on the Danube River, the founders of the Hungarian Empire established the town of Obuda here in the 9th century.

Later, the independent town of Buda was founded on the hilly right bank of the Danube next to Obuda. Around the same time, the town of Pest was established on the plain directly across the river from Buda.

In 1873, following the prosperous and exceptionally rapid economic developments of the 19th century, the three towns amalgamated and formed the city of Budapest (the name Pest-Buda was also in use at this time). Since that time, the city has been the capital of Hungary. The present-day expanded city of Budapest took form in the 1950s, when neighboring settlements were incorporated into the city.

The historic core of the city has been faithfully preserved and is characterized by the numerous and fine edifices and urban structures of the three original towns. Budapest's unique charm derives from the city's ideal natural location and rich architectural heritage. The city's Castle District, set on the gentle slopes of the Buda hills and long the seat of Hungarian kings, is one of Europe's best preserved royal seats. Opposite the Castle District, across the river, lies a long area of elegant and well-proportioned buildings, many of which are reflected in the smooth surface of the Danube. A row of stunningly beautiful bridges link one side of the city with the other. Seen from the serene surroundings of Margret Island, the city's finest park, the hills and river vistas of Budapest are an impressive sight.

Chiang Mai

(Kingdom of Thailand)

Mayor: Vorakorn Tantranont
Population: 165,218
Area: 40 km²

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Chiang Mai in northern Thailand, located 710 kilometers from Bangkok, is the second largest metropolitan city in the country. The hospitality of Chiang Mai is the epitome of dignified culture. The people of the area are intrinsically gentle and proud of their heritage. The deep rooted culture of Chiang Mai stems from the fact that the city was for most of its early period the capital of the independent northern of Lanna Thai, which dates back to the same period as Thailand's first capital Sukhothai (13th century). Chiang Mai's distinctive arts, crafts, music, architecture and fascinating traditions have been passed on down through the centuries.

To appreciate the Lanna Thai arts and architecture, a visit to one of Chiang Mai's many old monasteries is highly recommended. The temples, most of them many centuries old, possess graceful lines that speak of a natural sense of harmony and proportion, characteristic of Thailand's northern architecture. A good example of this are the two, or three-tiered temple roofs that sweep down in flowing lines, with magnificent high-relief carvings adorning the portals, lintels and other structural elements.

Bratislava

(Slovak Republic)

Mayor: Peter Kresánek
Population: 448,785
Area: 367.6 km²

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With its approximately 450,000 inhabitants, Bratislava is both the capital and the largest city in the Slovak Republic. Its origins date back to prehistoric times, when the territory around the town's present site was occupied by numerous ethnic groups. Because of its strategic location on the Danube River, in a region bordering two lowland areas, a Roman fortress was located here between 100 and 400 AD. From the first half of the 13th century, Bratislava was a typical mediaeval town of crafts people and merchants, centered beneath a fortified castle. At this time it enjoyed all the privileges of a free kingdom town. Later, it was one of the most important towns in the Austro-Hungarian multinational empire. For almost 250 years, between 1536 and 1784, Bratislava was the capital of this empire and its coronation town. After 1918, as the capital of Slovakia, Bratislava played a significant role in forming the Slovak nation and a separate identity for Slovakia's intellectual classes.

Today, Bratislava is a modern city with an active social scene. It is the seat of key central institutions, including the nation's parliament and government, as well as the center for culture, trade, services and education. The 295,000 people employed in the city are responsible for producing nearly 14% of the nation's gross national product.

Overseen by a 12th century castle, the city and its surroundings are impressive. The city's historical town hall — Primate's House — was where the so-called Bratislava Peace Treaty was signed, in 1805, between Napoleon and Franz I, emperor of Austria. In order to preserve the historical splendor for which Bratislava is renowned, the core of the city is now undergoing massive restoration.

Boston

(United States of America)

Mayor: Thomas Menino
Population: 574,283
Area: 125 km²

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Founded in 1630, where the Charles river flows into the Atlantic Ocean, by Puritans from Great Britain, Boston is one of America's best preserved historical cities. The state capital of Massachusetts since America gained independence, the city was for the longest time the most prosperous port town in America. The Boston Tea Party, in 1773, triggered the start of the American War of Independence.

The Boston area is home to over 60 universities and other post-secondary institutions, including Harvard, America's oldest and most prestigious university.

Due to its unusually high concentration of excellent educational institutions, the city has long been a major American center for an impressive range of electronics, space and medical related industries

An important tourist attraction, the city is home to The Freedom Trail (a famous War of Independence site), in the old quarter, and numerous historical establishments from America's Colonial period, including the old and well-preserved residential area of Beacon Hill.

Interview with Professor Antonino Forte Founder and Head of the Italian School of East Asian Studies



Professor Antonino Forte is a Professor of East Asian Religions and Philosophies at the Istituto Universitario Orientale, Naples. He has published extensively and widely on a variety of subjects related to East Asian (mainly Chinese) history and religion. In 1987, he established the Italian School of East Asian Studies, Kyoto. He has been the director of the school since that time. Since 1992, he has also served as the director of the Italian Cultural Institute, of which the school is part.

WHC: What is the purpose of the Italian School of East Asian Studies, of which you are the founder and current director?

AF: The School functions as a research institute. We have a comprehensive and specialized library on East Asia, covering various aspects related to China, Korea and Japan, consisting of a growing collection of Western language books and periodicals about East Asia. The library also has a wide range of related reference works in Japanese and Chinese. The School is unique, offering scholars and researchers interested in East Asian studies a base for their studies. People don't come to Kyoto to study only Japan. They come to study all of East Asia.

WHC: Why was the School set up in Kyoto?

AF: Kyoto has always been an important center for East Asian studies. Very few people realize that Kyoto has, for example, one of the world's richest libraries for Chinese studies. Works easily available here are difficult to consult in China. That is why so many scholars from America and Europe and other parts of the world come to Kyoto to study China.

Foreigners who come here to study however, face two major problems: they require access to foreign periodicals and books, and they need a place they can carry out their studies. We provide for both needs. Further, we organize seminars on China, Korea and Japan and introduce researchers to other sources and contacts in Japan. One of the school's most important and on going activities is our in-house publications — essays, occasional papers, and an epigraphical series. For instance, we published a research paper on important ancient Japanese manuscripts, discovered in Nagoya four years ago, which include to a number of Chinese works believed to have been lost forever.

WHC: How would you characterize relations between Italy and Japan?

AF: I feel there is a lot of mutual sympathy between Japan and Italy. Both countries are about the same size and share

geographical similarities. Both are given to sentimentality and have a high appreciation of culture, music and art in particular. However, there are also many differences and prejudices on both sides. One important function of the Italian School of East Asian Studies is to provide a basis for both cultures to understand each other better, and, in this way, overcome prejudices. The first European who spoke about Japan was the Venetian Marco Polo. He did not come here, but during his long stay in China he learned about Japan. His first misunderstanding was that there was a lot of gold in Japan. We know now that this wasn't true, however we don't know why he thought it was. Deep down we are all the same. The differences are cultural. As such, cultural differences must be explained and studied, so that they are understood and serve to broaden limited and harmful views.

WHC: How would you characterize Nara-period (8th century) Japan in comparison to the other Japan eras up until the Meiji restoration (1868)?

AF: Up to the Meiji era, Japan had been isolated from the rest of the world for a very long time. It was at its most international point, in many senses, during the 8th century. For example, at that time Chinese and Korean persons could hold important positions in the government and top religious institutions. This has never been possible since. The model the Japanese chose at that time was Chinese.

In terms of internationalization, there is huge gap between 7th-8th century and 20th century China. This is also true of Japan. To be properly understood, Japan must be viewed in the larger historical context of East Asia. You cannot separate what happened during some vital periods on the continent from what happened in Japan. What happened on the mainland was often reflected here. The domination of Neo-Confucianism in China, which ultimately lead to nationalism and isolationism, occurred in Korea and Japan as well.

WHC: How do you feel about living in Kyoto?

AF: It is the place I have lived longest outside of my own country. Kyoto is full of history, I mean not only Japanese history and culture but also of East Asia. Besides, it is a place with an extremely high concentration of universities, research centres and international cultural institutions. I feel that Kyoto is, if we take into due consideration also the heritage of the past, the most important surviving East Asian cultural capital, much more than Peking or Tokyo whose history as capitals is more recent, much more than Xi'an (ancient Chang'an) or Luoyang which ceased to be outstanding centres of cultural creativity many centuries ago. I love this city for what it represents and for its potentialities. This is also the reason why I am extremely worried about its ongoing urbanistic transformation.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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