

WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

HISTORICAL CITIES

NO.5: OCT. 1995

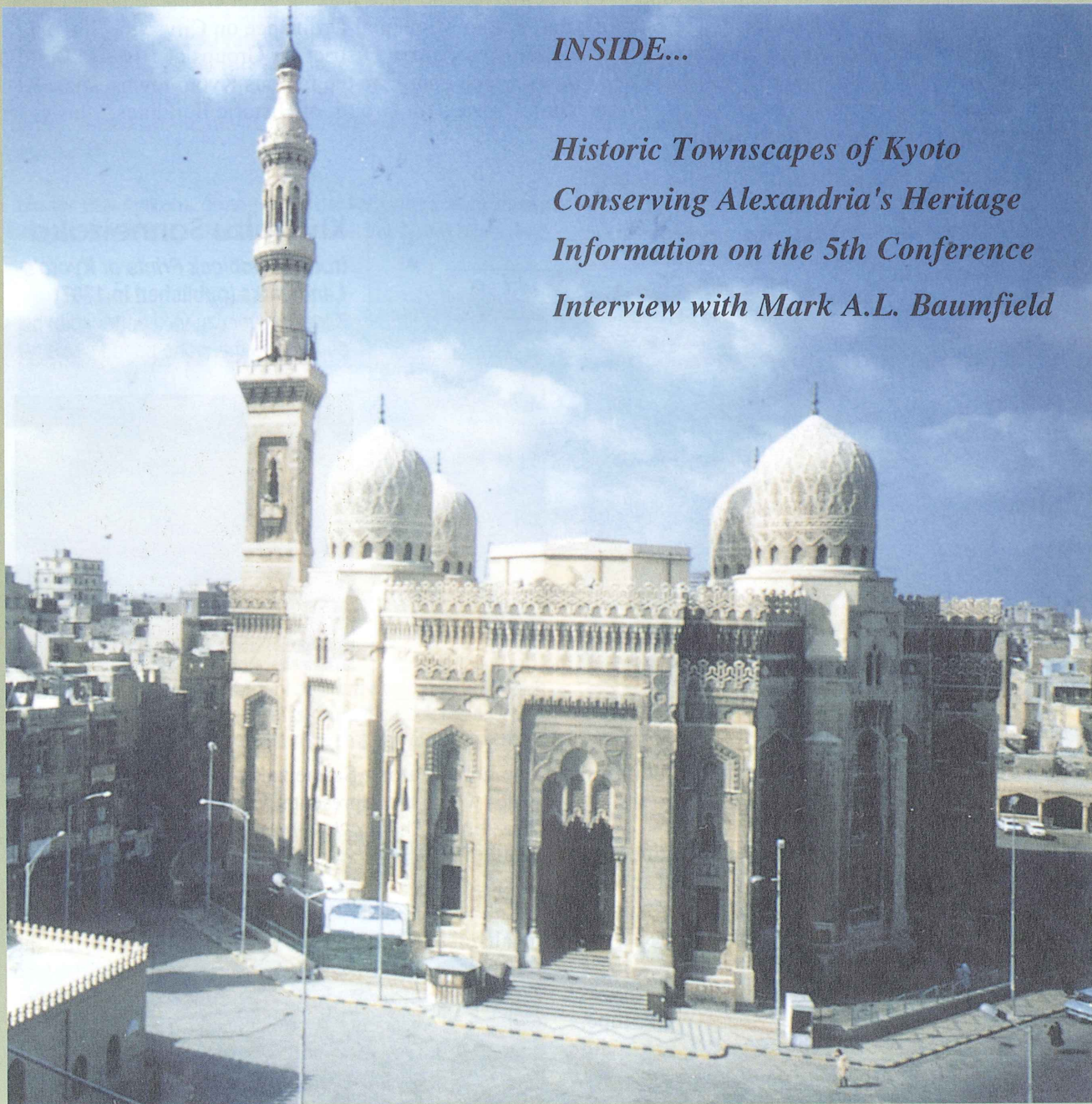
INSIDE...

Historic Townscapes of Kyoto

Conserving Alexandria's Heritage

Information on the 5th Conference

Interview with Mark A.L. Baumfield

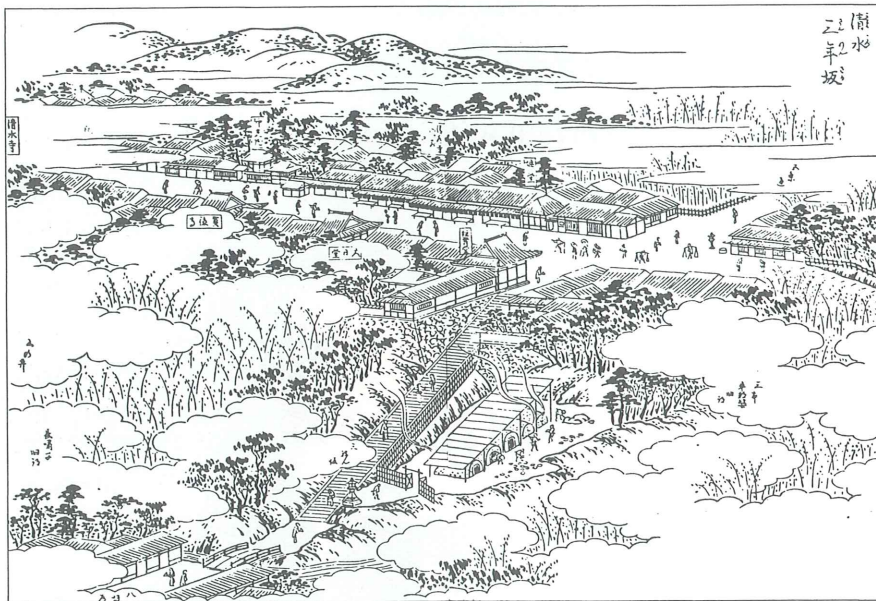


Historic Townscapes of Kyoto: A Look at Sanneizaka Area

Here and there in Kyoto, we can see rows of traditional two-story buildings with tiled gabled roofs and fine, wooden latticework in front. Most of them are *Kyo-machiya*, or traditional townhouse-type buildings which originated around the 18th century, in the middle of the Edo Period.

Nowadays, however, they are gradually disappearing due to rapid modernization, urbanization and changing lifestyles.

To provide legal, financial and technical support to the citizens who were making great efforts to protect their historical areas, the city council decided to establish the "Kyoto Municipal Ordinance on Cityscape" in 1972. They then established the "Kyoto Municipal Ordinance for Preservation District for Groups of Historic Buildings" to preserve the traditional rows of shops and houses which comprise the famous Kyoto townscapes. Although four areas are currently designated as "Preservation Districts for Groups of Historic Buildings," this year another area will be given that designation.



Kiyomizu Sanneizaka
from *Woodblock Prints of Kyoto's Landmarks* (published in 1787)
Kilns of Kiyomizu-yaki pottery can be seen along the stone-paved slope.



Modern-day Sanneizaka

In this article we will introduce one of these four preservation districts, Sanneizaka Area.

Sanneizaka area is the first special preservation area for traditional buildings. Named after one of the old cobbled streets leading up the hill to Kiyomizudera Temple, Sanneizaka is a town that grew up outside the gates of a temple, or *monzenmachi*. In this area, there are many old temples and winding streets such as Yasaka Pagoda, Kodaiji Temple, Sanneizaka Slope, Ninenzaka Slope and other narrow streets paved with stone which serve as a link for these temples. These ancient streets are lined with wooden houses with two-story mezzanines, Japanese tea shops and souvenir shops which sell bamboo crafts, Kiyomizu pottery, clay dolls, etc. They add a calm and quiet atmosphere to these surroundings.

The houses along Sanneizaka have characteristic facades which are representative of the era in which they were built. The *mushiko-mado* townhouse which has small, narrow windows in the clay wall on the front of the mezzanine, is the oldest example of the traditional townhouse of Kyoto, or *Kyo-Machiya*. Most of the *Kyo-machiya* which we can now see were built during the first half of the 19th century, around the end of the Edo era. The high, two-story townhouses with *zashiki*, which is used for entertaining guests, on the second floor appeared in the latter half of the 19th century.

In addition to these types of townhouses, there are some other types of buildings in this area, such as the transformed townhouse whose design motif partly came from *sukiya* or a quaint artistic cottage; the Japanese mansions with the branch temple style of architecture typi-

fied by a high gate and clay wall, etc. Walking along the street we can see a historical panorama of various types of buildings carefully preserved throughout their long history.

To conserve this historical area, Kyoto City Government began to talk with local residents in 1971 and underwent thorough investigations to create a conservation plan. In 1972, after some earnest discussion, the local residents and city government reached an agreement to designate this area (5.3 hectares, 240 houses) as the "Special Preservation Area for Traditional Buildings." Then in 1976, this area was designated again as the "Preservation Area for Groups of Historic Buildings," based on the new Cultural Properties Protection Act of 1976.

Under this system, changes on the buildings' exteriors, alterations of land character and cutting down trees and

bamboos are controlled strictly to conserve the external appearance and atmosphere of the neighborhood. However, owners are free to make any changes in the buildings' interiors. If an owner wants to repair, renovate or rebuild his or her house, the city government can help by providing design manuals of traditional buildings in the area and some technical advice.

After discussions between the owners, the architect, the carpenter and city government officials, all parties concerned can reach the best solution to harmonize the house with its historical surroundings. When these negotiations result in a feasible plan, the city government will offer a subsidy of four-fifths of the expense if the home needs to be repaired and two-thirds of the expense if the home needs to be renovated or rebuilt. In the past 21 years, more than 260 conservation works were carried out in Sannenzaka Area, and as a result, the appearance of this area has become more attractive.



Mushiko-mado Townhouse

The latticed windows on this townhouse are called *mushiko* (which means insect cages in Japanese) because they look like an insect cage. This townhouse can be seen in the paintings of folding screens of 15th-16th centuries.



Two-story Townhouse

This style began to be adopted in town houses mainly around the 19th century. It is featured by a high second story.



Transformed Townhouse

This style is seen in townhouses built in the early 20th century which is an ordinary townhouse with atmosphere of tea ceremony houses and representing refined beauty of Kyoto.



Sukiya

This is a special architectural style designed after tea ceremony houses.

The following is part of an ongoing series of feature articles on preservation and developing problems faced by world historical cities and how these problems are being resolved.

Conserving Alexandria's Heritage



Fort Kait Bay

The City of Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great in 332 B.C. The Ptolemies have established the City of Alexandria to be a unique commercial and cultural cosmopolitan. The famous Alexandria Library was established as a unique in the Ancient World as a Seat of Knowledge and Learning. Equally renowned was the Pharos Lighthouse, one of the Seven Wonders of the ancient world.

The Christian and Islamic eras have equally left their monuments and edifices in the city. Until today the Church of Alexandria with its Pope is recognized to be the oldest in the Christian world. Since Napoleon's French expedition to Egypt in 1798, Alexandria has expanded to include industrious cosmopolitan communities and has also become a major industrial, commercial, tourism and cultural center of Egypt.

Egyptian Archaeological Organization

The historical buildings and sites in Alexandria are protected and managed by the Egyptian Archaeological Organization (EAO). Under the recently enacted Antiquities Law, EAO has the powers and resources to protect archaeological buildings, monuments and findings as well as to undertake all activities for maintenance, conservation, management and preservation. No building permit is issued in the city of Alexandria without the approval and sanctioning of the EAO. All excavations in the city, whether for the construction of buildings, roads, or new facilities are not allowed without an archaeological inspection and monitoring of these activities. Inspectors are always present on the site of any underground works, particularly those within the old city boundaries.

Conserving Prominent Buildings

Many buildings built during the last 150 years possess certain unique architectural qualities which serve as examples of artistic excellence. The Antiquities Law covers buildings built before the last 100 years. Due to the feverish building activities since the 1970s, the trend has been to demolish those distinguished buildings or Villas in favor of greater investments and returns.

A newly passed building ordinance requires that no demolition permit can be issued without prior confirmation that the building concerned is being protected for its architectonic or artistic qualities.

Most city quarters have been surveyed to prepare a new registry for conservation and classification of those unique buildings. A plan of action has been drawn for the conservation and maintenance of classified buildings, sites, quarters or streets. The aesthetic urban qualities of certain old streets are to be observed in the design and execution of new buildings in those quarters or streets. Unfortunately, most of these quarters or streets have been subject to lack of maintenance and their architectural heritage suffers from neglect and deterioration.



Archaeological styles prevalent in buildings registered for conservation include the following:

- ¥ Islamic Style with Memluke influence and/or Mediterranean features.
- ¥ Pseudo Venetian with Art-Deco semblances.
- ¥ Early modern with traces of Art-Deco and Pseudo-Neoclassic details and ornament.
- ¥ Early Modern-Mediterranean with Stucco walls, tiled pitched roofs and "balanced" masses of facing bricks
- ¥ Neo-Classic Style
- ¥ Pseudo Baroque Style
- ¥ Cubistic early Modernism with Italian semblances

Alexandria Comprehensive Plan

The 2005 Alexandria Comprehensive Plan addresses the conservation of the Alexandria heritage. Under this plan, buildings whose prominent architectonic and artistic value and distinguished styles are difficult to reproduce with modern-day construction techniques have been registered and listed for preservation.

By law no demolition permit in the city can be issued without proper inspection and survey by specialists; this precaution saves the registered buildings from demolition by entrepreneurs and speculative ventures. Any owner who violates the rules or destroys his building, or part thereof, which was listed for conservation is forced to rebuild it according to its original form; the contractor involved in the demolition is removed from the Contractors Union registry. Furthermore, certain incentives have been revised to encourage owners to preserve their listed buildings.

In general, although a few violations occur sporadically in various quarters, we think that our conservation drive has been fruitful and meaningful.

In addition, city pedestrian walkways which pass by prominent classified buildings and significant archaeological sites have been planned for visitors to the old and new quarters. This is an important project to ac-



Montazah Palace

quaint the city visitors with Alexandria's heritage and will be a significant overture to open the city's cultural wealth to the people.

*For more information on this article, please contact:
Ms. Laila Yehia, Director General of Public Relations
Department, Governorate of Alexandria.
Address: The Building of Alexandria Governorate
Alexandria, Arab Republic of Egypt
Phone: +203 482 1345, Fax: +203 482 7192*

With the theme of preservation and development, this section of World Historical Cities is devoted to featuring articles and photos provided by League member cities. In future issues, features on Melbourne, Tashkent, Zurich, Budapest and Vienna will be published. To showcase your city in this section, please submit relevant information and photos to the League Secretariat.

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)
CUSCO (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)

Information on the 5th Conference

The delegation from the League of Historical Cities Secretariat in Kyoto visited Xian, China on September 25th and 26th and discussed further details concerning the 5th World Conference of Historical Cities with Vice Mayor Cai Weihui, Vice Director of Foreign Affairs Li Xuemei and other officials from the City of Xian. Xian decided to invite about 100 cities including 48 League member cities.



Outline of the 5th Conference

Period: Sept. 9 (Mon) - Sept. 13 (Fri.) 1996
 Venue: Xian Garden Hotel (next to the Big Wild Goose Pagoda)
 Theme: Promotion of Historical Cities
 Languages: The official languages are Chinese and English. Simultaneous interpretation between Chinese and English will be provided.
 Host City: Xian
 Registration Fee: \$100 U.S. dollars per participant

Tentative Schedule

Sept. 9 (Mon)
 Registration
 Welcome Reception
 Sept. 10 (Tue)
 Opening Ceremony
 Plenary Session
 Observation of Tang Dynasty Musical
 Sept. 11 (Wed)
 Sessions
 General Assembly of the League
 Sept. 12 (Thu)
 Observation of Opening Ceremony of '96 China Xian Investment and Trade Forum
 Visit to the Museum of Emperor Qin Shihuang's Terra-cotta Warriors and Horses, Hua Qing Hot Springs and Shaanxi History Museum
 Observation of Opening Ceremony Ancient Culture and Art Festival
 Sept. 13 (Fri)
 Closing Ceremony

The City of Xian will send a circular to all invited cities shortly. The League Secretariat, City of Kyoto, will also send an invitation letter concerning the League's General Assembly to all the member cities.

A Day in Xian - Part I

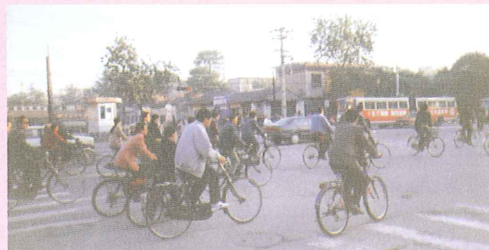
A Report by a Kyoto Delegate to Xian

Xian is an ancient capital in the People's Republic of China and has a history of over 3,000 years. It is also the eastern starting point of the Silk Road, which was very important for commerce between the East and the West. When I climbed up the wall surrounding this city, I could see the Silk Road stretching to the west. I thought that various people have been coming and going on this road for thousands of years.

I would like to describe one day in Xian. Morning begins very early.

Around 5 a.m., many people are already starting their daily activities and there are a lot of cars and bicycles on the streets.

These days the number of cars are increasing, but bicycles,



which have been the major means of transportation for a long time, can be seen anywhere. We foreigners open our eyes wide seeing this sight, but it is the daily scene for the Chinese. Pedestrians are crossing roads, quickly threading their way through the endless procession of cars and bicycles. Cars do not slow down at all even if there is a pedestrian in front of them. Bicycles are on equal terms with cars.

In addition, Chinese people usually take a two-hour lunch breaks and many of them go home and take lunch. Because of this, there is rush hour four times each day. I thought this is another reason why the city is already crowded with people.

Member Cities' Update

World Exposition in Lisbon 1998

Lisbon, which has been the capital of Portugal since the 12th century, is the economic and social center of a region of 3 million inhabitants. As an Atlantic city, Lisbon was one of the most important ports on European trading routes in the 15th century, when it was the starting point for many a voyage to conquer the high seas.

In 1998, the World Exposition in Lisbon will celebrate the first meeting of two worlds formerly separated by the huge distance of the sea, and will also commemorate Portugal's culture and history, which has been marked by the presence of the sea.

The last decade of this century will be marked by the great debate on how the oceans and their resources can be utilized to maintain sustainable development. For this reason, the theme of the Exposition will be "The Oceans, a Heritage for the Future."

From May to September 1998, EXPO '98 will open its doors on an exposition ground of some 60 hectares with 115 participants representing countries, companies and national and international organizations.

Kyongju Delegation Visits Kyoto

On June 14, 1995, two senior staff members in charge of City Planning in Kyongju City, Republic of Korea, and two research fellows from the Korean Institute for Human Settlement visited Kyoto City Hall to study Kyoto's "Master Plan." Published in March 1993, this Master Plan is a conceptual outline of Kyoto City's industrial, social welfare, educational, environmental, cultural and urban development policies for the 21st century.

The Korean delegation met with staff members of Kyoto City's Landscape Section and General Planning Section and exchanged ideas about the legislative, administrative, tax, financial support and land use regulation systems for historical preservation.

This project is one example of exchanges that arose as a result of the League of Historical Cities. We certainly hope that these kinds of activities will continue to develop among member cities in the future.

If your city would like to have an article published in a future issue of the Bulletin, please send all articles and photographs to the League of Historical Cities Secretariat. The subject of the article may be an advertisement of an event in your city, a project report on preservation of historic areas, current topics in culture, art, food, sports, etc.

League Publicity Draws Widespread Interest at International Symposium



During the Third International Symposium on World Heritage Cities from June 28-30 in Bergen, Norway, Kyoto City officials in charge of cultural properties preservation publicized League information to conference delegates. Delegates received trilingual (English, French, Spanish) pamphlets on League goals and activities along with copies of the "World Historical Cities Bulletin." The Kyoto delegation was pleased to discover that the League and the Bulletin were well-received by conference participants.

As a result of these publicity efforts, the coordinator of the Rehabilitation Project of Valletta City in the Republic of Malta and the deputy director of the Institute on Reconstruction of Historic Towns, headquartered in Moscow, contacted the League Secretariat to obtain information on the organization.

New Historical Organizations Created in Isfahan and Kiev

According to correspondence received by the League Secretariat, the mayors of Isfahan and Kiev cities have recently established organizations for conservation of historical towns.

After the 4th World Conference of Historical Cities, the Mayor of Isfahan, H.R. Azimian, decided to create an organization for rebuilding and conserving historical areas of Isfahan which have been destroyed and are suffering from population decline. This organization will also function as a cultural and business center.

In May 1995, the Mayor of Kiev, Leonid Kosakivskiy, established the League of Historical Cities of Ukraine. With a membership comprised of Ukrainian cities which are over 300 years old, this league has been working to exchange information for conserving Ukrainian historical towns and to cooperate with our League. The president of the Ukrainian League is Mr. Kosakivskiy.

Interview with Mark A. L. Baumfield Director of the British Council Western Japan



After garnering years of professional experience in international finance and marketing with such top-level firms as National Westminster International and Price Waterhouse, Mr. Baumfield joined the British Council Overseas Career Service in 1989. He has been the director of the British Council Western Japan since October 1994.

WHC: What are the goals and activities of the British Council?

MB: Basically we are an independent charity organization supported by the British government through the Foreign Office. Our main purpose is long-term educational, scientific and cultural cooperation between Britain and other countries. We do this through a number of different activities: exchanges of academics; scientists; an annual scholarship program; professional study tours; different cultural events; information and education provision about Britain and English language teaching.

To give you some examples of this, in Western Japan we have about 100 academic links between Japanese and British universities and often contribute to exchanges of academics from our countries. Every year we award a number of scholarships. At the moment we're concentrating on what we call contemporary British studies. There are already a great number of experts in Japan on Shakespeare and Chaucer, so we're trying to encourage more study of modern Britain. The promotion of British education is very important to us because we do make long-term friends through this. Japanese friends who study in the U.K. usually come back well disposed to Britain, so it's a very important activity for us. Each year we have an annual education fair in the region.

WHC: Do you see many cultural differences between the Japanese and the British?

MB: I'm almost always amazed at how similar Japan and Britain are. Both of us have an island country mentality and I think each have long traditions and culture

which make us proud people. I think Japanese and British people are very polite and formal when you first meet them, but friendly once you get to know them better. I also think there are several differences. The group thinking is much stronger in Japan than in Britain, where we place perhaps greater emphasis on the individual. However I think in Japan the group mentality is slowly changing. In Japan as well, perhaps the role of women is not so prominent yet, but again that is changing.

WHC: Is the British Council planning events or programs which aim to help Japanese people reconsider certain stereotypes about the U.K.?

MB: We already do. We're placing great emphasis on the modern and the new, so in our arts activity we try to make sure a large percentage of support is geared towards new, young artists, musicians, printmakers to come out to Japan and present their work. Our scholarships are geared to contemporary British studies and writers, exciting science projects. We're working very hard on law at the moment; in the legal area there's a lot Britain and Japan can work on together so we're bringing out different legal experts in subjects like sociology of law.

WHC: Input from local citizens must play an important role when you are organizing British Council programs and activities. In which issue areas have Kyoto citizens expressed the most interest?

MB: Obviously it's changing. We've visited the international centers of the universities and also the international relations departments of government offices. I think probably within the governmental level, there's a great deal of interest in exchanges among people—a greater emphasis on youth activities. They're very keen to see more young artists' exchange schemes and school links. At the university level they're certainly having a greater interest in subjects like law, media, politics...womens' development seems to be of enormous interest at the moment. Also treatment of sensitive issues, like how Britain handles race issues, for example, or the rights of plaintiffs in legal court cases. I can see all the time they're trying to draw parallels with Japan. In the past it was very much a one-way traffic of English literature; people just wanted to know about Shakespeare, Chaucer, Spencer, etc. Now it is very pleasing to get greater interest in the social sciences and modern English writers as well.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

International Relations Office, City of Kyoto, Teramachi Oike, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604, Japan/Phone +81-75-222-3072 Fax +81-75-222-3055
