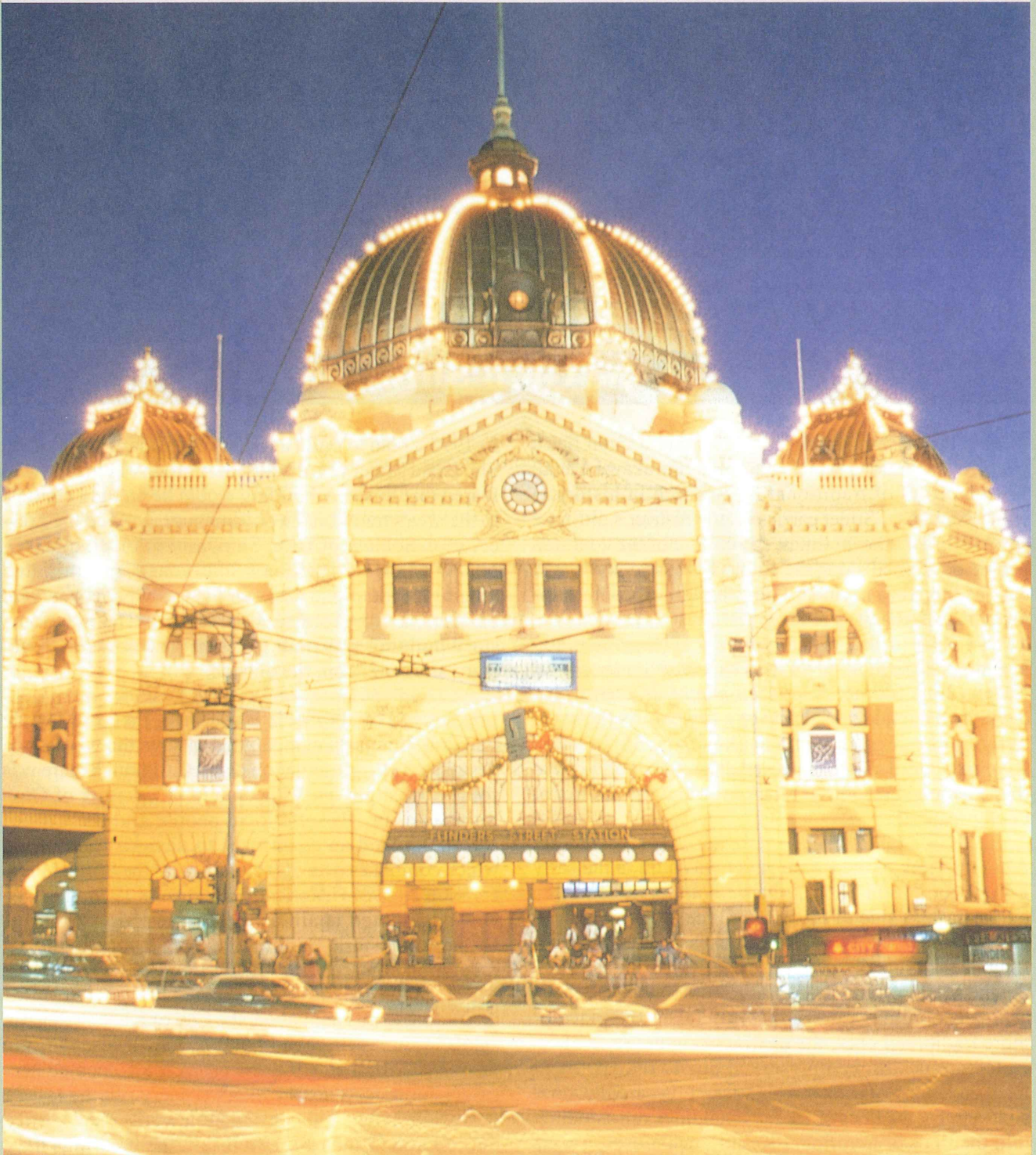


WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

HISTORICAL CITIES

NO. 6: JAN. 1996



Flinders Street Station (Melbourne)

Built in the Renaissance style, this station is located beside the Princes Bridge of the north bank of the Yarra River. Its Renaissance-style dome was completed in 1910 and modeled after St. Paul's Cathedral of London. The concourse beneath the station clock has been a well-known meeting place for Melbourne commuters.



Historic Townscapes of Kyoto

A Look at the Gion Shinbashi Area

Behind the flashing neon signs of modern Gion lies a cobbled street along which flows the Shirakawa Canal. With its rows of traditional houses rich in historical value, Shinbashi Street carries on the district's old-time spirit. From medieval times, the culture of the common people developed along the Kamo River and in the area east of the river to make Gion the famous entertainment district that it is today.

The district of Gion developed as a *monzen-machi* of Yasaka Jinja Shrine. A *monzen-machi* is a town that developed outside of a shrine or a temple. As the number of worshippers to Yasaka-jinja Shrine and Kiyomizudera Temple increased, the number of *o-chaya* (old-fashioned teahouses) increased and the district of Gion prospered.

After the bank of the Kamo River was built in the early Edo period (1603-1867), several communities settled on the eastern side of the bank. Since then this district has quartered the famous teahouses of Kyoto which flourished during the end of the Edo period and throughout the Meiji period (1868-1912). Although some modern, taller buildings have recently taken the place of more traditional ones, the district's original style of architecture is still well preserved due to the efforts of local citizens. Some characteristics of this architectural style are that the lines of the new buildings run smoothly into the lines of traditional Kyoto townhouses, a style which goes back about a century ago. These lines harmonize beautifully with the gentle flow of the Shirakawa Canal and the lively atmosphere which prevails in this time-honored area of entertainment.

In 1973 a plan to build a four-story modern building on Shinbashi Street was disclosed. A group of citizens who feared that this new building would be an ugly contrast to the area's traditional wooden houses formed the Preservation Society of Gion Shinbashi to block this proposal. After city officials intervened and initiated lengthy negotiations between the townspeople and the builders, a compromise was reached: The new four-story building was built to resemble a wooden three-story structure from the outside.

Encouraged by the Society's success, the local people of Gion Shinbashi campaigned to have the whole area designated as a preservation district. Although there was some opposition by the people in the vicinity of Gion Shinbashi, in 1974 the local people and the City of Kyoto reached an agreement to designate this area, which comprises over 100 buildings, as the Special Preservation Area of Historical Buildings. In 1976, this area was designated again as the Preservation Area for Groups of Historic Buildings under a Kyoto municipal regulation enforced in 1976.

According to this regulation, the City of Kyoto will grant subsidies to repair, rebuild or renovate the buildings in the preservation area if these projects are deemed necessary for preserving the area's scenery. In the last 21 years, more than 240 conservation works were carried out in Gion Shinbashi; as a result, the buildings have been repaired and the area's historical atmosphere has been further enhanced.

The 5th World Conference of Historical Cities

Xian, China
Sept. 9 - 13, 1996



In November 1995, the Organizing Committee for the 5th World Conference of Historical Cities in Xian, China mailed conference invitations to over 100 cities around the world.

The contents of the invitation packet include the conference schedule, an outline of the session topics, a list of materials that each participating city is requested to submit and the official registration forms. The registration deadline is February 1, 1996.

In addition to the local sightseeing tours that are part of the conference schedule, three optional, post-conference tours to several other cities are being planned by the Organizing Committee.

For more information on the 5th Conference, please contact the following persons below:

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A Day in Xian - Part II: A Report by a Kyoto Delegate

The markets hustle and bustle all day long. Countless shops selling various foods and daily necessities stand on both sides of the streets. A great number of people shop with an armful of goods over exchanging their loud voices. I was almost keeled over by their energy.

At night, there are lots of lighted stalls and stands on the streets which sell foods and other goods. Tables and benches are set on sidewalks where people chat and eat grilled meats on skewers, chow mein (fried noodles), noodles in soup, one-pot dishes and so on. In the darkness of night, the stalls and stands probably give mental nourishment to the local people.

I often saw some men around the table playing card-games like poker. It must be fun after work. I also heard that these days karaoke (singing to a prerecorded musical accompaniment) is very popular in China; what I heard turned out to be true. There were many karaoke bars on the streets and in hotels. I thought that people's ways of living have diversified as Xian's economy becomes more active in various fields.

In one word, my impression of China is that she is full of energy. It is absorbing new culture and positively preserving its old culture at the same time. This historic country needs to solve problems concerning preservation and development which other historical cities also have. However, I think China can turn such problems into a driving force for making rapid progress.

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)

This article is part of an ongoing series of feature articles on historical preservation issues faced by world historical cities .

MELBOURNE

Building On Our Heritage Strengths



Revitalized river frontages of the Yarra River . The new Southgate development includes a hotel, restaurants, shops and promenades.

Located on Australia's southeastern coast, Melbourne is one of the world's great Victorian cities which flourished on the wealth created by the 1850s gold rush.

A lively and culturally diverse city, Melbourne is the traditional home of the banking and finance sectors in Australia, and the headquarters for many of the nation's major industrial, mining and educational and research institutions. With a population of 3,156,706 (ABS 1991 Census), Melbourne is the capital city of the state of Victoria as well as Australia's second largest city.

Melbourne encompasses the Central Business District, the city's premier commercial and retail precinct. Adjoining residential areas house 40,000 residents.

Rather than outline a specific restoration project, this summary outlines the City of Melbourne's policy framework and financial measures for ensuring the retention and promotion of our city's heritage.

Council's Role

The components of the Council's policy framework include:

1. Liaising with the State Government and Community Organizations. The State Government is responsible for preparing legislation that will plan for Melbourne's growth and development and provide statutory protection for individual buildings which have historic or architectural merit. This is done by preparing planning legislation and by creating heritage registers. The legislation covering heritage registers provide protection for items of heritage significance such as trees, statues, buildings and bridges.

The Council has worked together with the State Government and Community Organizations like the National Trust to develop a register of buildings and heritage features that are particularly noteworthy. Registration guards against demolition and requires the careful assessment of any proposed alterations.

2. While statutory guidelines can protect individual buildings or heritage features, the Council has a role in educating against unsympathetic development that may alter the character of whole streets or overshadow adjoining historic buildings. The Council has therefore worked with the State Government to prepare planning and design guidelines that promote a better appreciation for the need for new development and to have sympathy with adjoining historic buildings and streetscapes.

3. Heritage is much more than the architecture of the city. Continuing historical research has updated the Council's inventories of heritage features. This research has included a focus on the cultural and social development of historic precincts in the city and has culminated in the publication of a history of the city and its development. This history is used by planners, architects, students and visitors to the city to gain a better understanding of the events which have shaped the city's development.

4. Promotion and education. The Council also takes an active role in marketing the city and its heritage assets. An example of this is the range of recently installed heritage plaques which provide visitors to the city with information on significant sites and the development of Melbourne.

5. A further initiative is the publication of walking tour guides. These guides provide historical commentary and make heritage accessible to those who come to the city.

6. Owners of historic buildings in Australia are given no automatic taxation dispensations, though in particular circumstances variations are possible. The City of Melbourne has recognized that maintaining historic buildings may in fact cost an owner more than maintaining a newer building. As a result, the City and the State Governments have introduced the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund.

The Melbourne Restoration Fund is unique in Australia. As equal partners in this venture, the Council and State Government of Victoria have established a pool of capital to provide low interest loans for restoration work within the City of Melbourne. The fund has been instrumental in bringing back to life the features and integrity of some of the City's many notable buildings which had fallen into disrepair - or were obscured by unsympathetic renovations.

7. Other Council incentives include the operation of a plot ratio bonus system. Introduced to encourage developers to recognize the benefits of restoring city heritage, increased floor space and/or building heights, these bonuses are available for the preservation and restoration of historic buildings on sites other than the site subject to a development application. In this way, a development is given optimal use of its site in return for an investment in the retention of Melbourne's heritage.



A unique city sight in Australia is the trams which still run on Melbourne's 30-meter wide, broad tree-lined streets.

Other Council Roles

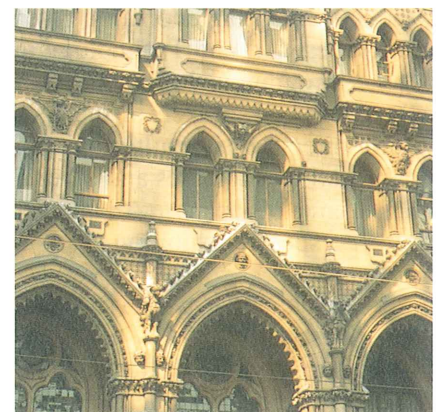
The importance of archaeological heritage surrounding the settlement of Melbourne has also been acknowledged by the Council. Major sites have been researched and recorded with the financial assistance of the City of Melbourne. This has included Melbourne's first registered cemetery dating from 1837 located on the fringe of the Central Business District.

The City of Melbourne has major sister city relationships with many international cities. One such city is Tianjin in China. Tianjin has many unique heritage features that mark different periods in the development of this old walled city. The expanding population of this city has created building pressures that threaten to obscure features of the city. In recognition of the need to prepare a conservation review and strategy for Tianjin, the City of Melbourne financially assisted the 1991 study by the Australian Institute of Urban Studies and sent staff to conduct field research and prepare strategies for conservation.

Conclusion

Heritage adds to the vitality of our city, its culture and tourism potential. Through the above range of planning measures, the City of Melbourne is achieving greater recognition of our city's heritage through partnerships built with building owners and the community.

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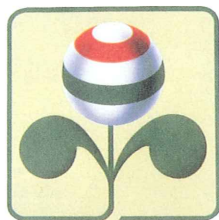


ANZ Bank headquarters

Member Cities' Update

The Budapest Spring Festival

March 14 - April 14, 1996



The Budapest Spring Festival has become one of the greatest cultural events of the Hungarian capital.

In 1991 the festival opened its doors to the international and contemporary art scene while continuing to present the fullest range of Hungarian artists and traditional works.

The Festival '96, celebrating the millicentennial anniversary of Hungary, opens with the Budapest Symphony Orchestra performance at the Academy of Music in Budapest on March 14th. In addition, there will be a number of other exciting events such as opera, ballet, jazz and other performances by various artists.

(Article and photos provided by the Hungarian Tourism Service)

Gala concert at the Budapest Congress Center



For more information, please contact:

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If your city would like to have an article published in this section 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 for an event in your city, a project report on preservation of historic areas, or feature stories on art, culture, music, etc.

Global Technology Symposium to be Held in **Cracow**

Prof. Marek Szymonski, Vice Rector of Jagiellonian University visited Kyoto City to inform the League Secretariat that an international conference, titled "The World of New Technologies," will be held at the Center of Japanese Art and Technology in Cracow, Poland, from May 15-18, 1996. Prof. Szymonski's visit was arranged with the help of Józef Lassota, Mayor of Cracow.

Organized by Jagiellonian University and the Center of Japanese Art and Technology in Cracow, this conference program includes presentations by internationally recognized speakers on the latest developments and future directions in multimedia, biological and environmental technologies and other fields.

The Center of Japanese Art and Technologies will also feature a special exhibition.

For more information, please contact:

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Boston to Host Sister Cities International Conference

The City of Boston will proudly host the 40th annual Sister Cities International Conference for guests from 2,446 cities in 111 countries around the world, including a number of League members, which have sister city relationships with American cities. The conference will take place in Boston during July 24th through the 27th, 1996.

The theme of the conference, the Boston "T" Party, will focus on trade, technology and tourism. Events will include an economic development forum and a trade fair with exhibitors from throughout the U.S. and abroad.

In honor of this important occasion, Boston expects to host the largest conference ever, including representatives from each of our six sister cities: Barcelona, Melbourne, Kyoto, Hanzhou, Strasbourg and Padua.

For more information, please contact:

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Sister Cities International Conference Coordinator

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Member Cities' Update

Chiang Mai Celebrates 700th Birthday in '96

Chiang Mai will be 700 years old in 1996. To celebrate this momentous occasion in Thailand's history, the city's schedule will be marked by one spectacular show after another, plus parades, festivals and bands.

The Governor of Chiang Mai will take this opportunity to stress the long history of Chiang Mai and to praise the King who founded the city as well as the other kings who developed and ruled the city and its people during its 700-year history. The anniversary will include a religious ceremony at the Three Kings Memorial and Kawila Statue at 4:35 a.m. on April 12, 1996. It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience that you won't want to miss.

Located in the highlands of the north, Chiang Mai is the second largest city in Thailand. The region has rooted its culture so deeply that it has its own dialect, its own dances and its own cuisine. A wide array of attractions from 1,000 Buddhist temples and best of Thai art and handicrafts can easily be found here. Though modernization has crept into this faraway region for decades, Chiang Mai still retains its natural charm and old culture. If you have a chance to visit this heavenly land, you will understand why people call it "the Rose



of the North," for Chiang Mai is a land of beauty, hospitality and good manners with fascinating, mist-shrouded mountain scenery.

For more information, please contact:

Chiang Mai Governor's Office

Phone: +66 53 212972

Chiang Mai Public Relations Office

Phone: +66 53 210055

Tourism Authority of Thailand, Northern Office: Region 1

Phone: +66 53 248604

Urban Planning Experts Discuss Historical Preservation at **Kyoto** Symposium

A symposium titled "The Future of Historic Cities" was held in October 1995 at the Goethe Institut Kansai in Kyoto. Organized by The British Council Western Japan, the Goethe Institut Kansai, the Institut Franco-Japonais du Kansai, the Instituto Italiano di Cultura and the City of Kyoto, this symposium focused on keeping good relations between preservation and development of historic cities.

The following is a summary of each speaker's presentation:

Dr. Ulrich Krings, Director of City Conservation of Cologne, gave a lecture on conservation of historic monuments. He reported that the City of Cologne would register buildings as cultural properties if they harmonized with the historic landscape, even if they were built in the 1960s. He stressed that authorities have to gain the recognition of local people to preserve historic monuments.

Mr. Patrice Obert, Sub-Director of Heritage for the Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Paris, reported on how Paris' urban planning policies attempt to reconcile tradition with modernity. He emphasized the importance of coordination between authorities with lo-

cal people who wish to develop the city area.

Mr. Mario Lolli Ghetti, Director of Monument of Palace Pitti, City of Florence, lectured on the preservation of old towns in Florence. Mr. Ghetti said that every kind of development cannot be permitted in designated historic areas. He added that local people were proud of living in these historic areas and that some families had been living in these areas for generations for more than a thousand years.

Mr. Jim Johnson, Executive Director of the Old Town Renewal Trust in Edinburgh, spoke about the Trust's historical preservation activities. According to Mr. Johnson, the Trust was established as a third-party organization for the preservation and practical use of the Old Town. Since the population of the Old Town has decreased due to factory closures, the Trust is struggling to prevent further population outflows by rehabilitating the Old Town.

Mr. Sen-ichi Oyama, Director of Kyoto's City Planning Bureau, introduced the New Master Plan of Kyoto City and stressed harmony between the three concepts of preservation, regeneration and creation.

Interview with J. Martin Holman

Resident Director of the Associated Kyoto Program (AKP) Center



After working as an assistant professor at Wakayama University and Vanderbilt University and as the Resident Director of the Japan Center for Michigan Universities, Mr. Holman arrived at his present post in May 1995. A noted scholar and translator of modern Japanese and Korean literature, Mr. Holman has published many translated works by such Japanese novelists as Inoue Yasushi and Nobel Prizewinner Kawabata Yasunari.

WHC: What are the goals and activities of the AKP Center?

MH: The Associated Kyoto Program Center has been around for 24 years. This is the oldest study program for college students studying abroad in Japan and in Kyoto. The Center is operated by a consortium of fifteen colleges in the U.S., most of which have substantial Asian studies and Japanese studies programs. Doshisha University provides us with space and much logistical support, but we are independent administratively from Doshisha. Normally we have about 45 students or so, who come from all over the United States. Many are majoring in Asian studies or Japanese studies, but quite a few are not, though. Our students all live in homestays, which is unique. I think we're the only program which is exclusively homestay, so our students have the chance to get to know Kyoto at ground level. We go out on field trips both within the city and in Kyoto Prefecture and outside of the prefecture as well.

WHC: How does the program try to foster communication between Japanese students at Doshisha and AKP students?

MH: We offer two courses this year that are joint seminars or workshops with enrollment open to both AKP students and Doshisha University students. These two courses get AKP students together with Doshisha students, working together on projects. For the first assignment in one of the workshops, the students had to go out and do research in the bookstores. The AKP students had to go out almost hand-in-hand with the Japanese students. The project required them to pool their knowledge from both sides, and I think there was a nice synergy in the project. It's still difficult to administer a course that crosses two essentially different university systems, but it's coming along and many students really wanted it. That's what drove the creation of the joint courses.

WHC: Why did you choose to study Japanese and Japanese literature?

MH: I have always been interested in foreign language ever since I was a child but I didn't know what you could do with languages if you studied them because I had never met a foreigner until I went to college. I was a zoology major when I started. But between my junior and senior years I was able to come to Japan for two years as a missionary and that finally gave me the opportunity to learn a language in the country.

I had an interesting experience right outside the Imadegawa gate of Doshisha University. I had an appointment with a friend who was a Doshisha student but I got lost and when I finally arrived I was about a half hour or 45 minutes late. He wasn't here. I didn't have anything to do, so I went walking in the grounds at Goshō (Kyoto Imperial Palace). A misty rain was falling very lightly. As you walk into Goshō, the walls pass behind you and the sound of the city fades away. You can still hear the sound of the tires on the wet pavement, but the misty rain and the walls muffled them. I was just walking through Goshō, and I thought, "This is the most beautiful place I've ever seen in my entire life." It was a kind of epiphany, and I thought, "I want to come back to this country, I want to do something with Japan." Since that time, I had had no connections with Doshisha University whatsoever, but it seems the stars and planets lined up and I was able to return to the very place where, a few hundred yards away, I had had this experience that decided to an extent my career in Japanese studies.

WHC: There have been many dynamic changes in Kyoto where many old structures have been replaced with new ones. What do you think about that?

MH: This is a dichotomy that I think is inherently part of Kyoto. In Kawabata Yasunari's novel, *The Old Capital*, there is a scene set in the early 1960s in which the old streetcar is going to be removed and people are taking their last ride on the streetcar before the tracks are torn out. Everyone was going to miss this train when it was gone because they had grown fond of it. They had become attached to this old-fashioned part of Kyoto. But when you think back, when that train was originally built, there were probably a lot of people who thought, "Ugh, how ugly! They have this clanky metal thing running down our beautiful streets!" But at the time it was built, it was a symbol of the dynamic, modern Kyoto, and in a less than a hundred years what had been a symbol of modernity, this clanky and ugly thing, was now a beloved relic of the past. So Kyoto has always had this cycle of death and renewal.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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