

WORLD

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HISTORICAL CITIES

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ZURICH



Historic Townscapes of Kyoto

A Look at the Saga Toriimoto Area



Ichino Torii at the foot of Mt. Atago where the Atago Shrine is located. Local people have a fire prevention charm from Atago Shrine on the kitchen wall in their houses and restaurants.

For centuries, the Sagano area has been loved by Japanese people for its scenic beauty. The area's many temples, shrines and traditional townhouses set amid beautiful and quiet natural scenery attract many visitors year round. Mountains, rivers, ponds, bamboo forests, rice fields, famous temples and ruins immortalized in classic literature and farmhouses along the road make up Sagano's best qualities and embody the collective memories of past ages.

Saga Toriimoto is located northwest of Sagano, stretches approximately 600 meters along the Atago-kaido Road and covers an area of about 2.6 hectares.

In order to preserve Saga Toriimoto's historical townscape and surrounding natural environment, the City of Kyoto entrusted two universities to conduct research on the area. The two research groups carefully studied the architectural style of the buildings in the district, their construction methods and the historic qualities of the townscape which were derived from the history of the Sagano area. The city government then drew up a preservation plan based on both groups' research results.

Saga Toriimoto can be divided into two districts, Kami-chiku (Upper District) and Shimo-chiku (Lower District). Adashino Nenbutsu-ji Temple stands on the border between these two districts.

Kami-chiku, which is located near Atago Shrine's Ichino Torii (the First Gate), features farmhouse-like structures with thatched roofs, while Shimo-chiku's buildings more closely resemble town houses. The buildings in these districts stand in rows with the surrounding mountains, ponds, bamboo forests, fields and rivers in the background, resulting in an elegant and beautiful view. It is believed that these kinds of houses began to appear in the middle of the 17th century. Unlike houses today, the houses of that era were few in number and dotted the area. Most of the local residents earned a living from agriculture and forestry industries as well as tea houses and stores for people who climbed up Mt. Atago to pray.

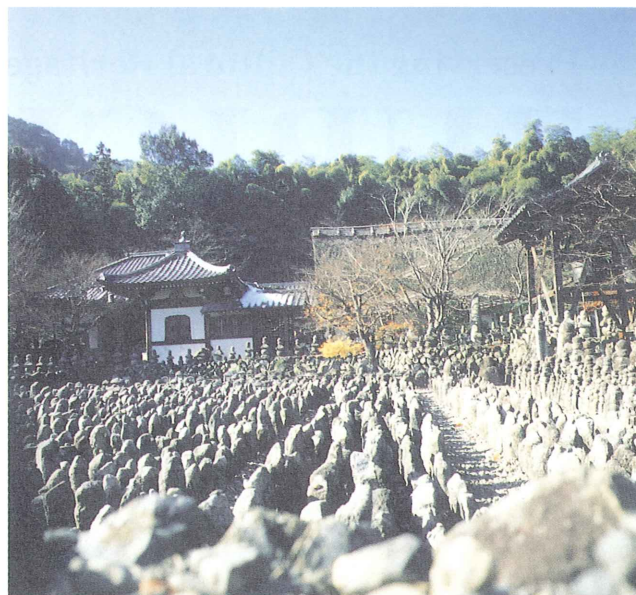
About half of the 50 buildings in this preservation area are built in traditional styles of architecture; of these traditional buildings, most were built between the late Edo Period and the Meiji Era. These buildings can be largely classified into one-story farmhouse-style houses with thatched roofs, one-story townhouses with clay tile roofs and townhouses with clay tile roofs in the *mushiko-zukuri* style.

While Saga Toriimoto's traditional buildings need to be repaired to preserve their outer appearances, the area's non-traditional buildings require external remodeling that will permit them to harmonize with the traditional buildings. To preserve the overall environment of the group of traditional buildings,

hedges, drainage channels and streets also need to be preserved or remodeled. Building reparations or remodelings only require external changes in the buildings' appearances that match the buildings' traditional style of architecture. Residents are free to reform the inside of their buildings in ways that best suit their lifestyles. City government supports the residents by subsidizing part of the costs for renovation and repair.

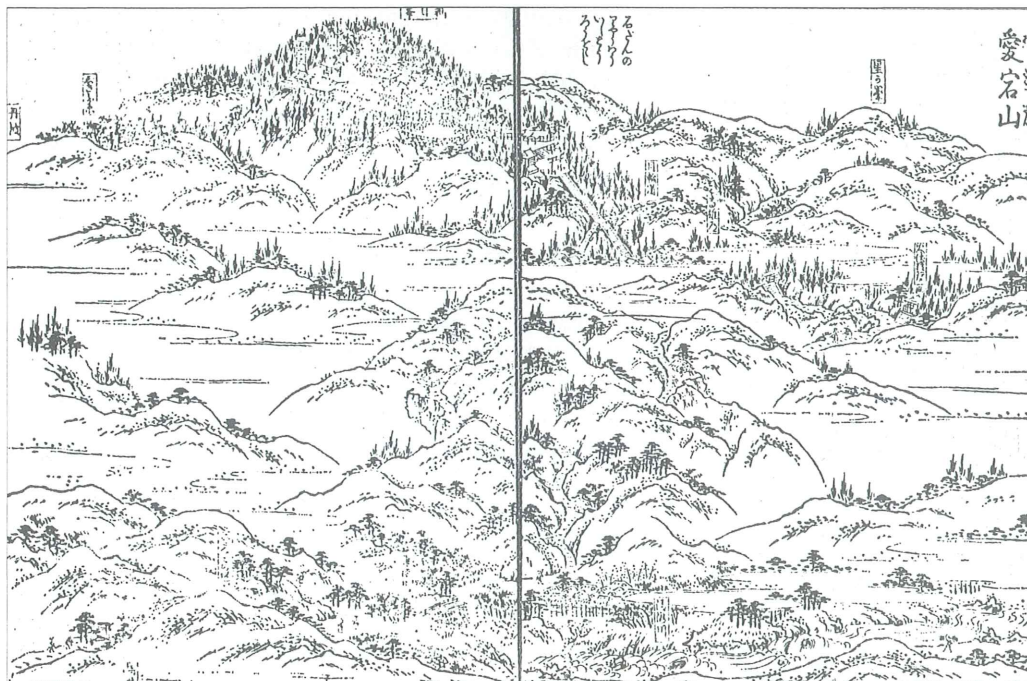
Before the 1970s, it was generally believed that the Saga Toriimoto Area would always remain in its historical state because of its location far from the city center. But the gradual expansion of urban traffic networks and new roads rapidly made the area into a major urban and sightseeing spot. Although the historical townscapes in neighboring areas of Saga Toriimoto had disappeared by degrees, local residents of Saga Toriimoto were able to preserve its townscape with their great efforts. However the local residents began to worry that their townscape might be threatened by the steady urbanization moving toward this area.

From 1978 to 1979, city authorities and local residents exchanged opinions on designating the area as a preservation district and ideas for preservation projects after the area's designation. At first, the local residents were afraid that the designation might impose restrictions on their daily lives. In response to these concerns, the city authorities showed the local residents past successful examples where residents of other historical buildings were able to reform the interiors of their buildings and preserve the traditional architectural style of the buildings' exteriors.



Adashino Nenbutsu-ji Temple. Long ago, people who died without relatives to take care of their graves were buried here. Over 8,000 stone Buddha images and pagodas were built to comfort their souls.

As a result the authorities were able to relieve the residents' worries and convince them that preservation of their townscape could lead to good results and a comfortable living environment. Furthermore, the residents agreed on the preservation project proposed by the city authorities, formed the "Association for Preservation of the Saga Toriimoto Area" and began to promote the association's activities. The Saga Toriimoto area was designated as a "Preservation Area for Groups of Historic Buildings" by the City of Kyoto in 1979.



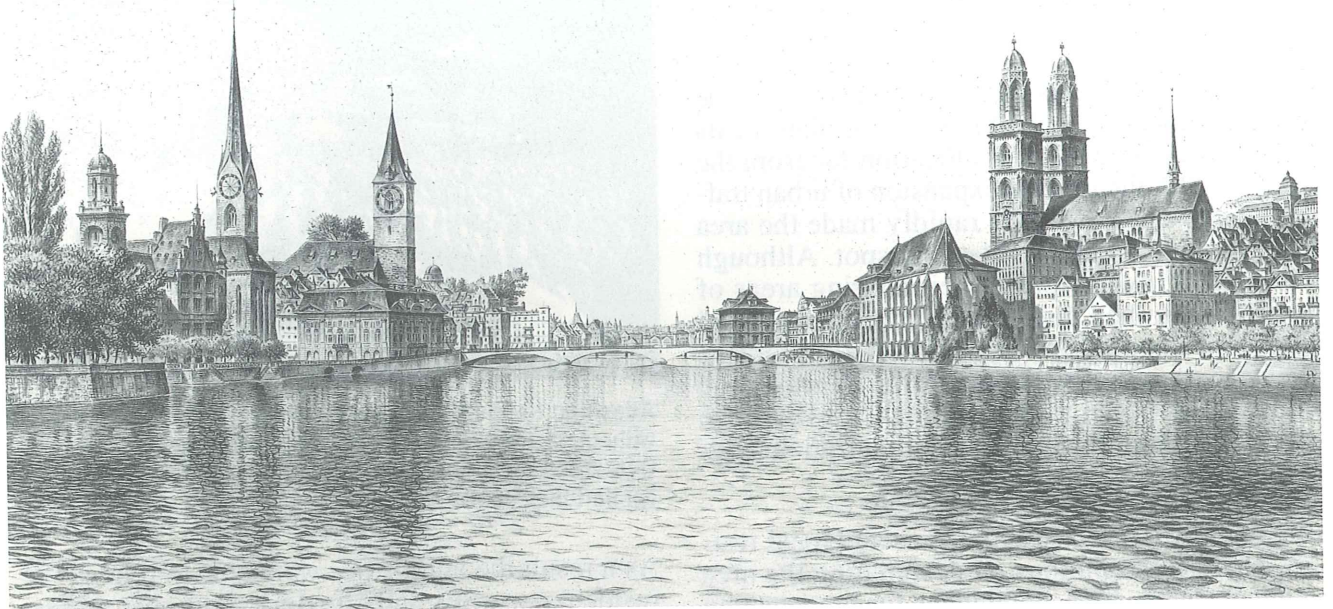
From *Woodblock Prints of Kyoto's Landmarks* (published in 1780)

Ichino-Torii can be seen on the bottom left of the picture.

Atago Shrine can be seen in the upper middle half of the picture.

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

Preserving the Cultural Heritage of **ZURICH**



This lithography by Karl Bickel (circa 1920) shows Zurich's old town as it still is, seen from the lake. At the right of the Limmat, the twin towers of Grossmünster, above the Münster bridge, reign over a unique group of urban buildings. On the river's left bank, the two spires of Fraumünster and St. Peter's form a rhythmic counterbalance to Grossmünster's towers.

The City of Zurich has a present-day population of 360,000, with a total of 1 million for the conurbation as a whole. Although not Switzerland's capital, Zurich is by far the largest city in the country - a national center with a special role to play in the services, industrial and financial sectors.

Along with London, Paris and Frankfurt, Zurich can be counted among Europe's four leading financial centers. Accordingly, the many cultural institutions in Zurich have acquired an importance which transcends the city's regional significance. Indeed, their achievements are held in such high esteem that, seen internationally, it is easy to forget just how small the city actually is.

Straddling the banks of the Limmat, the old town has its own very special charm. Saved from past, radical attempts at redevelopment, it remains a largely intact example of the architectural heritage of earlier centuries. Founded by the Romans in the year 15 B.C., it was only in the Middle Ages that Zurich began its rise to political and economic importance. In 1800, still confined by walls and ramparts, the city had a population of only 10,000. The levelling of these fortifications after 1833 was a turning point for the city and led to its rapid expansion.

From the mid-19th century, the intensive growth of the railways has established the station as the hub of Zurich's

growing transport network, the heart of a city envisaged at that time as a true metropolis. An advisory commission - the so-called "Baukollegium" - has overseen the city's development since 1860, guided by the canton's first building regulations which date from 1863. These regulations not only stipulated the space between buildings and their height, but also set certain aesthetic standards. Zurich's renowned Bahnhofstrasse, a lime tree boulevard defined by the five-story office buildings and imposing banks which were to rise up over the following years, is the main work of this era, and is now the symbol and center of Switzerland's economic might.

Today government officials and inhabitants alike are all convinced of the need to preserve these characteristically beautiful and valuable buildings for posterity - buildings which date back over hundreds of years. The Swiss political system grants considerable rights of participation in the molding of the cultural environment, not only to citizens' initiatives, but also to the local and cantonal authorities. It has thus been possible on many occasions to rescue architectural monuments from demolition or decay at the last moment and, as part of a democratic process, to place them under protection for subsequent, appropriate use.

The creation of the city's Department of Archaeology and Building Conservation in 1958 saw the introduc-



This photograph of the Schipfe dates from about 1950. The group of houses, characteristic of the late Middle Ages and situated on the river's left bank at the foot of Lindenhof, has often been threatened by large development projects.

tion of modern practices based on well-founded scientific methods for the preservation of historical and cultural artifacts. With the drafting of Switzerland's Environmental and National Heritage Laws in 1966, these practices became written into the Federal Constitution. The Canton of Zurich's Planning and Building Regulations of 1975 have provided a sound legal basis for the present-day preservation of buildings and monuments.

Between 1981 and 1993, both local government and City Council took a comprehensive inventory of the region's protected artistic and historical artifacts, and about 5,000 are now listed: churches, representative public buildings, villas, town and farmhouses and their surroundings, gardens and parks. It will henceforth be assured that Zurich's principal cultural heritage will remain both intact and well-maintained.



This 1930s postcard shows the memorial to the politician and railway magnate Alfred Escher. The memorial stands in front of the 1871 triumphal arch of the station with which he is closely associated.

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)

Greeting from the Mayor of Kyoto

It is my great honor and privilege to extend my greetings to you through the Bulletin.

My predecessor, Mr. Tomoyuki Tanabe, resigned from office. Following the mayoral election, I took over the office of Mayor of Kyoto on February 26, 1996.

I shall make every effort to further develop Kyoto into a city that is not only loved by its citizens but also by people all over the world, for its continuous energy and for its history, culture, academics and industries.

As you may know, the League of Historical Cities was established to contribute to eternal world peace by accumulating the wisdom of historical cities, by tackling numerous issues, and by developing multifaceted exchanges between cities. As the Mayor of Kyoto, which is serving as the League Secretariat, I shall endeavor to carry out the responsibility of developing the League.

I sincerely appreciate any cooperation and encouragement you may render to me in fulfilling this noble duty.



Born in 1941. Graduated from the law department of Chuo University in 1963 and joined the Kyoto City Board of Education the same year. Served as Superintendent of the Board of Education since 1992 before assuming the office of mayor in February 1996.

麻生 頼兼

Yorikane Masumoto
Mayor of Kyoto

As of March 10th, 28 league member cities and 18 non-member cities (see list below) have notified the City of Xian of their intent to participate in the 5th World Conference.

The Organizer and the League Secretariat hope that other cities which have not yet applied to participate in the Conference will be able to participate, as the conference's success depends on your cooperation and support.

LEAGUE MEMBER CITIES

Alexandria (Arab Republic of Egypt)
Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
Athens (Hellenic Republic)
Barcelona (Spain)
Budapest (Republic of Hungary)
Chiang Mai (Kingdom of Thailand)
Cracow (Republic of Poland)
Dublin (Ireland)
Florence (Republic of Italy)
Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam)
Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Istanbul (Republic of Turkey)
Jerusalem (State of Israel)
Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal)
Kiev (Ukraine)
Kyongju (Republic of Korea)
Kyoto (Japan)
Lisbon (Republic of Portugal)
Montreal (Canada)
Paris (French Republic)
Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil)
Rome (Republic of Italy)
Ulan Bator (Mongolia)
Varanasi (India)

Vienna (Republic of Austria)
Xian (People's Republic of China)
Zagreb (Republic of Croatia)
Zurich (Swiss Confederation)

NON-MEMBER CITIES

Amman (Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan)
Ayutthaya (Kingdom of Thailand)
Cairo (Arab Republic of Egypt)
Dnepropetrovsk (Ukraine)
Dortmund (Federal Republic of Germany)
The Hague (Kingdom of the Netherlands)
Iasi (Romania)
Konya (Republic of Turkey)
London (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
Moscow (Russian Federation)
Pau (French Republic)
Phnom Penh (Kingdom of Cambodia)
Plovdiv (Republic of Bulgaria)
Santiago (Spain)
Shiraz (Islamic Republic of Iran)
St. Petersburg (Russian Federation)
Valletta (Republic of Malta)
Yangon (Union of Myanmar)

The 5th World Conference of Historical Cities

Xian, China
Sept. 9 - 13, 1996

For more information:

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Member Cities Update

Jerusalem Honors 3,000th Anniversary

During the year 1995-96 Jerusalem is celebrating the 3,000th anniversary of its establishment by King David as capital of the Jewish kingdom. Jerusalem is a unique city - holy to hundreds of millions of believers of the major monotheistic religions, rich in historical holy sites, archaeological treasures and arts and culture which attract large number of tourists and pilgrims from Israel and around the world.

We opened this event-laden year with an impressive inauguration at the City of David archaeological site. We have already held some spectacular artistic performances, such as the Berlin Opera House and an all-night program on Mount Scopus dedicated to King David's Psalms.

There will be special exhibitions, such as that entitled "King Solomon's Seal," on the subject of the legendary emblem common to the three major monotheistic religions. Exhibitions on Jerusalem and Judaica are on display in the city's most important museum, including one on the King David from the Uffizi Museum in Florence.

Some of the events will be incorporated into international festivals held in the city's cultural and artistic institutions. Many will take place in the city's streets. Among the impressive opening events, the highlight so far was the gigantic salute to Jerusalem march and parade, with the participation of 300,000 spectators and



100,000 marchers from Israel and abroad, including dance groups, singers, and huge floats specially designed and built for the occasion. Such a pageant will be repeated among the closing festivities of the 3,000th anniversary in the autumn of 1996.

The 3,000th anniversary events in Jerusalem, City of David, are meant to enrich and strengthen the city as a spiritual and cultural world center, the focus of lively tourism and the unique blend of old and new, of history and modernity and of dream and reality.

Celebrating the Magic of Winter in Québec



The 42nd Québec Winter Carnival was held from January 26 to February 11, 1996. Together with the Duchesses and Queen, Bonhomme Carnaval welcomed carnival-goers and Québec families to his magical Ice Palace and to the plains of Abraham, which were converted into a gigantic playground for the enjoyment of one and all.

Carnival-goers were able to scale an ice wall, go dog-sledding and whiz down gigantic snow-covered slides.

They also had the opportunity to discover the winter traditions of the Inuit, Amerindians, Lumberjacks and Scouts. If you had a sweet tooth, the Maple Sugar Cabin would have fit the bill.

And there were big events: the exciting Crowning of the Queen; the must-attend Queen's Ball; the International Ice Sculpture, where teams of sculptors from around the world competed in a dazzling display of imagination and artistic skill; the Art Symposium where artists created immense works of art as visitors watched; the magical Night Parade beloved of young and old alike, and the ever-impressive Canoe Race where competitors braved the ice floes of the St. Lawrence River in a tradition going back to the earliest times.

There were endless opportunities to celebrate the "Magic of Winter" with Bonhomme Carnaval, his Queen and his Duchesses, whether at Bonhomme's Brunch, the Mardi Gras Ball, or any of the many other events throughout the 17 days of the Québec Winter Carnival.

Interview with David Panzera

Coordinator for International Relations, Kyoto City International Foundation



After graduating from Illinois State University with a Bachelor of Arts in International Business, Mr. Panzera arrived in Kyoto in July 1993 as a participant in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Programme. Mr. Panzera has traveled extensively throughout Asia and also studied abroad in Nagoya, Japan, at Nanzan University for one year.

WHC: What are the activities of the Kyoto International Foundation?

DP: The Kyoto City International Foundation was established to promote international exchange within Kyoto. To this end we hold numerous events, seminars and cultural courses to broaden the minds of both Japanese and foreign residents of Kyoto. We also serve as an information center, maintaining files on topics useful to those living, working or studying in Kyoto. We also offer information to those interested in traveling abroad.

One of my primary responsibilities is that of editing *Life in Kyoto*, a monthly English newsletter aimed at Kyoto's foreign population. It consists of event information such as concert and exhibition schedules, as well as original articles. Because *Life in Kyoto* is aimed primarily at foreign residents rather than at short-term visitors, we try to include plenty of information that might be useful in everyday life. We also try to focus on Kyoto's modern aspects, apart from her role as Japan's ancient capital.

We are about to begin creating a World Wide Web page which, when completed, will allow people to access our information files at their convenience. Additionally, through the creation of online forums, we hope to further promote internationalization. Whereas an actual forum or seminar would be limited to those who could come to our facility on a specific date, people can participate in an international forum from anywhere in the world, at their leisure.

WHC: What made you interested in Japan?

DP: Up until my sophomore year of college, I knew very little about Japan, and the thought of coming here had probably never entered my mind. I had always been interested in foreign countries and international travel, though, and around that time I decided to concentrate on the interna-

tional aspects of business. I considered focusing on a number of different countries, including Germany and England, but eventually I decided on Japan because it was so much different from the United States, and because I knew so little about it. I was also influenced by a friend who was studying Japanese at the time. I first came to Japan as an exchange student at Nanzan University in Nagoya during my senior year of college. I spent a year there, went home to finish my degree, and one year later came to Kyoto, where I've been for nearly three years.

WHC: What is the difference between the image you had of Japan before you came here and your actual experiences in Nagoya and Kyoto?

DP: Although by the time I first came to Japan I had studied the language and culture for about one year, I really didn't know what to expect. Having had no real preconceptions about Japan helped me to avoid being hit by much culture shock and allowed me to approach the experience more open-mindedly. I suppose that I was most surprised that although Japan's strongest image is that of an economic superpower, the standard of living is much lower than it is in the U.S. The Japanese government has been extremely business-focused at the expense of consumers for a long time, and this is certainly responsible for Japan's dramatic rise to economic power following World War II. However, I think that it is time for Japanese citizens to reap some of the benefits of their efforts. Fortunately we are starting to see changes to this extent, largely spurred by the increase in international travel; more and more people are going abroad and seeing that people in other countries have more leisure time, lower costs of living, and more overall choices. I think the next decade is going to bring a lot of major structural changes to Japan, and consequently this is a very interesting time to be here.

WHC: What kinds of problems do foreigners living in Kyoto encounter?

DP: One of the most difficult things about living in Japan is the lack of information. A lot of foreigners do not speak, or speak only a little, Japanese, and this can make taking care of daily matters complicated. Furthermore, lack of Japanese ability tends to prevent people from meeting a lot of Japanese people. This varies depending on the person, but a lot of people end up spending all of their time with other foreigners. This is unfortunate because it defeats the whole point of living in a foreign country. To combat this the Kyoto City International Foundation tries to assist foreigners through the provision of information in English and in other languages and through numerous events designed to bring foreigners and Japanese people together.

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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