

Report of the NCC Executive Director's Trip to Australia June 23 – July 22, 2007

Overview: The Japanese Studies Association of Australia's 15th Biennial meeting served as the backdrop for this visit and was the venue for 5 library-related programs, two of which were part of the NCC's E-Resources Initiative. Other meetings were related to potential planning of future NCC projects and for brainstorming about North American-Australian Library and Information collaborations related to Japanese studies, as well as general networking in and among the Japanese studies and diplomatic communities of Australia. Held as the meetings were in the Australian Capitol of Canberra the meetings included a banquet in the Parliament Building with a speech by Australian Prime Minister John Howard emphasizing the importance of Japanese-Australian relations.

Note: Approximately half of my time in Australia was devoted to family vacation. The trip to Australia was one of the recently rare occasions when it was possible to coordinate travel with my husband Theodore Bestor who also spent part of his time doing research and meeting with Japanese studies colleagues. Sometimes our activities overlapped, but generally we were operating on separate schedules. I note his involvement when we were engaged in overlapping professional activities. When Ted is not mentioned he was not present or we were attend a public event circulating in separate spheres.

Our base of operation in Australia was the **University of Melbourne** and we were housed in **International House** (one of the university's residential colleges, see more on the final page of this report). The local Melbourne expenses of our trip were largely covered by the University of Melbourne's Sidney Myer Asia Centre. Professor Abdullah Saeed is its Director. Deputy Director of the Asia Centre Carolyn Stevens was Ted's host and Japanese Studies Librarian Michelle Hall hosted me and coordinated my visits to other Australian universities.

On **June 26th** my first meeting was with **Michelle Hall at the Baillieu Library** where the East Asian Collection is housed. We began with a tour of the East Asian Collections and discussion of logistics for other meetings with librarians and faculty during the next 4 weeks of my trip. Later we joined faculty and graduate students for an informal lunch at the University Club.

During our stay Ted and I were also asked to advise Asia Centre Director Abdullah Saeed and Deputy Director Carolyn Stevens on the Centre's strategies in the coming within the context of major university reforms encompassed in *The Melbourne Model*, a plan to completely reform of the curriculum along an American liberal arts model.

We had our first private meeting with Professors Saeed and Stevens on the afternoon of June 26th at which time they briefed us on the plan as it then existed and expressed their concerns about sustaining enrollments and supporting existing majors. Resources under the new model will be strongly tied to the number of graduates a given major produces and there is much discussion about eliminating majors that are perceived to be weak. In addition there is some question about whether some departments might be added under the Asia Centre's umbrella (as anthropology May be) and whether all language programs should be gathered into one large school of languages, which would take Asian languages out of the Asia Centre.

According to Professor Saeed the University of Melbourne is currently the most popular undergraduate institution and attracts approximately 75% of the top high school graduates who are eligible for a large number of scholarships. The existing undergraduate model, to be abolished in 2008, is similar to a Japanese undergraduate program in which students apply in advance to a given major. As in Japan, law is currently the most prestigious major at Melbie and send its graduates heavily out into the corporate, government and academic world (like in Japan). However under the new *Melbourne Model* undergraduates will do a broad liberal arts curriculum, declaring majors in their second or third year (as in the US) and further the undergraduate law major is being abolished. The largest emphasis of the new reforms seem to be to convert University of Melbourne into more of a graduate institution which receives greater government funding.

With Michelle Hall and Ted Bestor, I visited **Monash University on June 27th**. At Monash I had a series of meetings with librarians and faculty. The visit began with a tour of the Sir Louis Matheson Library at Monash's Clayton Campus and meetings with Aline Scott-Maxwell, Senior Asian Studies Librarian; Ayako Hatta, Japanese Studies Librarian, and other members of the library staff including Dennis Kishere Chinese Studies Librarian and Jung-Sim Kim Korean Studies Librarian. Of particular note in the Monash collections were their Japanese language study lending collection especially geared for early language learners and used by public school teachers (funded by the Nippon Foundation) and their music collection, of particular interest to Aline Scott-Maxwell, an ethnomusicologist by training and to Professor Alison Tokita.

Following the meetings in the library, we met with faculty from Monash's Japanese Studies Centre led by Director Ross Mouer; and two other faculty members Alison Tokita, President of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia; and Beatrice Trefalt, new director of the undergraduate major. We also had a visit to the Centre's small but extremely popular and growing Manga Library. Both the faculty and librarians at Monash are very keen on collaborations and there seems to be an outstanding working relationship among them.

June 28th Meeting at Baillieu Library with senior library staff of the University of Melbourne. Much of the discussion centered around the reorganization talking place within the library and the larger changes taking place in 2008 with the institution of *The Melbourne Model* which will completely transform the undergraduate curriculum along an "American Model." ILL/DD at Melbie is up 39% since last year due in large part to the abolition of ILL fees. (Note, fees used to be \$6 at Melbie and the Australian Library Information Association (ALIA) standard fee is \$13.20). The motivation behind this new policy is to emphasize the university's support of graduate study (the graduate school itself is being renamed the School of Graduate Research, formerly the School of Graduate Study). The premise for ILL changes is that the largest users of ILL/DD are faculty and graduate students who will be better supported by this new policy. They have also found there to be a 20% increase in outside requests.

The library restructuring underway will particularly emphasize e-resources and will involve a major re-design of personnel classifications and lines of reporting. The new plan includes \$4 million in central purchasing for electronic data sources. Information literacy support will also be a major new focus of all the "teams" in the library's new configuration. I was also invited to

attend the East Asian Collection's User's Committee's Meeting to take place on July 18th (see notes on that date).

Japanese Studies Association of Australia Meetings, ANU July 1-4, 2007 The JSAA met at Australian National University and brought together Japan specialists from Australia and New Zealand along with participants from the US, Western Europe, Japan and other parts of Asia. Library panels were held on three successive days along with a librarians group meeting and a separate meeting with ANU faculty. The JSAA meeting also featured a reception at the Japanese Embassy and a gala dinner at the House of Parliament with a speech by Australian Prime Minister John Howard with greetings from Prime Minister Abe presented by the Japanese Ambassador to Australia.

The library panels included one devoted to resources in Japan with presentations by Keiko Harada of the National Diet Library on new NDL resources; Shohei Muta of the Japan Center for Asian Historical Records of the National Archives of Japan on the Internet-based Resources and accessing the Japan Digital Archive Service; and Professor Takashi Koga of NII discussing E-government and government information services in Japan.

The Second panel was divided into a session given by Robert Britt of the University of Washington on Digital Resources for the study of Japanese Law. A roundtable followed on major library initiatives in the US with presentations by Kenji Niki on the Michigan Google Project; Victoria Bestor on NCC User-Driven Services with focus on the DRC, GIF Project, and the NCC's new Image Use Protocol Task Force; a presentation by Eiko Sakaguchi on NCC Training efforts for librarians and users of Japanese Resources; with faculty commentary by Theodore Bestor of Harvard University. Amelia McKenzie of the National Library of Australia chaired the panel.

A session on research resources was also given with presentations by Dr. Pam Oliver on Japanese Records in Australia; Izumi Koide on The Shibusawa Foundations efforts to create resources for the study of modern economics and social history of Japan; and Dr. Eiichi Ishigami's presentation the University of Tokyo's Historiographical Institute's efforts to collect pre-modern historical materials and develop new resources based on those materials.

Amelia McKenzie Director of the Asian Division of the National Library of Australia arranged the roundtable discussion of all the librarians at JSAA to give us an opportunity to discuss issues and to consider ways of working together. Representatives were present from ANU, Melbourne, Monash, University of Sydney, NLA, University of Auckland in New Zealand; as well as representatives from Japan and the US. It was an excellent chance for people to raise issues and exchange ideas. There were two librarians present who are very interested in participating in a Junior Librarians Training Workshop when another is offered by NCC. Additionally the same two hope eventually to be able to attend the successor program to JSIST. Members also expressed the need for a broad range of librarian training from the most basic to specialized and advanced topics.

National Library of Australia July 3, 2007 Amelia McKenzie, Director of the Asian Collections and Mayumi Shinozaki, Librarian of the Japanese Collection took Eiko Sakaguchi

and me over to the National Library for a behind-the-scenes tour. As with all things in Canberra, the NLA is at some distance from the ANU Campus and is therefore somewhat inconvenient to get to on foot.

Amelia McKenzie and Mayumi Shinozaki were very interested in working with the NCC in developing some basic training materials for library staff. As they pointed out, in Australia, and many other parts of the world, the majority of library staff do not have professional training as librarians. At the NLA many of their staff are hired on the basis of language ability and all their librarian training takes place on-the-job. This is a factor that has also been mentioned by Japan Foundation staff and there seems to be strong encouragement from that direction for the development of training modules for library staff with little or no professional background. We also discussed possible strategies for training involving a combination on on-site and on-line means.

July 5, 2007 Australian War Memorial In the morning on July 5th I visited the Australian War Memorial which has an enormous exhibition and archive of the Pacific War. It is a wonderful teaching museum and might be a venue for a part of a future librarian-training program in Australia. In addition the National Archive of Australia has a large body of materials on Japanese-Australians and Japanese firms that were in Australia. Professor Pam Oliver of Monash is the leading authority on archival materials on Japan in Australia and is most interested in working with other Japan specialists. According to her much of the material in the National Archive is un-cataloged and at one point was in danger of being disposed of. Her work and that of other scholars seems to have forestalled that outcome.

Afternoon Meeting with faculty and staff of the Australian National University on the afternoon of July 5th following the conclusion of the JSAA several of us met with faculty and extended library staff of ANU to discuss possible collaborations. ANU seems to be especially interested in information literacy efforts and interested in working in those areas. Renata Osborne who leads the Asia section at ANU was very interested in collaborating on projects and is herself interested in exploring distance learning strategies possibly including those using Skype.

University of Sydney, East Asian Library July 16, 2007 I met with Nancy Li the East Asian Collection Librarian for a tour and discussion. Sydney is the oldest Japanese collection in Australia and the largest, it constitutes nearly half of their Asian collection, second only to Chinese. University of Sydney is also the holder of the Australia Japan Art Catalog Collection (JAC) and Nancy mentioned the strong interest of faculty and graduate students in the collection. Because NCC is currently working on restarting the JAC II Exchange with Japan I asked Nancy what sort of exchange Australia has been able to manage. She reported that they had been largely unsuccessful but have sent catalogs from local Sydney exhibitions whenever possible. There is no organized effort to gather catalogs from museums nationally in Australia.

July 17 Meeting with Japan Foundation of Australia staff and library tour. On our final day in Sydney Ted and I together visited the Japan Foundation offices. Most of the conversation focused on the NCC and its activities. We met in the office of Director Yoshiyuki Ueno. Also joining us were Deputy Director Wakao Koide and their Librarian Mr. Hirofumi Yada. Neither Mr. Ueno nor Mr. Koide were familiar with NCC activities and they were very interested to learn. Mr. Ueno strongly stressed the need for basic training of librarians in the Southern Hemisphere and throughout parts of Asia, he particularly mentioned Southeast Asia.

July 18, 2007 Meeting of University of Melbourne East Asian Library Users Group As noted previously I was invited to attend this meeting which was attended six East Asian faculty members the East Asian Librarian, Bick-har Yeung and Japanese Studies Librarian, Michelle Hall. They reported on a national East Asian Libraries Benchmarking Survey underway and discussed issues for the library in the new *Melbourne Model*. Space concerns and static book budgets were also major concerns as they are everywhere, and once again the faculty were asked to review serial subscriptions to possibly cull unneeded titles. They also reported on Robert Britt's recent visit to assess the law collection and his participation in the memorial seminar for Professor Malcolm Smith.

July 20, 2007 Meeting with Jane Munro, CEO of International House of the University of Melbourne. I met with her in her office at International House to discuss activities of International House at Melbourne and their role in the International House movement globally. Professor Munro is very interested in promoting both and would be receptive in the future to possible project collaborations or conferences, especially during intercession periods when residential space might be available for conferees. I thanked her for the lovely guest apartment accommodations that had been provided to us during our stay paid for by the University's Asia Centre and expressed the hope that we would return again.

In Summary: In addition to the obvious benefits of attending the Japanese Studies Association of Australia and presenting a panel on NCC activities to broaden awareness of our programs and expand participation in them, this trip was hugely successful in providing networking and information exchange and will be the basis of building highly productive NCC collaborations in the future. I particularly thank the Japan Foundation for allowing the NCC to extend its E-Resources Workshops Initiatives to include Australia.

Submitted by Victoria Lyon Bestor