

Editor's Notes

The papers contained in this issue represent, in large part, the lectures, notes and materials which formed the academic program of the 7th IALL Course held on September 4-7, 1978 in Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan. The course was entitled, *Japanese Law: Its Structure and Materials*.

For each of us who were about to attend the workshop, the prospect of the meeting held its own special significance. For some, who were present at the germination of the workshop idea in 1975, the meeting would represent the realization of several years' effort involved in its planning and organization. For some, it would provide an unusual opportunity to see Japan and her people, albeit briefly. For others, it would form the basis for renewed acquaintances with distant IALL colleagues and for the formation of new professional associations. For all of us, it would shed some light and provide insights into the Japanese legal system. Each of us, despite the fluctuations of the international currency market and very much in the spirit of those travelers in Chaucer's *CANTERBURY TALES*, had our own particular reasons for attending the course in Japan.

In retrospect, my own reasons were probably very little different from those of the other participants. In my own mind the "lure of the Orient" was of less influence than the fact that some of my earliest childhood memories were associated with friends bearing family names such as Sasaki, Morita and Ichinaga. Then too, my wife's maiden name, Ojamaa, which is not Japanese but Estonian, is apparently common to the land of the rising sun. Still other names such as Tanaka, Yamaguchi and Takahashi whose graphic art I have collected over the years provided their own special associations with "Things Japanese". Whether through our readings of Kobo Abe or Yukio Mishima, haiku poetry, films about samurai warriors or visits to Japanese gardens in our own native countries, along with the massive influence of Japanese technology in all of our daily lives, it is startling to discover just how much "Things Japanese" are a part of our everyday world.

Yet, whatever our personal associations with Japan, each of us in varying degrees shared a lack of professional knowledge about Japanese law and law libraries. Indeed, my own previous identification with the Japanese, in this respect, focused on Professor Yoshiro Tsuno of the University of Tokyo law library whose smiling portrait is captured on a

Polaroid photograph taken on a hot summer afternoon underneath the striped awning tent which housed a publisher's reception in Rochester, New York in June, 1978. In these brief meetings at professional activities along with occasional inter-library loan requests, I think my professional experience is somewhat typical of our previous contacts with our Japanese counterparts.

There is a maxim, although meant to be used in a different context, which states that "east is east, west is west and the twain shall never meet". For many of those fortunate enough to be able to participate in the Japanese workshop, the meeting formed a bridge not only over the vast geographic distances which most of us had traveled in our paths to reach Tokyo, but served as a focal point and channel of communication for the exchange of information among our otherwise widely scattered membership.

The papers which follow these notes provide a report about the course content to those IALL members who were not able to attend the meeting. Two interesting lectures have not been included in this report. These are Professor Ryohei Hayashi's *Introduction to Japanese Law* and Professor Yoshiro Tsuno's *Japanese Law Libraries and Law Librarians (or Law Librarianship)*. Hopefully, it will be possible to reproduce these papers in a subsequent issue.

It is much more difficult to convey a vivid impression of the meeting as a whole, consisting not only of the academic program but the social events, all of which in so many ways revealed something about Japan to us. In this respect, words are inadequate to describe the warm reception, the many individual kindnesses and the collective hospitality which were bestowed upon by us by our Japanese colleagues. For this and much more, we are grateful and wish to thank our hosts both in Tokyo and Kyoto.

Arno Liivak

JAPANESE LAW WORKSHOP

September 4-8, 1978

Sasakawa Hall, Tokyo, Japan

Lecturers

Ryohei Hayashi	Professor of Law, Kyoto University Director of Kyoto University Library
Takashi Ishida	Chief of Processing Section Supreme Court Library, Tokyo
Goro Ishii	Chief of Coordinating Section Research and Legislative Reference Dept., National Diet Library, Tokyo
Shoichi Izumi	Chief of General Reference Section Reference and Bibliography Division National Diet Library, Tokyo
Takeyoshi Kawashima	Professor Emeritus Tokyo University
Yoshiro Tsuno	Associate Professor and Law Librarian Center for Foreign Law Materials University of Tokyo
Nobuo Yamamoto	Law Librarian Waseda Law School