

# Japan and Britain, 1613: Parallels and Exchanges



*This event takes place on the exact 400th anniversary of this momentous encounter, for it was on 19 September 1613 that the English received reciprocal presents from the Shogun (which are extant), and on 21st that they departed Edo with great rejoicing.*

## Japan400

Japan400 commemorates the start of diplomatic, trading, scientific and cultural relations between Britain and Japan in 1613. Through a host of exciting events during 2013, it celebrates the spirit of discovery and mutual regard that has inspired many successful collaborations and a remarkable friendship between two societies on opposite sides of the world.

*'For ever and ever we will, we avow, communicate with Japan  
without any sense of distinction or separation'*

- King James, letter to Tokugawa Ieyasu, December 1610,  
as rendered into Japanese, September, 1613

*'Though separated by ten thousand leagues of clouds and waves,  
our territories are as it were close to each other'*

~ Tokugawa Ieyasu, letter to King James I, October 1613

You are all invited to join in an exploration of aspects of the two countries' common history, which began with a remarkable sea voyage and an exchange of royal gifts in 1613.

You can enjoy a rich programme of events in London and other parts of Britain, including art, theatre, science, enterprise, lectures on historical themes and popular festivals.

Japan400 celebrates existing links and aims to further enrich the dialogue and the dynamic relationship between the two countries.

For more information, visit:

[japan400.com](http://japan400.com)

*The Conference is sponsored by the Percival David Academic Fund and  
supported by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation*

[www.soas.ac.uk/japan-and-britain-1613](http://www.soas.ac.uk/japan-and-britain-1613)

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

## SOAS JAPAN RESEARCH CENTRE

*A Conference in Celebration of  
the 400th Anniversary of  
Japan-British Relations*

**19 & 21 September 2013**

SOAS University of London  
British Library



*This conference is a major element in  
Japan400, a series of commemorations  
scheduled for across the UK and Japan  
to commemorate this landmark year:  
[www.japan400.com](http://www.japan400.com)*

# Japan and Britain, 1613: Parallels and Exchanges

SOAS & The British Library  
19-21 September, 2013

*The Conference will address the history of Japan and Britain in and around the year 1613.*

*Both countries were undergoing massive cultural, religious and political transformations at the time, and it is instructive to look at their respective systems of restructuring and recreation in parallel and comparatively. Moreover, Japan and Britain directly encountered each other for the first time in 1613, with arrival of an English East India Company vessel, the Clove, bearing letters and gifts from King James for the Shogun. The conference will therefore also address issues of encounter and communication.*

THURSDAY 19 SEPTEMBER Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS	
6.30pm	<b>KEYNOTE LECTURE &amp; RECEPTION:</b> Captain John Saris and the First British Voyage to Japan, <a href="#">Richmond Barbour</a> (Oregon State University)
FRIDAY 20 SEPTEMBER Khalili Lecture Theatre, SOAS	
9.00pm	Registration
9.20pm	Welcome ~ Timon Screech
<b>PANEL ONE:</b> Britain in Motion Chair: <a href="#">Miles Ogborn</a> (Queen Mary's, University of London)	
9.30	'To the Honour of our Nation abroad': the Merchant as Adventurer in Civic Pageantry <a href="#">Tracey Hill</a> (Bath Spa University)
10.00	Speaking in Passing: England and Japan before 1613 <a href="#">Nandini Das</a> (Liverpool)
10.30	The East India Company, Religion and European Overseas Expansion <a href="#">Derek Massarella</a> (Chūō University)
11.00	Refreshment Break
11.30	Wonders rudely described': Richard Cocks, English merchant and intelligencer in Japan <a href="#">Samuli Kaislaniemi</a> (University of Helsinki)
12.00	The Men of the English Factory at Hirado <a href="#">Margaret Makepeace</a> (The British Library)
12.30	Discussion
<b>PANEL TWO:</b> Foreign Relations in Japan Chair: <a href="#">Richard Bowring</a> (Cambridge University)	
2.00	Storms and Foreign Relations in the Japanese Domain of Tosa <a href="#">Luke Roberts</a> (UC Santa Barbara)
2.30	Hirado and Beyond: British Trade with Japan in the Seventeenth Century <a href="#">Ryuto Shimada</a> (University of Tokyo)
3.00	Using and Losing the Sinosphere: Japanese Diplomacy and Statecraft circa 1613 <a href="#">Kiri Paramore</a> (Leiden University)

3.30	Refreshment Break
<b>PANEL THREE:</b> Further Encounters Chair: <a href="#">Alain Strathern</a> (Oxford University)	
4.00	The Globalisation of Taste in the New World: Cross-Cultural Exchange and Japanese Art in Seventeenth-Century Mexico City <a href="#">Sofia Sanabrajs</a> (Getty Centre, Los Angeles)
4.30	00 Competing Diplomacies in 1613: King James' Embassy to Japan and the Date Masamune Embassy to Spain (1613-1610, <a href="#">Carla Tronu</a> (Private Scholar)
5.00	Discussion
SATURDAY 21 SEPTEMBER Conference Centre, The British Library	
<b>PANEL FOUR:</b> Openness and Containment Chair: <a href="#">Tim Clark</a> (The British Museum)	
9.30	Speaking Transnationally: Linguistic Worlds in Early English Voyages to Asia <a href="#">Su Fang Ng</a> (University of Oklahoma)
10.00	1600-1615: Japan's Cold War Era and its Art <a href="#">Jin Matsushima</a> (Tama Art University & Tokugawa Memorial Foundation)
10.30	Japanese Narrative Paintings Reloaded: Transcultural Adaptations in the Early Seventeenth-Century <a href="#">Melanie Trede</a> (Heidelberg University)
11.00	Refreshment Break
11.30	Vessels of Trade: Porcelain as Commodity in Early 17th-century Japan <a href="#">Nicole Rousmaniere</a> (The British Museum)
12.00	Culture Wars in Japan's Age of Unification: Collecting, Gift Exchange, and Falconry in the Life of Tokugawa Ieyasu <a href="#">Morgan Pitelka</a> (UNC, Chapel Hill)
12.30	Discussion

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