

October 4th, 2014.

Re: Application for funding to the English Literary Society of Japan
F.A.O.: Professor Sasaki, Chair of the English Literary Society of Japan

Dear Professor Sasaki,

Please distribute among the appropriate officers of the English Literary Society of Japan this application for funding towards an international conference.

Application category: Overseas Research Invitation, Sponsored Business

Application submitted by: Peter Cheyne (Kyoto Notre Dame University); Saeko Yoshikawa (Kobe City University of Foreign Studies)

Event: International Conference: Coleridge and Contemplation

Dates: 27th-29th March, 2015

Venue: Faculty of Humanities, Kyoto Notre Dame University (KNDU)

www.kyotocontemplation.org

Committee: Organizer and Chair: Peter Cheyne (KNDU); General Advisor: James C. C. Mays (University College, Dublin); Tokyo Representative: Kaz Oishi (University of Tokyo); Facilitators: Jun Kobayashi (Dean of Humanities, KNDU), David Vallins (Hiroshima University), Saeko Yoshikawa (Kobe City Univ. of Foreign Studies), Izumi Sugawa (KNDU); Representative: Yuko Yamamoto (KNDU); USA Representative: Mark Lussier (Arizona State University); Project Administrative Assistant: Ayumi Onaka, MPA

Sponsors: Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS: please refer to <http://kaken.nii.ac.jp/d/p/26370036.en.html>); Kyoto Convention Bureau; British Association of Romantic Studies.

Purpose: The ambition of this international conference is to recover a contemplative direction in Literary Studies and Philosophy, and returns to the poetic works and philosophical writings of S. T. Coleridge in the service of reflections on contemplation. The event continues a growing tradition of international collaboration in Coleridge Studies, and British Romanticism generally, hosted by Japanese institutions. Naturally, the colloquium aims to strengthen these bonds of scholarship. Moreover, as the prominent philosopher and theologian, Douglas Hedley (Cambridge University), and the prominent philosophers David E. Cooper (Durham University) and Andy Hamilton (Durham University) will add important and original papers to further the conference aims, this event co-ordinates the kind of interdisciplinary Humanities approach needed in Coleridge Studies to foster groundbreaking new work.

Theme: Contemplation has recently received attention in the aesthetics of art and natural environments. It nevertheless remains a neglected area, despite the

fact that it was a theme of profound importance to authors such as Plato, Aristotle, Philo, Plotinus, Proclus, the Desert Fathers, Aquinas, and so on until the modern era. Serious thinking about contemplation resurged with the Romantics, but unlike some other Romantic themes which remain with us, contemplation became something of an abandoned ideal, returned to wholeheartedly only occasionally, for instance with T. S. Eliot's *Four Quartets*.

This forgetfulness of contemplation contrasts with the shared attitude of Plato and Aristotle, reflected in writers such as Aquinas, that contemplation is the ultimate end and good of the human soul. Understood thus, contemplation is a kind of noetic, synthesizing stillness that aims to commune with or participate in Truth, Goodness, and Beauty. It is not the opposite of, but rather the currently neglected complement to the discursive, analytic tendency ascendent in English-language Philosophy, and to a lesser extent other Humanities for the last hundred years, to finessing distinctions and divisions.

Keynote speakers (plenary lectures): (1) James C. C. Mays (University College Dublin), editor of the Princeton Bollingen Coleridge edition of Coleridge's *Poetic Works*, vols 1-3, and author of *Coleridge's Experimental Poetics*, Palgrave 2013, as well as numerous articles and chapters on Coleridge; (2) Douglas Hedley (Clare College, Cambridge University), author of *Coleridge, Religion and Philosophy*, Cambridge University Press, 2000, and numerous articles on Coleridge's relation to imagination, Plotinus, Platonism, etc.; (3) David E. Cooper (Durham University), editor of the *A Companion to Aesthetics*, Blackwell, 1997; *The Measure of Things: Humanism, Humility and Mystery*, Oxford University Press, 2002; and *World Philosophies: A Historical Introduction*, Blackwell, 2002.

Other invited speakers (plenary panels): (4) David Vallins (Hiroshima University); (5) Andy Hamilton (Durham University); (6) Kaz Oishi (Tokyo University); (7) Setsuko Wake (Kobe College); and (8) Joseph S. O'Leary (Sophia University, Tokyo).

Other speakers (parallel sessions): (9) James Kirwan (Kansai Univ.); (10) Mark Lussier (Arizona State Univ.); (11) Saeko Yoshikawa (Kobe City Univ. of Foreign Studies); (12) Jonathan Parker (Miyazaki International College); (13) Peter Cheyne (KNDU); (14) Philip Aherne (King's College London); (15) Eamonn Wall (Univ. of Missouri-St Louis); (16) Jonathan Britten (Nakamura Gakuen Univ.); (17) Leesa Davies, (Deakin University); (18) Ve-Yin Tee (Nanzan University); (19) Osmond Chien-Ming Chang (Graduate Student, National Cheng Chi University, Taiwan); (20) Elaine Spoonholtz (Graduate Student, University of Florida); (21) Fujie Masako (Graduate Student, Kyoto University). A considerable number of these speakers are ELSJ members. Other potential participants are expected to submit their abstracts by 20th October, 2014.

Speakers' publications: Details of the relevant main publications of each participant, including their academic affiliation and professional positions, are available under the 'Confirmed Speakers' headline tab on the event website: www.kyotocontemplation.org.

Attendance: besides the speakers, around 70 others are expected to attend, making a total of around 90 attendees. A majority of attendees are expected to be ELSJ members.

Graduate student support: The conference team agree that it is important to encourage graduate students to participate in the conference, so a student travel bursary for domestic costs has been donated by KNDU English Department. Should anyone reading this application form know of any graduate students who might wish to participate in the conference and apply for the travel bursary, please contact Peter Cheyne in English (cheyne@notredame.ac.jp) or KNDU Dean of Humanities, Prof. Jun Kobayashi, in Japanese (jkoba@notredame.ac.jp).

Subsequent development: In August 2014, Conference Organizer Peter Cheyne was invited to meet with the Head Literature Publisher at Bloomsbury Academic, London. He explained his plan to edit a volume on Coleridge and contemplation collecting essays developed from the conference, and Bloomsbury expressed a wish to publish the book. They also noted that the conference theme is focused enough for this to be a successful book that fits in very well with their series on literature and philosophy in Coleridge's oeuvre (see Paul Hamilton, *Coleridge and German Philosophy*, Bloomsbury (Continuum), 2007; Ve-Yin Tee, *Coleridge, Revision and Romanticism*, Bloomsbury (Continuum), 2011; Monika Class, *Coleridge and Kantian Ideas in England, 1796-1817*, Bloomsbury, 2012; and eds David Vallins, Kaz Oishi, and Seamus Perry, *Coleridge, Romanticism and the Orient*, Bloomsbury, 2013).

Rationale for funding request: The British Association of Romantic Studies is an affiliate to this conference, but could only provide 50 GBP because of rules governing overseas funding. Kyoto Convention Bureau have kindly agreed to provide 150,000 JPY worth of Kyoto handicraft souvenirs for our guests, as they are unable to provide monetary funding.

The Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) are providing the majority of funds. This JSPS three-year project is entitled 'Contemplation in Philosophy and Literature: developing Coleridge's influence'. The *Kaken* Research Project Number is 26370036. 2,600,000 JPY of JSPS funds have been allocated to the to the first-year part of the project, i.e. the international conference. These funds are covering the travel expenses of eight invited guests: the three keynote speakers and the five other invited guests. Four of these guests are traveling from the British Isles, and four from within Japan. Other international guests are traveling with funds provided by their own institutions, and in some cases with self-funding and scholarly awards.

The budget has been kept extremely tight, and it has taken a considerable degree of co-operative effort, planning, and imagination to organize such an international conference with this funding. We therefore make this application requesting assistance in the form of a 140,000 JPY grant from the ELSJ, of which Society we are members, along with several other participants in the conference. Should the award be granted, ELSJ will certainly be gratefully acknowledged on

the conference website, literature, and subsequent publication as a generous sponsor of this international colloquium.

The 140,000 JPY would go towards the hotel expenses of the eight invited speakers, providing 17,500 JPY per head for the three-day conference. The grant would be a considerable assistance, even though some additional funds for the hotel would also need to be sourced. The Dean of Humanities at KNDU, Prof. Jun Kobayashi (also a member of ELSJ), has assured me that special funds from the Faculty budget would be provided to cover the shortfall regarding the hotel budget.

Further request for support: The conference committee request that an advertisement for the event be posted on the ELSJ website, and that an e-mail giving up-to-date information be sent to the Society mailing list. The advertisement would be written and designed by the conference committee.

Yours sincerely,

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