

THANK YOU FOR ORDER OF THE RISING SUN, GOLD RAYS WITH ROSETTE by DR JOY HENDRY

鶴岡大使 並びに日本の皆様

この度は、この様な立派な賞をいただきまして、光栄に存じます。

これもひとえに、長年お世話になりました日本の方々のご協力と友情によるものと心より感謝申し上げます。

Receiving this award is a great honour, and I am deeply grateful to the Japanese government for choosing to bestow it upon me.

However, there are many people with whom I must share this accolade. First, on a collective level, I must thank the Japanese government itself for allowing me so many times to return to Japan -- not just as a visitor, but as a researcher, possibly sometimes quite an irritating one who did not sit quietly in libraries, but who wandered into all sort of local offices -- where she always received a wonderfully warm welcome, even although her requests were sometimes out of the ordinary and quite unexpected! My children were also accepted and welcomed for two extended visits, once into a local Japanese school for a comparatively short spell of only two terms. Even applying for their visas caused a little concern right here in London, but all worked out well as I think my sons will confirm.

I also need to thank the Japan Foundation for supporting one of my trips with children -- again something quite out of their usual remit for research -- possibly in a year when applications were in short supply -- but again we made it -- and that was a very insightful project. I have also been supported by several other grant-giving bodies and I have thanked them in publications.

More than any collective body to which people may belong, I would like also to acknowledge that none of my research could have been done without the kind cooperation of many, many Japanese individuals who were not only willing to consider questions I might put to them, but also to allow me rather freely to take part in their lives. This is the way of the anthropologist, and fortunately for me, this kind of study was already known in Japan, and people even seemed happy to invite me into their homes -- to share their lives, at work and at play, at life crises and other ritual occasions, and even in intimate situations -- such as sharing the public bath. Back in the days when I first started living in the country in Japan,

there were very few foreigners, and I did have to answer a lot of queries about myself and my own circumstances, again sometimes quite intimate ... but it was a small price to pay for such generosity of spirit. We would be here all night if I tried to mention all the people who have helped me over the years, so I won't even start, but many of their names appear in my books, and I am none the less grateful.

In any case, this evening is about having been involved in building good relations between Japan and Britain, and some of the people who have helped and supported me in this venture are here with us so I hope you will indulge me if I do mention a few of these. His Excellency the Ambassador mentioned Japanese Studies and the Europe Japan Research Centre at Oxford Brookes. The department of Japanese Studies was founded together with Kumiko Helliwell, who sadly can't be with us for health reasons, and with unstinting support from Yoko Ono-Revidon and my anthropological colleague, Louella Matsunaga. As for the Europe Japan Research Centre, my former students, Rupert Cox and Catherine Atherton, organised a wonderful conference and exhibition respectively, to mark the launch, and Alex Jacoby presently heads the Centre and continues to run the seminars and other events that we started. Anai Suzuko has until her retirement earlier this year overseen the growth of Japanese Studies at Brookes, together with Ikeshiro Keiko. All these Brookes ventures have been made possible with the support of the Japan Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, very often with the personal attention of our now honorary doctor, Stephen McEnally.

We also have a sprinkling of former students – Amy Ferguson, now an employee here at the Embassy, and PhD graduates: Ruth Martin, well known in the Japanese community in London, Stephanie Oeben, a star employee at Elsevier outside Oxford, Anna Fraser, who has been exhibiting Japanese children's drawings, and Paul Collinson, who works at the Ministry of Defence. My colleague Chris McDonough has supervised and examined some of the PhD students, and Harriet Irvine, Research Grants Officer, has also undoubtedly helped them on their way. I am immensely proud of all these people and their achievements, as you may be able to discern, and I would also like to thank Keiko Clarence-Smith, then Tanaka-sensei, Bill Kelly, Lola Martinez, Ruth again, Lesley Downer and Ian Neary for their contributions to the success of Japanese Studies at Brookes. I am honoured and privileged that you were all able to come this evening and I would like you to share in

the accolade – nothing is done alone, and you and many others have played an important part.

His Excellency also mentioned my training at Oxford University, and I am always immensely grateful to my supervisor, James McMullen for his support; my position at Stirling University, where I was privileged to supervise the thesis of Jane Wilkinson who curated the splendid Ainu collection at the National Museum of Scotland and introduced many Ainu people there; St. Antony's College, and we have here its Warden Elect, Roger Goodman; the British Association for Japanese Studies, now headed by Chris Hood, who is also here; the European Association for Japanese Studies, and Sarah Metzger-Court was Hon. Secretary when I was Vice-President, and the Japan Anthropology Workshop, whose Secretary General Brigitte Steger and Treasurer, Anne-Mette Fisker-Nielson, are also present. Thank you all so much for coming to share this event with me.

Several friends and members of my family, along with two lovely god-daughters, are also here – and I would like to thank you for coming too – but I won't embarrass you by listing your names! Instead I would like to finish by sharing a family story that you might find interesting.

When I was four years old – some four years after the end of the Second World War as I was born in 1945 -- my father and mother agreed to take into our home for a year an au pair girl from Germany. Now this was a time when there was still a lot of anti-German sentiment in Britain but Hilde, our adopted big sister, and her friend Heidi, who stayed with a neighbouring family, wanted to re-build good relations with the people their leader had deemed to be their enemies. Hilde was sometimes kind to us, and sometimes quite strict when she was left in charge, but we came to love her as a member of the family, and we have visited her and kept in touch with her and her own family over all the years since. Recently I saw an inscription my father had written in a book he gave her before she returned home, and it praised her bravery in coming so soon after such a devastating war to the country which had been their enemy. I would like to thank my father for his brave act of inviting Hilde into our home, and demonstrating in such a powerful way to us the importance of friendship and good relations between peoples – even if they had been subjected to cruel wars. I noticed an apt quotation from his countryman Walter Scott as I

travelled south on Monday from the station in Edinburgh named Waverley after one of his novels: "Life is too short for the indulgence of animosity".

I expect you can guess where this is going, but I won't labour the point; in 1967, I was invited by my godfather, a friend of my father from that same war, to visit the wonderful universal EXPO in his home town of Montreal, where there was a charming Japanese pavilion. Osaka was to be the site of the next Universal Exposition in 1970, and I made a decision -- on the spot -- to learn Japanese and travel to Japan. Becoming an anthropologist actually came later, and I never did make it to the 万博 in Osaka, but as you know, I did go to Japan where I usually muddle along in Japanese. Now, I don't know whether our big German sister's presence in my house at the age of 4 influenced my decision to visit and find out more about the other country that was still being bad-mouthed in the UK at the time, but I am absolutely sure that since I became inspired to go to Japan and receive the friendship of so many Japanese people, it has been my overriding ambition to share my knowledge and enthusiasm back here in the UK. That the Japanese government should reward the work I have done over the years to that end is simply a wonderful privilege, with which I can only be delighted.

I'd like to finish with a quotation from a poet who is neither Japanese nor British, though countryman of an island beloved by my younger brother and his wife, namely Crete. He is Nikos Kazantzakis, and here is a translation of what he said:

"If we do not want to allow the world to sink into chaos, we must release the love which is trapped in the heart of all humans".