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Host: Professor Kazuyoshi Oishi, Graduate School of Letters at the University of Nagoya

I was fortunate to be awarded a JSPS Invitation Fellowship from 10 July – 1 August 2011, working with Prof. Kaz Oishi at the Graduate School of Letters at the University of Nagoya. Nagoya was a base from which I travelled to give lectures and discuss English Romanticism with Japanese scholars and students. It was a marvellous opportunity not only to further my own research on cross-cultural links and reception histories, but also to exchange ideas and best practice for teaching and research and to establish connections for future events and publications. As a result of the work undertaken during this fellowship, I will be co-editing a special issue of the journal *Poetica* with Prof. Oishi.

I arrived at the University of Nagoya on 10 July, and had the opportunity to spend some time researching with Prof. Oishi, and also to meet other scholars there, including Professor Mitsu Matsuoka, who works on Elizabeth Gaskell. Events at Nagoya included exchanging ideas with students – for example, a seminar on undergraduate theses which gave me an excellent insight into the range of English literature being discussed at university level, and a lecture on English Romantic women poets attended by undergraduates and graduates. On 14 July I spoke jointly with Professor Peter Kitson, another JSPS Invitation Fellow, at a public seminar at Nagoya. I delivered a paper on my current research, ‘The Dissenting Family: Anna Letitia Barbauld and the Aikin Family, 1740-1860’, and found the resulting workshop discussion and feedback very helpful. I then travelled to the international Coleridge conference in Kobe (16-18 July), organised by Dr. Oishi, “Coleridge, Romanticism, and the Orient: Cultural Negotiations”, at which I delivered a paper on ‘Thomas Manning, Charles Lamb, and Oriental Encounters’. Discussion at the conference centred on Romantic-period cultural and literary encounters with China and Asia, and how we might, as international scholars, best share ideas about these. The conference was presented by the JSPS Kaken Project “Aspects of Cultural Negotiations in Coleridge and Romantic Literature” (led by Prof. Oishi), and supported by the ELSJ and JAERS. It was a really fruitful area for discussion, and bore testament to the high level of international research enabled by JSPS funding.

I followed the conference with a series of lectures and seminars, including Kobe City University of Foreign Studies (20 July), where I lectured on Jane Austen, and Hiroshima University (27 July), where I spoke on Anna Letitia Barbauld. I also had a memorable trip to Fukuoka, where I lectured on my research on Charles Lamb at Seinan Gakuin University, hosted by Prof. Mie Gotoh. She and Prof. Oishi introduced me to the members of the Romantic Association of Kyushu, established in the 1970s to explore British literature in the period, and the source of excellent scholarship on John Clare, William Wordsworth and John Keats. They were a wonderfully hospitable group: we had lively discussion about the reception of English Romanticism in Japan, followed by a special kaiseki meal.

I would like to offer my special thanks to the JSPS for this memorable opportunity for academic exchange, and, particularly, to thank my host, Prof. Oishi, for his kindness, stimulating discussion, and his attention to detail. The universities I visited took such good care of everything for me: I stayed in university accommodation at Nagoya, which was excellent, and found travelling using the Japan Rail Pass very easy. My time in Japan will provide a base for many future collaborative projects – as well as for some long-lasting friendships.

With Prof. Oishi's undergraduate students, University of Nagoya



Above left: lecturing on Austen at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies, with Prof. Saeko Yoshikawa and students: right and below, with members of the Kyushu Romantic Association, Prof. Mie Gotoh, and Prof. Kaz Oishi

