

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HISTORY DIDACTICS
INTERNATIONALE GESELLSCHAFT FÜR GESCHICHTSDIDAKTIK
SOCIÉTÉ INTERNATIONALE POUR LA DIDACTIQUE DE L'HISTOIRE

JAPAN AND THE WORLD IN HISTORY TEACHING

Annual Conference 1994 in Cambridge, England, from
Wednesday 21 September - Sunday 25 September

This year's annual conference takes place in the university town of Cambridge. There you find the second oldest university in England having been founded by a group of scholars who had left Oxford in 1207. Why they decided to establish themselves at Cambridge, an obscure market town with a castle guarding the crossing of the river Cam and surrounded to the north by the bogs and swamps of the undrained fens, is obscure; it can hardly have been the most attractive of sites then. The university developed along the Oxford model with the college as the main unit of teaching. The oldest college is Peterhouse, 1284; but in every century since then, new colleges have been founded; today there are twenty four undergraduate colleges, and ten graduate. They range from the splendid magnificence of King's (1441) - its chapel is one of the finest late gothic buildings in Europe - to the modernism of Robinson College (1977) with its Chinoiserie motive and its charming chapel with stained glass windows by John Piper.

It is in Robinson College that the conference is to be housed. It is an ideal conference venue with excellent accomodation (most of the rooms have separate bathrooms, the rest have bathrooms shared between two) and splendid lecture and seminar facilities. It is particularly noted for the excellence of its cuisine. The College is situated within easy walking distance from the center of the city (ten minutes) and is close to the copyright university library.

The Conference theme this year is to be:

Japan and the World: images, attitudes and understandings
in history teaching

This theme was suggested by work wich Society members Sato (Japan) and Booth (UK) are undertaking, researching the teaching and learning of history in Japan and England. Their empirical research is based on data which they are collecting from two schools in the prefecture of Yamanashi and two schools in Cambridgeshire. They are investigating the syllabuses taught, the beliefs and teaching methods of the history

teachers and the knowledge, understandings and attitudes of the 13 to 14 year olds in the research sample. Masayuki Sato and Martin Booth will be presenting the results of this work at the Conference. But we have promises of papers from Sweden, Germany and the USA on aspects of the teaching and learning about the history of Japan; we are hoping to get contributions from eastern Europe, Australia and further contributions from Japan. The conference starts at 12.00 noon on Wednesday 21 September 1994 with registration; it ends on Sunday 25 September at 11.00 am. A full and balanced programme is being devised which will certainly allow time for delegates to explore the city and see the many beautiful buildings. Delegates no doubt will want to visit the Fitzwilliam museum described as one of the finest small museums in Europe with its priceless collections of paintings, antiquities, manuscripts, armour and glassware, pottery and china. One of the best ways of seeing Cambridge is from the river and (weather permitting!) we hope to arrange a punting trip on the river Cam. Punts are traditional fenland boats; shallowdraft, flat bottomed and heavy, they are propelled by long, unwieldy poles.

If you would like to contribute to the programme, please let Martin Booth, the conference secretary, know as soon as possible. But in any case, he would be grateful if you would tell him before the end of April whether you intend coming to Cambridge. The cost will be £ 315 per delegate, payable on or before 21 September 1994. We are still hoping to get a subsidy to offset some of the cost, but delegates would be well advised not to bank on this and to look to other agencies to help defray the expense. We would strongly advise applying to, say, the British Council for an individual grant. There should be a branch of the organisation near you.

The Committee of the Society very much **hopes** that you will make every effort to attend the Conference in September 1994! Cambridge is a wonderful place to hold it and the theme promises to be interesting and to promote lively debate. It is hoped that we would be able to publish the proceedings. Correspondence about the Conference should be addressed to: Dr. Martin Booth, ISHD Conference Secretary, University of Cambridge, Department of Education, 17 Trumpington Street, Cambridge UK, CB2 1QA; Tel: 0223 (area code) 332888; FAX: 0223332894. The Conference address is: Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge UK CB3 9AN; Tel: 0223 311431; FAX: 0223 315094.

Martin B. Booth