

JAPAN SOCIETY TIMELINE

1907

May 19, 1907: Japan Society founded by Lindsay Russell, Hamilton Holt, Jacob Schiff, August Belmont, and other prominent Americans on the occasion of the May visit to New York by General Baron Tamesada Kuroki and Vice Admiral Goro Ijuin.

John H. Finley, president of City College, elected Japan Society's first president.

Purpose of the Society set forth as "the promotion of friendly relations between the United States and Japan and the diffusion among the American people of a more accurate knowledge of the people of Japan, their aims, ideals, arts, sciences, industries, and economic conditions."

General Kuroki quoted as saying, "I am immensely pleased with this country and the reception I have received here. I like your country and your people. They are hustlers, like my own."

1908

Japan Society issued its first publication, a yearbook that continued to be published until the 1930s, containing names of the officers and members, a list of the Society's activities, information about Japan and the Japanese, pictures of the Emperor, the text of the Japanese national anthem, and travel tips for visitors to Japan.

1909

Dinner held in honor of Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Kuni.

1910

Lindsay Russell elected president of Japan Society.

Luncheons held in honor of Prince Iyesato Tokugawa, the heir of the last Tokugawa Shogun, and Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hiroyasu Fushimi.

Dinner held in honor of Yukio Ozaki, Mayor of Tokyo (remembered in the U.S. as the donor, on behalf of the city of Tokyo, of the famous Washington, D.C., cherry trees).

Committee on Arts and Literature established.

1911

Annual lecture series initiated (lectures usually held at the Hotel Astor or at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, drawing several hundred people); lectures from the first year included Toyokichi Ienaga on "The Positions of the United States and Japan in the Far East" and Frederick W. Gookin on Japanese color prints.

Japan Society's first art exhibition held (*ukiyo-e* prints borrowed from private collections and shown at 200 Fifth Avenue), attended by about 8,000 people.

Lindsay Russell and Hamilton Holt visited Japan and were granted an audience with the Meiji Emperor.

1912

Japan Society began organizing tours to Japan and the Far East.

Temporary Japanese garden and teahouse constructed on the roof of the Hotel Astor as a special project of the Society to serve as a setting for periodic lectures, tea ceremony, and *noh* performances.

1913

Japan Society incorporated under the laws of the state of New York.

Society headquarters established at 165 Broadway.

Publication of the Society's first newsletter, the monthly *Japan Society Bulletin*.

Society began efforts to improve academic teaching about Japan in the U.S.

Publication of the Society's first book, *Japanese Colour-Prints and Their Designers* by Frederick W. Gookin.

1916

Publication began of the *Trade Bulletin*, providing information on Japan's economic activities to Society members, chambers of commerce, corporations, and banking institutions.

Publication of 1,000 copies of a pamphlet entitled *The Japanese Problem and the United States*.

1918

Japan Society *Bulletin* of February 28, 1918, exhorted readers: "Isn't it worth your while to spend fifteen minutes a month on Japan? The day has passed when we needed to think only in terms of our own country. The international mind is of today. Read this *Bulletin* of the Japan Society and learn something new about your nearest Western neighbor. Japan has much to teach us. Preparedness is the watchword of the day: don't forget that this includes mental preparedness. It is just as important to think straight as to shoot straight. Spend fifteen minutes developing the international side of your mind."

1919

Gerald M. Dahl, vice president of First National City Bank, elected president of Japan Society.

Former Society president Lindsay Russell dedicated his time to raising a permanent endowment fund for the Society, later named the Townsend Harris Fund, for disseminating information about Japan to Americans.

Former Prime Minister Marquis Shigenobu Okuma quoted in the Society's *Bulletin*: "I have often expressed my view of the absurdity of talking of a conflict between Japan and America, as I firmly believe there is no serious reason for such a conflict, while there is every need for the cooperation of the two nations."

For a while during the World War I period, the Society's offices were used by the Anti-Alien Legislation Committee, an openly political pressure group against discriminatory legislation toward Japanese immigrants.

1920

Frank H. Vanderlip, president of First National City Bank, elected president of Japan Society.

Society's offices moved to 25 West 43rd Street.

First commercial (corporate) memberships established.

Japanese Advisory Committee of prominent local Japanese business leaders established.

Garden party held at Vanderlip's home, with more than 600 people attending.

1921

Japan Society engaged Yale historian Kenneth Scott Latourette to prepare a syllabus of Japan, which was published in eight editions over the following fifteen years.

Former Japan Society president Louis V. Ledoux wrote an article for *The New York Times* titled "Yankee Humor in Japan," stating that "America and Japan distrust and misunderstand each other, but if ever the twain shall meet it may be humor, the universal solvent, the curer of enmity, that will bring them together."

1922

Japan Society sponsored its first film screening, a four-reel film of then Crown Prince Hirohito's 1921 visit to Europe (first trip abroad made by incumbent or designated occupant of Japanese throne), before a capacity crowd of almost 600.

Society presented the Japanese Literary Society's performance of *Crimson Camelia* in Japanese before an audience of over 700.

From the 1922 membership brochure: "The Japan Society is an association of Americans, and some Japanese, who, appreciating the increasing importance of the Far East in world affairs, desire to create and sustain a broader and more intelligent understanding of Japan and the advantages that will result from a sound and stable Japanese-American relationship. To accomplish this broad educational purpose, the Society gives illustrated lectures, [and] prints and distributes authoritative books and bulletins on different phases of Japanese life and activities."

1923

Henry W. Taft, brother of U.S. President William Howard Taft, elected president of Japan Society.

Society raised a fund of \$117,476.50 toward relief and reconstruction following earthquake devastation of Tokyo and Yokohama (\$100,000 to general relief purposes; \$10,000 to rebuild Tsuda College, a Christian institute for girls; balance for reconstruction of St. Luke's International Hospital in Tokyo).

1925

Japan Society's Annual Dinner broadcast on the radio and reviewed favorably in the *New York Herald Tribune*.

Society published pamphlet containing "25 questions commonly asked about Japan with adequate answers to same..." selling over 3,000 copies in the first year.

Mid-1920s

Educational activities of the Society expanded by a traveling exhibition of characteristic Japanese artifacts and the compilation of a set of slides to be lent on request, together with accompanying lectures.

1926-28

Japan Society Annual Dinners attracted over 1,000 people per year.

Society membership climbed to a prewar high of 1,300.

1927

Japan Society published *The Art of Japan* by Louis V. Ledoux.

1928

Japan Society received and displayed Good Will Dolls sent to America by more than 2,500,000 school children in Japan in return for Doll Messengers of Good Will sent by American school children the previous year.

1929

Alexander Tison, a lawyer who had taught law at the Imperial University in Tokyo, elected president of Japan Society.

Following the October financial crash, Society membership began to decline.

1930

Japan Society's offices moved to 36 West 44th Street.

1931

George W. Wickersham elected president of Japan Society.

1933

Japan Society assisted in the publication of *Art, Life, and Nature in Japan* by Professor Masaharu Anesaki, commemorating the Society's twenty-fifth anniversary.

Society activities confined to publication of books on the arts of Japan.

"It is to the credit of the individuals who founded the Japan Society, developed its programs, and guided it, especially during the difficult period of the 1930s, that they carefully avoided involvement in political problems on either side." (Japan Society 1957 annual report.)

1934

Henry W. Taft re-elected president of Japan Society.

Society's exhibition, *About Japan: Japanese Paintings, Aspects of Japanese Art and Culture*, held at the Century Club.

1935

Japan Society's offices moved to 527 Fifth Avenue.

1941

Henry W. Taft resigned as Japan Society president on December 8.

Louis V. Ledoux assumed leadership role and arranged for suspension of the Society's activities during the war.

1942

Louis V. Ledoux elected president of Japan Society.

Society's offices closed, but Paolino Gerli, head of a silk importing firm and a Society director from 1913 to 1970, safely kept the records, bonds, and endowment fund of the Society until after the war, when the Society could begin its activities again. He was the Society's treasurer from 1952 to 1963, and honorary director from 1970 to 1981, with sixty-eight years of association with the Society.

1947

Japan Society directors assembled for their first meeting in five years to begin the work of revitalizing the organization.

1948

Following Louis V. Ledoux's death, Japan Society vice president Harold Henderson served as interim leader.

Society leadership decided to resume full-scale activity only after formal peace treaty signed.

1950

Harold Henderson elected president of Japan Society.

1951

Formal peace treaty between Japan and the United States signed.

Japan Society held its first social event after the war, a luncheon in honor of Takashi Komatsu, president of America-Japan Society of Tokyo.

John D. Rockefeller 3rd [JDR] established the Intellectual Interchange Program: an exchange of leading Japanese and American thinkers from the worlds of art, literature, law, and political science who visited each other's countries, met with their counterparts, and gave public lectures. Shigeharu Matsumoto, who acted as chief Japanese collaborator with JDR in the creation of The International House of Japan (I-House) and served as chairman until his death in 1989, ran the program in Japan. In New York, Harry J. Carman, professor of history and retired dean of Columbia College, was designated to head the program, assisted by Hugh Borton of the East Asian Institute. It was not long until the Society assumed responsibility for the program. Periodically between 1951 and the late 1990s, Intellectual Interchange Fellows included: Robert Oppenheimer; Eleanor Roosevelt; Paul Tillich; Fusae Ichikawa (the grande dame of the women's suffrage movement in Japan); Norman Cousins; former minister of education Michio Nagai; novelists Saul Bellow and Shusaku Endo; poet Makoto Ooka; political commentator Garry Wills; and journalist Robert MacNeil.

1952

John D. Rockefeller 3rd elected president of Japan Society; John Foster Dulles elected chairman.

"In 1951, JDR had become a member of the Dulles mission to Japan, which resulted in the San Francisco peace treaty. He was given the assignment from Dulles to take a good, close look at cultural and educational relations between Japan and the United States and to plan to make a master plan of the furtherance of these cultural and educational relations, not only in the public sector but also in the private sector. In preparing his report, he sought the help of the State Department and after several months, came up with a rather comprehensive report which offered a blueprint for United States-Japanese relations in the post-treaty period. It was essential to have two anchors if Japanese-American cultural relations were to flourish. These anchors were to be two organizations, one in Tokyo and one in New York, privately sponsored and having nothing to do with either of the governments. The so-called Japanese institute which had been envisaged in New York eventually turned out to be Japan Society. (from transcript entitled *An Oral History of Japan Society, With Reference to the Years 1952-1967*, by Douglas Overton, executive director of Japan Society, 1952-67)

Society bylaws and organizational structure revised.

Executive, Arts and Literature, Membership, Hospitality, and Finance Committees established.

Douglas Overton, Foreign Service officer and State Department official, appointed the Society's first executive director (he was the deputy Japan desk officer who helped JDR with the report assigned by Dulles).

Temporary Society headquarters set up at 119 West 40th Street, later moved to Savoy-Plaza, Fifth Avenue and 58th Street, room 368.

Dinner held at the Plaza Hotel in honor of Japan's first postwar ambassador to Washington, Eikichi Araki; the first major postwar function of the Society.

"Less than eighteen months after JDR had traveled to Tokyo with the Dulles peace mission, the projects in Japanese-American relations he had been busy generating already had the sweet smell of success about them. This was evident on June 17, 1952, when New Yorkers saw something they had not seen in many years—the Rising Sun flag of Japan proudly displayed along Fifth Avenue. The occasion was the first annual banquet of the Japan Society, taking place only three months after the skillful reorganization of the Society's board..." (*The Rockefeller Century*, by John Ensor Harr and Peter J. Johnson, p. 517)

In the annual report, Society president John D. Rockefeller 3rd noted the return of sovereignty to Japan as well as the resumption of full-scale activities at the Society. Under his leadership, from 1952-78—twenty-six years of continuous service, longer than for any other organization, the Society grew to be a real force in U.S.-Japan relations.

Series of teas held to introduce New York area Japanese students to Society members.

Interpretation of Japan to Americans decided as the primary emphasis of the Society.

"The Society's long range objective is to help bring the people of the United States and of Japan closer together in their appreciation and understanding of each other and each other's way of life."—John D. Rockefeller 3rd

1953

Eleanor Roosevelt traveled to Japan on the Intellectual Interchange Program.

Dinner held in honor of Crown Prince Akihito attended by 1,500.

Performing Arts Program established; first performance was "Kabuki by the Fujima Sisters and Noh by the Students of Moravian College for Women." (Held at the Rotunda, Low Memorial Library, Columbia University, and co-sponsored with the Brander Matthews Dramatic Museum and the Japan Society of Columbia University.)

Japan Society began publication of the *Japan Forum* newsletter for members.

Society-sponsored television program on Japanese arts aired.

New priority in aiding Japanese students in the U.S. set with the establishment of a student emergency fund and a scholarship fund.

U.S. State Department designated the Society as an official sponsor for exchange visitors.

Society supported a Japanese art exhibition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

What Shall I Read on Japan?, a bibliographic and teaching aid, published; between 1953 and 1973, twelve editions (more than 100,000 copies) distributed nationwide.

Society sponsored: a touring exhibition by woodblock artist Toshi Yoshida; a display of Japanese utilitarian arts at East River Savings Bank; an evening of Japanese dance co-sponsored by International House at Columbia; a performance of *Madame Butterfly* by Fujiwara Opera Company; a lecture on "A Woman's Life in the New Japan"; and an evening discussion on Japanese-American relations.

Decision made that the Society focus the major portion of its energy and resources in these specific areas: Japanese students in America; cultural exchange; improving education about Japan in the U.S.; and the teaching of English in Japan.

Sum of \$1,500 made available to send one or more outstanding American students to a revived annual Japan-America Student Conference.

Society engaged in a new program of receptions and home visits for Japanese students—twenty members and friends provided hospitality to sixty-six students in the New York area, ninety-eight students attended receptions at the Society, and seventy-five took advantage of a counseling service offered by the Society to give advice on money, budgets, and daily living.

1954

Japan Society had a full-time staff of five.

Assistance to visiting Japanese students offered through a grants-in-aid program concentrating on potential leaders.

Exchange of scholars between the U.S. and Japan established as an ongoing program.

Society members participated in hospitality programs for students.

Society active in distributing documentary films and slides for use in American schools.

Society sponsored U.S. premieres of the films *Ugetsu* and *Jigokumon (Gate of Hell)*.

Japanese potter Rosanjin visited the U.S. to give lectures and demonstrations.

Dinner held in honor of Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida.

One-year experimental program of summer school lectureships established for young Japanese teachers to speak on Japanese civilization at New York area colleges.

Society influential in establishing translation program with help of Harold Strauss of Knopf (including works by Tanizaki and Mishima in translations by Edward Seidensticker and Donald Keene).

1955

Japan Society distributed "Teacher Packets" on Japan to American high schools.

Traveling exhibits and performing arts programs made available to New York area educational and cultural institutions.

Dr. William Cullen Bryant II (head of American Language Center at Columbia) sent to Japan to investigate how the Society and others could help English-language teaching in Japan; English Language Education Council (ELEC) established as a result.

Society held reception at the Columbia Faculty Club for actress Machiko Kyo.

Society (backed by a grant from John D. Rockefeller 3rd and the cooperation of International Film Foundation) sent Julien Bryan to Japan to make a film on the modern Japanese economy titled *Japan*—an instant success in American schools, it sold about 250 copies a year well into the 1960s.

Cultural Interchange Committee at the Society began sending American books to Japan, where wartime restrictions and post-war poverty had deprived libraries of recent publications.

Executors of the estate of Japanese soprano Tamaki Miura, who had sung before King George V and Queen Mary at Albert Hall in 1914, asked the Society to carry out Miura's wishes in having the elaborately embroidered robe she had worn in 300 performances of Puccini's opera *Madame Butterfly* given to the people of the U.S. (It was presented to the Metropolitan Opera Company).

1956

Japan Society sponsored a major art exhibition of kimono from the Nomura Robe Collection at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Society sponsored two important books, Herschel Webb's *Introduction to Japan* and Donald Keene's *Anthology of Japanese Literature* in the 1955–56 fiscal year.

At the request of Joseph Grew, the last prewar American ambassador to Japan, the Society helped to arrange the final year of study for the grandson of Count Kabayama at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

1957

"This is the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Japan Society and the fifth year of its postwar reactivation." (Japan Society 1957 annual report)

Society offices at 18 East 50th Street shared with the newly formed Asia Society.

Society's Performing Arts Program sponsored a series of performances to showcase young Japanese artists in both traditional and contemporary fields, including classical dancer Suzushi Hanayagi and avant-garde musician Yoko Ono.

Three performers demonstrated three different Japanese arts in a forty-minute program that reached 12,000 students in the New York area during a single academic year.

Society membership reached 1,000.

Dinner held in honor of Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi.

One hundred and forty-seven New York area high school teachers attended course of fifteen weekly lectures on Japan and received credit from Board of Education, double the number anticipated.

Exhibition of Twentieth Century Design, an exhibition of American art jointly sponsored by Japan Society and the Museum of Modern Art on the American side and by the National Museum of Modern Art and the Asahi newspapers on the Japanese side, traveled to four major Japanese cities during winter/spring of 1957; in Tokyo alone, 37,000 persons, including Her Majesty the Empress, visited the exhibition.

1958

Japan Society sponsored a new organization, the Nichibeï Fujinkai, designed to bring American and Japanese women in the New York area together; Nichibeï Fujinkai is still active.

In a single week, the Society answered 139 requests for general information, booked fifty films and recordings, and arranged twenty-one appearances for speakers and performers.

Society's publication program sponsored two significant new books: Harold G. Henderson's *An Introduction to Haiku* (Doubleday, 1958) and the second edition of *The Complete Journal of Townsend Harris* (Tuttle, 1959), which replaced the original volume published by the Society in 1930.

Traveling exhibits program brought two calligraphy exhibitions and three new exhibits of contemporary prints to universities and libraries throughout the U.S.

1959

Japan Society's offices moved to the new Asia House at 112 East 64th Street, in a space shared with the Asia Society.

Woodblock print artist Shiko Munakata arrived in the U.S. for a six-month visit as a Japan Society Fellow.

Gagaku, the musicians and dancers of the Imperial Household, traveled to New York and four other cities with the help of the Society; this early Japanese court music and dance of the eighth and ninth centuries attracted capacity houses at New York City Center.

Traveling exhibits program doubled in scope, with a total of eighty showings in fifty-seven different American and Canadian cities.

Exhibition of fifty-five Japanese *haniwa* from the collection of the Tokyo National Museum sent on tour in 1959-60 to six cities in the U.S. by the government of Japan, jointly sponsored by Japan Society and the Society for International Cultural Relations (K.B.S.), Tokyo.

1960

Dinners held in honor of former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida and other visiting dignitaries on the occasion of the U.S.-Japan centennial year, and in honor of Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko.

Society co-sponsored first American tour of Grand Kabuki with K.B.S.

Ambitious project with National Educational Television and Radio Center and the University of Michigan produced *Japan: People and Society*, a series of ten half-hour programs on contemporary Japanese life and culture.

Heavy emphasis on role of Japanese studies in American education continued, particularly at the college and high school levels. Grants made for continuance of full semester courses on *Japan, Present, Past and Future*.

1961

Japan Society's annual budget at about \$100,000.

Luncheon held in honor of Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda, at which Ikeda gave a major policy speech.

To raise standards of English teaching in Japan through teacher training and the development of new teaching materials, Society supported ELEC in Tokyo.

Weekend conference held of key staff from the oldest and largest Japan Societies of America: Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, New Orleans, New York, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington; now a part of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS).

1962

Success of Japan Society's programs occasioned a general review in 1962 to assess its accomplishments and plan for the future.

Board of Directors meeting in December 1962 raised the question of the possibility of expanding into programs related to political and economic affairs; Board agreed that this issue should be explored and appointed a committee to investigate.

1963

Formal decision on behalf of Japan Society to uphold nonpartisan stance by continuing policy to avoid advocacy of any specific position on political or economic relations.

In 1962-63, inquiries from the general public exceeded 5,000; a total of 25,021 pamphlets and other items mailed on request.

Society's book of the year was *The Black Ship Scroll*, reproductions of a series of watercolors by an unknown Japanese artist working at the time of the Perry Expedition, accompanied by a text written by Society member Oliver Statler.

Society received a citation from the Parsons School Alumni Association for "outstanding accomplishments in the arts."

1964

In the performing arts, special grants from the JDR 3rd Fund (present Asian Cultural Council) made it possible for Japan Society to sponsor three significant events in New York during the year. The first, *Japan Week* at Philharmonic Hall in Lincoln Center, featured nightly concerts by the Toho Gakuen String Orchestra, an ensemble made up of thirty-five girls and twenty-five boys, all students at the Toho Conservatory. The opening concerts were led by Seiji Ozawa, the school's most famous alumnus, who went on to become the longest leading conductor of the Boston Symphony.

Another grant made it possible for the Japan Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra to tour the United States; the orchestra appeared in thirty American cities during its six-week visit.

A third grant enabled the Society to embark on a new project in educational television, designed to bring to the public a series of half-hour shows on various aspects of the arts of Japan. Four programs, on *Koto*, *Folk Dance*, *Noh*, and *The Art of the Wood Block* were produced and taped, and shown several times on New York's Channel 13.

Supported by the Council on International Educational Exchange, student charter flights to Japan inaugurated with Council on Student Travel.

1965

Asia House became too small to house both an expanding Japan Society and the Asia Society; it was tentatively decided that Japan Society should have a building of its own, and a committee was set up under James Voss, chairman of Caltex Petroleum, to make recommendations.

Shiko Munakata's second visit under Society auspices; he was awarded Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at Dartmouth College.

1966

Japan Society moved to temporary quarters at 250 Park Avenue.

Decision made to build a permanent headquarters, Japan House, in New York, and a site chosen on East 47th Street, near the United Nations.

1967

Japan Society's sixtieth anniversary, the fifteenth since postwar reactivation, marked by a dinner for Eisaku Sato, the new prime minister of Japan.

Champagne reception and private viewing held on the opening night of sculptor Isamu Noguchi's first retrospective at the Whitney Museum of American Art.

Artist Shiko Munakata visited New York through arrangements by the Society, his third visit.

Junzo Yoshimura officially chosen as architect of new Japan House.

1968

Society designated secretariat of American panel of U.S.-Japan Conference on Cultural and Educational Interchange (CULCON), a group of leading businessmen, scholars, media professionals, and policymakers who met every two years to encourage cultural and educational interchange.

Program of lecture/luncheons for corporate members established.

1969

September 16, 1969: Japan Society president John D. Rockefeller 3rd and Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Kiichi Aichi participated in a ground-breaking ceremony for Japan House, Japan Society's new headquarters.

Smithsonian exhibition, *The Japan Exhibition 1852-55 of Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry*, brought to New York through the Society and Union Carbide, attracted more than 20,000 visitors over a five-week period; a founding member of the Society and vice president from 1910-19, August Belmont was a grandson of the Commodore.

Society helped bring Grand Kabuki to New York for the first full-scale performances in the U.S.

Just before the historic Okinawa reversion agreement, the Society entertained a stream of distinguished visitors, including Prime Minister Eisaku Sato; former Prime Minister Nobosuke Kishi; Kiichi Aichi, Minister of Foreign Affairs; and Takeo Fukuda, Minister of Finance and later prime minister.

Together with the Johnson Foundation, the Society co-sponsored the Wingspread conference, *After Okinawa: Japan and the United States in the 1970s*, in Racine, Wisconsin.

Japanese Film Festival opened at the Museum of Modern Art, featuring Akira Kurosawa's first film, *Sugata Sanshiro* (1943).

Grand Kabuki program presented at City Center.

1970

Isaac Shapiro elected president of Japan Society; John D. Rockefeller 3rd became chairman.

Society received Japan Foundation Award.

Major year for the arts, including a premiere and benefit screening of *Tora! Tora! Tora!*; the debut performance in New York of the Tokyo String Quartet, followed by a reception; and a joint opening with the Guggenheim of a major exhibit, *Contemporary Japanese Art: Fifth Japan Art Festival*.

By 1970, Japanese were the largest single tourist visitor group to the U.S., and the Society a major stopping point for Japanese visitors to New York.

1971

September 13, 1971: Opening of Japan House, the first building of contemporary Japanese design to be erected in New York, designed by Junzo Yoshimura; Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi were opening-ceremony guests at the week-long celebration in September.

Permanent art gallery opened in the new building, with first exhibition, *Rimpa: Masterworks of the Japanese Decorative School*, about which John Canaday of *The New York Times* wrote: "A new gallery, a beautiful show."

During the first two months after opening its new headquarters, the Society drew 22,000 visitors to its building, exhibitions, and events.

First postwar Annual Dinner drew 1,000 to the Waldorf-Astoria to hear Secretary of State William P. Rodgers.

Tokyo String Quartet performed in the new auditorium as part of opening week.

1972

Beginning of Japan Society film series, with films of director Hiroshi Teshigahara (*Woman in the Dunes*, *The Face of Another*).

Society developed a program through which seventeen American broadcasting executives visited Japan for a joint conference.

First United States-Japan Television Program Festival held at the Society.

Society's Japanese language education program started, with a single class.

1973

The Ledoux Heritage: The Collecting of Ukiyo-e Master Prints exhibited at the Gallery; John Canaday of *The New York Times* wrote: "Nobody with the slightest interest in Japanese art can be kept away from a show bearing the double guarantee of absolutely top quality provided by the combined names of Japan House and Ledoux..."

Namban Art: The Art of the Southern Barbarians During the Momoyama Period lauded by major media as the most important exhibition to date on early Western influence in Japanese art; some items never before exhibited.

New York Mayor John V. Lindsay gave the welcoming speech at a reception for Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, Finance Minister Kiichi Aichi, and Foreign Minister (later prime minister) Masayoshi Ohira.

Expanded programming evolved in response to Japan's emergence as an economic power.

1974

Eleven visiting Japanese journalists toured the U.S. under the sponsorship of Japan Society and the International Press Institute.

Society-produced television tapes on Japanese performing arts, *The Japan Society Presents*, continued to be shown in the U.S. by PBS and in Japan by Nippon Educational TV.

First public performance in New York of contemporary Japanese music for Western instruments held at the Society.

Grand piano donated to the Society by the Japanese business community.

In the 1974–75 fiscal year, the Society screened sixty films, reaching an aggregate audience of over 9,000 people.

Society-organized *Main Currents in Modern Japan* radio series, launched November 2, 1974, on WNYC-AM with moderator Lee Graham.

Masayoshi Ohira, Foreign Minister of Japan, delivered a major policy address before an audience of 1,300 at the Society's fourth Annual Dinner.

Society's publication, *What Shall I Read on Japan?*, went into its eleventh printing.

Printmaker Shiko Munakata's fourth and final visit to New York, before his death the following year in Japan.

1975

Henry Kissinger keynote speaker at the Annual Dinner.

Prime Minister Takeo Miki addressed a dinner in his honor.

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan visited Japan Society during their American tour.

Gallery exhibited *Art Treasures from the Imperial Collections*, many of which had never been seen before, drawing a record number of 27,000 visitors in seventeen days.

Novelist Shusaku Endo visited New York on the Intellectual Interchange Program.

Society undertook a program to distribute NHK films to American educational institutions.

First of a large-scale conference series held that generated a network of international contacts and important publications.

During the 1975–76 season, more than 200 events drew 80,000 people to the Society.

1976

Business Education Program established to develop and improve education on Japan at American graduate schools.

Summer film series held of twenty-four films on *Women in Japanese Cinema*, with opening appearances by Hideko Takamine, the leading female actor of the time, and her film director husband, Zenzo Matsuyama.

More than 10,000 moviegoers attended films at the Society during 1975–76.

Dancer-choreographers Eiko & Koma made their U.S. debut at Japan Society.

1977

Andrew N. Overby elected president of Japan Society.

Premiere of Society-produced documentary, *Shinto: Nature, Gods and Man in Japan*, in the U.S. and Japan; film later won a number of awards and was a finalist at the 1978 American Film Festival.

Society published, with Columbia University, a study on the *Economic Impact of the Japanese Business Community in New York*.

The Tokugawa Collection: No Robes and Masks, first on view at Japan Society Gallery, opened in the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Fall series of films starring Tatsuya Nakadai, with Nakadai appearing in person.

1978

At a Japan Society luncheon co-sponsored with the Foreign Policy Association, Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda delivered his only public address during his visit to the U.S.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi visited the Society.

Society began to co-sponsor the Parliamentary Exchange Program with the Japan Center for International Exchange, to bring Japanese Diet members to U.S. and send American congressmen to Japan.

John D. Rockefeller 3rd tragically killed on July 10; on September 7, a special meeting of the Board of Directors called and the following statement unanimously adopted:

"John D. Rockefeller 3rd served as President of the Japan Society from 1952 to 1969 and from then until his death on July 10, 1978 as Chairman of the Board—twenty-six years of continuous leadership. These facts only sug-

gest the extent of his contribution to the Japan Society and to the larger purpose of understanding and friendship between Japan and the United States. John Rockefeller thought about the long-range problems, and to deal with them he built institutions: Long before most people appreciated the importance of Japan and the need for strong ties between the two great Pacific democracies, he dedicated his efforts to rebuilding the Japan Society. Through the years he provided wise counsel on all the important issues facing the Society and on many of the issues of Japan-U.S. relations. It was his vision and leadership which made Japan House possible, tangible evidence of the Society's stature."

Robert S. Ingersoll became Society chairman and David Rockefeller elected honorary chairman.

During 1977–78, film, performing arts, visual arts, and lecture programs brought 60,000 visitors to the Society.

1979

In October, at the annual meeting of the Board, Andrew N. Overby retired as president of Japan Society; five months earlier, in May, the bylaws had been amended to provide that the president be a paid professional, as at most large nonprofit organizations. At the same meeting, David MacEachron was elected the first paid president.

Japan Film Center established, putting the Society's film program on a national scale and also serving as an information resource on Japanese cinema to provide educators with high-quality documentaries and films for teaching American students about Japan.

Society offered the largest national program it had ever undertaken, in cooperation with other Japan Societies: *Japan Today*, a six-week program of 530 concurrent events in seven major cities—New York, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, Miami, Washington, and Boston—to present a panorama of the economy, culture, and politics of Japan to the general public. Over 130 films were screened; ninety performing arts events or related lectures held, including events designed for young audiences, such as puppet shows, workshops in origami, poetry contests, and kite flying.

Gallery exhibited *Chanoyu: Japanese Tea Ceremony*.

1980

Exquisite Visions: Rimpa Paintings from Japan exhibited, complementing a 1971 exhibition of Rimpa paintings from American collections.

CULCON X, celebrating CULCON'S tenth anniversary, held in Washington, D.C.

Treasury Secretary G. William Miller addressed a Society luncheon.

Prior to the national telecast of the television series *Shogun*, the Film Center co-sponsored with NBC a gala preview of excerpts from the twelve-hour film. Author James Clavell, writer-producer Eric Bercovici, director Jerry London, and actress Yoko Shimada were present at the premiere. A special display of armor, swords, documents, and other artifacts associated with Tokugawa Ieyasu, the historical shogun on whom the novel and film were based, was also on view.

1981

Japan Society launched a year-long celebration of its seventy-fifth anniversary, with Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Hitachi at the opening ceremonies.

Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki addressed the Annual Dinner.

Gallery's seventy-fifth anniversary exhibition was *Horyu-ji: Temple of the Exalted Law—Early Buddhist Art from Japan*.

A retrospective of all twenty-six films of director Akira Kurosawa held; Kurosawa, attending the opening of the series, was introduced by Francis Ford Coppola as "one of the greatest living masters of the cinema."

Fifth Shimoda Conference convened in Oiso, Japan.

A book of essays, *Japan Today*, was published based on panel discussions held during 1971.

The Films of Kenji Mizoguchi, a thirty-one-film series, co-sponsored with The Museum of Modern Art.

Japan Society Newsletter reached 5,000 readers each month, with feature articles focused on a wide range of topics including cross-cultural communication, Japanese drama, poetry, the economy, China-Japan relations, cuisine, and Japanese decorative arts.

1982

Japan Society's seventy-fifth anniversary, highlighted by performances of Grand Kabuki of Japan with *Narukami*, *Migawari-zazen*, and *Sumidagawa*, and featuring Living National Treasures Utaemon, Kanzaburo, and Shizutayu on a one-month, three-city U.S. debut tour produced by Japan Society and managed by the Metropolitan Opera. Performed at the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, the World's Fair in Knoxville, Tennessee, and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Two actors from the production appeared on NBC's *Today* show.

Publication of the Society's seventy-fifth anniversary book: *Japan Society 1907-1982: 75 Years of Partnership Across the Pacific* by Edwin O. Reischauer.

Ozu: Thirty-Four Films presented a complete retrospective of the extant films of Yasujiro Ozu.

Between 1971 and 1982, the Gallery held thirty-four exhibitions.

Gallery and Performing Arts Program director Rand Castile was one of six people honored by New York City Mayor Edward Koch at the sixth Mayor's Awards of Honor for Arts and Culture.

1983

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone was the guest speaker at the Annual Dinner.

Secretary of State George P. Shultz delivered the keynote address to the *Sixth Shimoda Conference*, held for the first time in the U.S.

Metropolis: Locus of Contemporary Myths brought together thirty-two Japanese and American experts in various aspects of urban life to exchange ideas on social structure, human relations, urban culture, architecture, and design.

Conference in Hakone, co-sponsored with The International House of Japan (I-House), commemorated the thirtieth anniversary of I-House and the seventy-fifth anniversary of Japan Society.

Kanban: Shop Signs of Japan, the first exhibition of traditional Japanese trade signs to tour the U.S., shown at the Gallery.

Bunraku Puppet Theatre of Japan performed highlights from five masterpieces. The ten-man troupe appeared for three performances in Honolulu prior to ten performances at the Society and two performances in Boston.

1984

Japan Society Award established, first conferred upon Ambassador Nobuhiko Ushiba for outstanding contributions to U.S.-Japan relations.

U.S.-Japan Leadership Program launched, providing fellowships in Japan to national leaders in journalism, business, labor, government, and academia.

Indoor and outdoor performances of the Nomura Kyogen Theater produced; three outdoor performances held on a stage built for the first time over the reflecting pool in the North Plaza at Lincoln Center. (In 1985, Mazda published a booklet, *Tamasaburo in New York*, commemorating Bando Tamasaburo V's 1984 kabuki dance appearance at the 100th anniversary gala of the Metropolitan Opera Association at Lincoln Center. Sponsored by Japan Society and underwritten by the Mazda Motor Corporation, his appearance also included performances at Japan Society and at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center at Los Angeles.)

Actor Toshiro Mifune and numerous international film celebrities attended a gala evening launching the Society's major film series, *A Tribute to Toshiro Mifune* (March 7–April 29, 1984).

Society installed its first computer system, a Digital Equipment Corporation minicomputer, the PDP 11/44, with twelve terminals, one for each department.

1985

Cyrus R. Vance succeeded Robert S. Ingersoll as chairman of Japan Society.

Dinner given at I-House in Tokyo to introduce Vance as chairman of Japan Society to the Japanese community, with guests of honor Their Imperial Highnesses Crown Prince Akihito and Princess Michiko.

Ambassador Mike Mansfield guest speaker at Annual Dinner; Mansfield also received the Japan Society Award for his contributions to U.S.-Japan relations.

Seven years into the Parliamentary Exchange program, forty members of Congress had had an intense exposure to Japan and an equal number of Diet members had had a similar experience in the U.S.

His Imperial Highness Prince Naruhito visited the Society.

Nearly 50,000 people attended the Grand Sumo Tournament at Madison Square Garden, the first full-fledged sumo tournament in the U.S., co-sponsored by the Society and the Asia Society.

In its fourth year, the Public Affairs Outreach Service, a national program resource stimulating Japan-related programming across the U.S., had expanded its programming into seventeen new cities, and arranged programs in fifty-three locations nationwide, from Anchorage to San Diego, and from Portland to Tallahassee.

1986

Gallery exhibited *The Burghley Porcelains: An Exhibition from The Burghley House Collection and Based on the 1688 Inventory and 1690 Devonshire Schedule*, followed by a Friends of the Gallery Tour to Burghley House, the Elizabethan home of the Marquess of Exeter in Stamford, UK.

Joint conference with American Bar Association on U.S.-Japan trade issues.

Chrysler Corporation's Lee Iacocca keynote speaker at the Annual Dinner.

Ensemble of fourteen Japanese and Asian-American drummers convened for the fifth anniversary concert of Soh Daiko.

During 1985-86, the Society presented five study-tours, including two in Japan.

Society launched the Executive Orientation on Japan program.

Inspired by Oliver Statler's book, *The Japanese Pilgrimage*, twenty-one members participated in "In the Steps of Kobo Daishi: Japan Society's Pilgrimage to Shikoku," walking 135 miles and visiting twenty-three temples under Statler's leadership.

1987

"I have high expectations for the future role of the Japan Society, with its illustrious history and varied achievements of the past eighty years," said His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akihito on October 8 at a Japan Society gala with a formal dinner in the Gallery, followed by a concert in the auditorium with Carol Vaness and Aprile Millo of the Metropolitan Opera and Ron Richardson, star and *Tony* winner of *Big River* (who went on to Japan to repeat his role in Japanese, which was attended by Their Imperial Highnesses on opening night) and Billy Taylor and His Trio.

Gallery exhibition *Paris in Japan: The Japanese Encounter with European Painting*, described by *The New York Times* as bringing "a fresh perspective on both Paris and Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

Eighty Japanese and American leaders gathered in Oiso, Japan, for the *Seventh Shimoda Conference*, three days of wide-ranging discussion on the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Tokyo: Form and Spirit, an exhibition developed by the Walker Art Center in Minneapolis and the Society, and held at the IBM Gallery of Science and Art in New York, viewed by 140,000 people.

1988

American delegation of the U.S.-Japan Parliamentary Exchange Program included both House Majority Leader Thomas Foley and Minority Leader Robert Michel.

Enrollment in Japanese language classes reached 2,200.

Gallery marked fifty-one exhibitions held since the Society's building opened in 1971.

Society completed \$10 million Capital Fund Drive.

In its twelfth year, the Business Fellowships in Japan exchange program sent eight first-year business school students to Japan for six-week internships with Japanese corporations.

Eighth annual *Japan Caravan* brought three Japanese professionals from academia, business, and the media for a two-week speaking tour throughout the U.S.

As part of the First New York International Festival of the Arts, *Toru Takemitsu and Sound Space ARK* presented a series of four concerts of contemporary Japanese and American chamber music under the artistic direction of Toru Takemitsu.

1989

David MacEachron stepped down in April as president of Japan Society; he passed away the following January.

William H. Gleysteen, Jr. became president of Japan Society.

CBS anchorman Dan Rather lectured at the Society on "Making Foreign News Less Foreign."

More than 1,900 people attended the Society's Annual Dinner, featuring keynote speaker Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan.

Governor of New York Mario Cuomo delivered the keynote address at the conference *Global Leadership in the 1990s: The Roles of the U.S., Japan and Europe*.

American Public Opinion on Japanese Direct Investment by Duane Kujawa and Daniel Bob, a publication resulting from a one-year research project through the U.S.-Japan Program, received considerable press attention from both American and Japanese media.

1990

Kita Noh Theater and *Nomura Kyogen* marked the first full performances of classical drama and comedy presented on the Society's stage.

Gallery presented the landmark exhibition *Court and Samurai in an Age of Transition: Medieval Paintings and Blades from the Gotoh Museum, Tokyo*.

Ohira Memorial Lecture, named for the late prime minister of Japan, Kazuto Ohira, featured former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.

Distinguished Lecturer Series included talks by renowned kabuki actor Ichikawa Ennosuke III and former U.S. Defense Secretary James Schlesinger.

Enrollment in language classes exceeded 2,500 students.

1991

Generous gift of \$1.25 million from the Toyota Motor Corporation allowed Japan Society to include a Japanese language center in the first phase of its building expansion program. Work also included the creation of C.V. Starr Library and renovation of the auditorium and fourth floor offices. (Toyota Language Center and C.V. Starr Library formally opened on December 11, 1992.)

Almost 100,000 visitors attended the Gallery's *The Rise of a Great Tradition: Japanese Archaeological Ceramics from the Jomon through Heian Periods (10,500 B.C.-A.D. 1185)*.

Film Center completed the third module of its educational video project, *Japanese Society Through Film*.

New Teacher Training Program provided native Japanese speakers with the techniques necessary to teach Japanese to English speakers.

U.S. debut of Suzuki Company of Toga (SCOT), Artistic Director Tadashi Suzuki, with *Dionysus* at Lincoln Center, through Performing Arts Program.

1992

Michael I. Sovern became chairman of Japan Society.

Phase One renovation and expansion of Society building completed.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado toured the Society during their visit to New York.

Okinawan Traditional Dance and Music commemorated the twentieth anniversary of the reversion of Okinawa to Japan.

Japanese Folk Art: A Triumph of Simplicity, the second exhibition in a three-part series dedicated to exploring the arts and culture of nineteenth-century Japan, heralded by *The New York Times* as "the most ambitious such show in New York."

Film Center presented *Changing Japan: New Ways in a Traditional Society*, a series of thirteen films on the social and cultural changes taking place in contemporary Japan, in association with the Film Society of Lincoln Center.

1993

Performing Arts inaugurated the *Jazz from Japan* series, showcasing Japan's foremost jazz artists in collaboration with outstanding American musicians.

Fully renovated auditorium reopened, equipped with new 35mm and 16mm projectors and a state-of-the-art Dolby sound system.

Fourth annual *MacEachron Policy Forum* brought together policy experts from all over the world for a two-day private discussion, "Redefining the U.S.-Japan Security Relationship."

Young Executive Program launched.

1992-93 Corporate Luncheon Program attracted more than 1,100 participants to seventeen discussion meetings featuring U.S. Treasury Under Secretary Lawrence Summers and Takeshi Nagano, president, Nikkeiren and chairman, Mitsubishi Materials Corporation, among others.

Seventeenth annual Business Fellowships in Japan program sent seven American MBA students to Japan.

1994

Their Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Japan visited Japan Society.

Educational Outreach Department established.

Special invitational forums included round-table discussions with Walter Mondale, U.S. Ambassador to Japan; Masahisa Naito, former director-general, Industrial Policy Bureau of MITI; and U.S. Trade Representative Mickey Kantor.

Society president William H. Gleysteen, Jr. wrote in the 1993-94 annual report, "In recent years we have also undergone some shifts of emphasis. We have tackled controversy more directly, particularly on trade issues and the character of Japanese development. We have extended our agenda by embracing new issues, such as the role of women, aging, and health care. In the performing arts, we have introduced a successful new mix of the traditional-versus-contemporary and the popular-versus-specialized. We are doing more nationally to exploit the outreach potential of New York programs, and we are beginning a new effort with high school teachers in New York. For the long haul,

we have sustained the quality of Leadership Fellows sent to Japan while learning how to keep them effectively engaged with Japan after they return."

1995

Immediately after the Great Hanshin Earthquake on January 17, relief fund established; \$70,000 raised.

Ambassador William Clark, Jr. selected to replace outgoing Japan Society president William H. Gleysteen, Jr.

Society conducted its first successful major program held in Japan, the fifth *MacEachron Policy Forum*, examining Asia's impact on U.S.-Japan ties.

Arrangements completed to begin the second half of the Society's \$10.5 million building expansion: expanded Gallery space and meeting rooms on the second floor and an additional fifth floor of office space, to be finished in 1997, in time for the Society's ninetieth anniversary.

Director Nagisa Oshima introduced his seminal film, *The Ceremony*, and was himself introduced by director Martin Scorsese.

First group of New York high school teachers visited Japan in the summer as part of the newly established *Educators' Forum on Japan*.

More than 1,000 people attended the Society's Annual Dinner, featuring keynote speaker Secretary of Defense William J. Perry.

1996

After nine successful cycles, the U.S.-Japan Leadership Program evolved into two separate fellowships: the U.S.-Japan Media Fellows Program and the Local Government and Public Policy Fellowship.

Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of Keidanren and chairman, Toyota Motor Corporation, guest of honor and keynote speaker at the Society's Annual Dinner.

Two-year project, *Changing Context of U.S.-Japan Relations*, launched.

U.S.-Japan Women's Leadership on the Environment invited ten Japanese community activists to the U.S. to meet with their American counterparts.

Twenty-four individual lectures and five lecture series presented; distinguished lecturers included Yotaro Kobayashi, chairman and CEO, Fuji Xerox Corporation, and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Michael Armacost.

Dancer-choreographers Eiko & Koma presented *Autumn Passage*, a four-part program marking the twentieth anniversary of their American debut at the Society

Butoh legend Kazuo Ohno celebrated his ninetieth birthday at the Society with four performances of *My Mother*.

1997

Japan Society celebrated its ninetieth anniversary.

Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado attended a special reception in honor of the Society's ninetieth anniversary, and in celebration of the completion of its building expansion and renovation.

Gallery's ninetieth anniversary exhibition, organized with the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan, was *Enlightenment Embodied: The Art of the Japanese Buddhist Sculptor*.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto addressed an invited audience of about 100.

Kamishibai workshop and performance held for about seventy-five children and their parents, along with a group of elementary school teachers.

Japanese Theater in the World, the first large-scale exhibition following the Gallery's 1997 renovation, also became the theme for a season of programming Society-wide.

First Japan Society *Matsuri on 47th Street* attended by 3,000 to 4,000 fairgoers.

Dragon Bond Rite brought together fourteen virtuoso artists from Japan, Korea, Indonesia, India, and Tuva in a masked dance-drama celebrating Asian traditions.

1998

Japan Advisory Committee formed to provide advice from the Japanese perspective on program content, participants, and support.

Japan Society hosted a reception at the Hotel Okura in Tokyo for 200 friends and supporters.

James D. Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, gave the keynote address at the Annual Dinner.

Passport to Japan student exchange program inaugurated by Educational Outreach.

Second annual *U.S.-Japan Media Dialogue* held in Gotemba, Japan; seventeen Japanese and American journalists came together for a three-day symposium held in collaboration with I-House.

First Japanese History Day competition for students held, on the theme of "Everyday Life in Meiji Japan."

Gallery exhibition *Shiko Munakata: The Modern Master of Woodblock Art* showcased the Society's own collection of works by the artist, among others.

Architect I. M. Pei lectured on the Miho Museum Project as part of the *Inside the Studio* series.

Youki-za, the oldest marionette theater company in Japan, made its American debut at the Society as part of the 1998 International Festival of Puppet Theater.

1999

Theater Company Rinko-gun's production of *Capital of the Kingdom of Gods*, based on the life of Lafacio Hearn, had its U.S. premiere at the Society, subsequently touring to Florida, Cincinnati, and New Orleans. (This production inaugurated the *Japanese Theatre NOW* series, dedicated to presenting Japanese contemporary theater to U.S. audiences.)

Film Center presented four major series, two special screenings, and four members-only premieres in 1998-99, and arranged for many of the works in the series *Anime: The History of Japanese Animated Films* to be screened at other venues throughout the U.S.

Roundtable discussion held in Tokyo with Donna Shalala, 1987 U.S.-Japan Leadership Program Fellow (and U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services) and leading Japanese women from business, the arts, media, and non-governmental organizations.

Civil Society: Japanese Experiment and American Experience, a study mission report on a multi-year Society project, published.

Society's Corporate Program hosted a major conference, *Venture Capital & the Internet in Japan*, bringing together leading venture capitalists, incubators, and technology experts to explore the environment for Internet-related venture capital in Japan.

Initial advisory meeting for *The Silver Market: New Opportunities in a Graying Japan and United States*, a two-year project focusing on the aging populations of both countries (a book on the *Silver Market* program was published by the Society in both English and Japanese editions in 2001).

"Pokémon Mania," a family program with screenings and a toy giveaway, drew the greatest crowd of children and accompanying adults to the Society to date.

2000

Society president William Clark, Jr. wrote in the 1999-2000 annual report that "Much of our programming continues to focus on changes in the societies of Japan and the United States and how these changes will affect the bilateral relationship..."

2000 Japan Society Award honored Dr. Shoichiro Toyoda, honorary chairman and director of Toyota Motor Corporation.

Akio Morita (1921-99), founder and former chairman of Sony Corporation, and 1995 Japan Society Award recipient, commemorated at "Reflections on Akio Morita and the U.S.-Japan Relationship," with remarks by Peter G. Peterson, David Rockefeller, Henry A. Kissinger, Katherine Graham, Paul A. Volcker, Nobuyuki Idei, and Isaac Stern.

Major conference, *Globalization & the Future of Japanese Banking: How Reform, Consolidation & Foreign Competition are Transforming Japanese Banking*, co-sponsored with the Columbia University Center on Japanese Economy and Business.

Double-bill of the fifteenth-century noh play *Taniko (The Valley Rite)* and Kurt Weill's opera *Der Jasager (The Consenter)* presented at the Society as part of the Kurt Weill Festival 2000.

Performance by Continuum celebrated composer Ushio Torikai's fifteen years in New York, including the world premiere of *FUSE VII*, commissioned by the Society.

Katsuyuki Motohiro's *Bayside Shakedown*, the highest grossing Japanese movie of 1998, received its U.S. premiere at the Society.

Educators' Forum on Japan 2000 took twelve high school and middle school teachers to Japan for a three-week study tour.

Matsuri on 47th Street held for the fourth year in a row, including taiko drumming and a Mikoshi Shrine procession.

Japan Society organized *Y E S Yoko Ono*, a retrospective of visual art produced by the legendary Yoko Ono; after its Japan Society showing, the exhibition traveled throughout North America, Korea, and Japan through 2005, and received a Best Museum Show Award from the International Association of Art Critics. The exhibition drew the highest Gallery attendance record to date and was proclaimed a "cultural happening and historic landmark" by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Eight American elected officials and non-profit leaders spent twelve days meeting with their Japanese counterparts during the *U.S.-Japan Exchange on Women in Public Policy*.

Japan Society, Asia Society, China Institute, and the Kikkoman Institute for International Food Culture collaborated on *Rice in Asia: The Grain that Shapes Cultures*, a one-day symposium held at the Society.

Two-day conference held in Tokyo: *Terrorism: Prevention & Preparedness—New Approaches to U.S.-Japan Security Cooperation* (a book reporting on the conference was published by the Society in 2001).

2001

2001 Annual Dinner contributions set a new record, surpassing \$1 million.

William J. McDonough, president, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, gave the keynote address at the corporate conference *Globalization & the Future of Banking in the U.S. & Japan*.

Gallery exhibition *Frank Lloyd Wright and the Art of Japan: The Architect's Other Passion* addressed the profound impact Japan had on Wright's artistic and intellectual life; Wright was a member of Japan Society from 1907 through 1911.

Educators' Forum on Japan 2001 sent eleven NYC high school and middle school educators to Japan on a three-week study tour.

Two thousand haiku submitted to *Poetic Possibilities*, the Society's student haiku contest.

Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics and Heritage School selected as the first schools to take part in a two-year Educational Outreach program, *Japanese Language in the Schools*.

Corporate Program and Citigroup hosted *The Global Economy: Policy Challenges Facing the United States & Japan* with Robert E. Rubin, a director, chairman of the Executive Committee and member of the office of the chairman of Citigroup Inc., and former U.S. Treasury Secretary.

Society held its first *Global Wireless & Internet Summit*, featuring senior executives from Softbank, AOL, KDDI, Ericsson, NTT DoCoMo, Monex, France Telecom, and others.

Language Center enrollment reached a new high through exposure on the Internet.

Society produced a five-city American tour for director Tadashi Suzuki and his company, featuring new productions of *Electra*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *Dionysus*.

Major film series, *Critic's Choice: Donald Richie on Japanese Film*, presented eight outstanding Japanese films originally selected by Richie for the 2000 Nantes Film Festival.

2002

Invitational reception held at Japan Society in honor of Junichiro Koizumi, Prime Minister of Japan.

Living National Treasure Ganjiro Nakamura III made his New York debut at the Society in the kabuki dance classic *Fuji Musume*.

New Japan Society website launched, making online ticketing sales possible for the first time.

Paul H. O'Neill, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and Yasuhisa Shiozaki, Member, House of Representatives, Japan, both delivered keynote speeches at the corporate conference *Can Japan's Ailing Banking System Be Cured?*

Japan-United States Homeless Service Providers Exchange (a ten-day exchange program bringing Japanese homeless providers to New York in 2001) culminated in a ten-day program bringing Rosanne Haggerty of Common Ground to Tokyo and Osaka to follow up with Japanese homeless service providers.

Howard Baker, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Shunji Yanai, former Ambassador of Japan to the U.S., Thomas S. Foley, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, and Yoshio Okawara, former Ambassador of Japan to the U.S. spoke at the U.S.-Japan Ambassadorial Forum in Tokyo on "U.S.-Japan Relations Post-9/11."

"Ambassadors' Roundtable," moderated by David E. Sanger of *The New York Times*, offered New York audience an opportunity to hear Thomas S. Foley, former Ambassador to Japan, Yoshio Okawara, former Ambassador to the U.S., and Ryozo Kato, Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.

Society hosted a dinner meeting of World Economic Forum participants dedicated to addressing the changes Japan experienced in the recent past and on what needed to be done to address current and foreseeable challenges.

2003

Frank L. Ellsworth appointed president of Japan Society.

Bridging Change in Asia: New York Looks to Korea and Japan, a three-month, Society-wide programming initiative, co-organized by Japan Society and the Korea Society.

Gallery exhibition, *Transmitting the Forms of Divinity: Early Buddhist Art from Korea and Japan, 6th through 9th Centuries*, organized in collaboration with the governments of Japan and Korea, named by Holland Cotter of *The New York Times* as the best art exhibition of 2003.

Former Secretary of Defense William J. Perry gave a major talk on North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer spoke at the Corporate Program on policing financial markets.

Society hosted a major roundtable conference and public symposium in Tokyo, *Redefining Japan & the U.S.-Japan Alliance*, bringing together thirty leading policymakers, entrepreneurs, journalists, academics, and political and economic analysts from Japan, China, South Korea, Indonesia, Singapore, and the U.S., to discuss the future of Japan and the U.S.-Japan relationship in a global context.

Society's new Commissioning Project presented the world premiere of *At Suma Beach* by composer Lee Hyla, performed by The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center.

Yeongsanjae Ritual, designated an Important Intangible Cultural Property by the Korean government, performed by eighteen monks from Bongweonsa Temple in Seoul as part of "Buddhist Ritual Chant from Korea & Japan."

Multimedia artist Nam June Paik and video artist Shigeo Kubota gave a joint lecture as part of the *Inside the Studio* series.

Critic's Choice: Susan Sontag on Japanese Film presented Sontag's personal selection of eight classic Japanese films made between 1936 and 1987.

Y E S Yoko Ono became the first Japan Society exhibition to travel to Asia.

Ten-part film series, *The History of Japanese Horror Films*, traced highly influential works made from 1949 to 2001.

2004

Sir Deryck Maughan selected as chairman of Japan Society.

Carlos Ghosn, president and CEO of Nissan Motor Company, Ltd., keynote speaker and guest of honor at the Society's Annual Dinner; Fumihiko Maki received the Japan Society Award for his outstanding work in the service of architecture and humanity.

Redefining Japan & the U.S.-Japan Alliance, a series of public fora, presented in Tokyo, New York, Washington, D.C., and Palo Alto.

Fiftieth anniversary of the Performing Arts Program celebrated in a spring gala, *Noh & Kyogen: Masters of Performance*, featuring three Living National Treasures.

Joseph S. Nye, Jr., Dean of the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, lectured on his book, *Soft Power: The Means to Success in World Politics*.

Former Japan Society Media Fellow Douglas McGray participated in public symposia in Osaka and Tokyo called *COOL Japan: Japan's Cultural Power*.

The *New Yorker* wrote that the Gallery exhibition *Isamu Noguchi and Modern Japanese Ceramics* offered "...some of the most compelling ceramic sculptures of the twentieth century."

Series of public symposia held in New York, Washington, D.C., and Palo Alto on the future of Japan and the U.S.-Japan alliance.

Atsushi Saito, president of the Industrial Revitalization Corporation of Japan, addressed a corporate audience on the outlook for corporate restructuring in Japan.

William S. Cohen, chairman and CEO of the Cohen Group and 20th Secretary of Defense, gave a speech exploring security challenges facing Japan and the U.S.

Education Program launched *Journey Through Japan* website for educators.

Critic's Choice: Susan Sontag on Japanese Film, Part II, presented a selection of ten Japanese films made between 1926 and 1985. In a *New Yorker* article on Sontag's life in film, film critic David Denby wrote, "Sontag, it turned out, had a personal canon of about 400 movies that she visited over and over at revival houses—Renoir's *Rules of the Game* and Kurosawa's *High and Low* were particular favorites, and she claimed to have seen Ozu's heartbreaking *Tokyo Story* 30 times. 'There are passions which last forever,' she told an audience of movie-lovers at the Japan Society in 2003. At the end of her life, working hard, often ill, Susan Sontag went to the movies almost every day of the week."

2005

James S. McDonald became chairman of Japan Society.

Gallery exhibition *Little Boy: The Arts of Japan's Exploding Subculture*, curated by artist Takashi Murakami and held in collaboration with the Public Art Fund, won the award for Best Thematic Museum Show in New York City by AICA (The International Association of Art Critics, U.S. Chapter) and was also named Best Museum Show in New York by the International Association of Art Critics.

Arts and culture programming initiative *Cool Japan: Otaku Strikes!* brought a flood of new, young members to the Society.

IMAJINÉ 2005, an Arts & Culture gala benefit, honored Robert Wilson, Yoko Ono, and Takashi Murakami for their achievements in the arts.

Bank of Japan Governor Toshihiko Fukui presented a major speech at the Society on the occasion of the bank's 100th anniversary of its New York office.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura addressed a private luncheon sponsored by the Society at the Waldorf Astoria.

First phase of *U.S.-Japan Innovators Project* began with two exchanges between American and Japanese innovators from business, civil society, and arts and culture.

2005 Bessie Award and the New York Innovative Theatre Award given to Basil Twist's *Dogugaeshi* (the world premiere of this Japan-Society-commissioned work was presented at the Society in November 2004 and returned again in September 2007 as part of the Society's centennial celebration).

Society produced a six-city U.S. tour for *The First Noh & Kyogen Program Witnessed by Americans*, performed by members of Nohgaku Kyokai, and a four-city U.S. tour of Rinko-gun Theater Company's *Yaneura (Attic)*.

The Museum of Arts & Design and the Society co-organized a three-day symposium, *New Design Japan: Cool Idea & Hot Products*.

In 2004-05, 990 students visited the Gallery for interactive tours.

2006

Richard J. Wood appointed president of Japan Society.

Society and Keio University's Institute for Digital Media and Content (DMC) signed a memorandum of understanding to collaborate over DMC's digital network.

Japan's Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki spoke at the Society on the challenges of Japan's economic recovery.

J. Thomas Schieffer, U.S. Ambassador to Japan, addressed a Corporate Program audience on the evolving U.S.-Japan alliance.

Conference, *Asia's Shifting Balance of Power: China's Impact on Japan's Economic Future*, featured former U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage.

Society held its first Innovators retreat, "(IN)Spire: Connecting Communities," in San Francisco, bringing together thirty American and Japanese leaders from business, civil society, and arts and culture from the *U.S.-Japan Innovators Project*.

U.S.-Japan Innovators Project micro-site launched.

INSIDE COVER PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

INSIDE FRONT COVER (IMAGES BY ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT)

FIRST ROW: Isamu Noguchi, 1948, courtesy of The Noguchi Museum; *The Development of Japan* by Kenneth Scott Latourette, 1918, photo © Ken Levinson; Takashi Murakami at the *Little Boy* exhibition, 2005, photo © Satoru Ishikawa; *Ugetsu* at the Plaza Theater, 1954; Annual Dinner, 2006, photo © George Hirose.

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