Sir Aurel Stein’s Visit to Japan in 1930: His Diary and Notebook

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Introduction

In April 1930, amidst preparations for his Fourth Expedition to Central Asia, Sir Aurel Stein (1862–1943) visited Japan and spent 12 days there. He was coming from a North-American lecture tour and was heading for Nanking where he was going to apply for a visa and a permit from the Kuomintang government for his upcoming expedition. The stopover in Japan was essentially a sightseeing visit to famous tourist attractions, during which he also met with a number of scholars, and this is the aspect of his trip that is most interesting to us today. Stein was already 68 at the time and a celebrity in academic circles. Scholars in the newly emerging field of Dunhuang studies had been working for over a decade on the material he had discovered on his previous expeditions, and he was keen to meet them.

Stein arrived in Yokohama on 10 April 1930 and departed from Nagasaki on 21 April. During the week and a half in between, he travelled along the main island from Tōkyō to the Kansai region, visited historical sites and met with a number of people. The Stein Collection at the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (LHAS) has a small amount of memorabilia related to this visit, including hotel brochures, guidebooks and postcards acquired along the way. There are also are two cuttings from English language newspapers reporting his arrival. The first is from the front page of The Japan Times, and has a photo of the aging explorer and the heading ‘Noted Archaeologist Arrives on Empress’:

Sir Aurel Stein, K.C.I.E., Ph.D., D.Sc., Superintendent of the Indian Archaeological Survey for over thirty years and a noted explorer and scholar on Buddhism, arrived at Yokohama Thursday morning on the C.P.R. Liner Empress of Asia from Vancouver, enroute to his home in Kashmir, India.

Dr. Stein is proceeding to Nara, where he plans to stay about five days for archeological study and in particular he wishes to study the architecture of the world famous Horinji Temple in Nara. Also while in Japan he will see Dr. Takakusu and Dr. Takei, Japanese archaeologists.

Sir Aurel in 1900 and 1901 explored Turkestan archaeologically and as a result he published a book called Ancient Khotan. He studied Oriental languages and antiquities at Vienna and at Tübingen University and in England. He is the author of numerous books, among which are Chronicle of Kings of Kashmir, Sand-buried Ruins of Khotan, Ancient Khotan, and Ruins of Desert Cathay.2

The second appeared the following day, on the front page of The Japan Advertiser, with much the same information. Japanese language papers also ran the story and in all reports he is consistently portrayed in a highly complimentary manner, as an eminent archaeologist.3 These news reports show that he was a person of considerable reputation and that his visit was of interest to the general public in Japan.

Initially, Stein planned to spend only six days in Japan, taking advantage of the stopover option of the Canadian Pacific Line, as he described it to his good friend P.S. Allen (1869–1933) in a letter written aboard the Empress Maru the day before his arrival in Yokohama.4 He wanted to see Japan and perhaps meet a few scholars, unless Sir Frederick Whyte (1883–1970), Stein’s main ally in his negotiations with the Chinese authorities, suggested that he should proceed

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immediately to Shanghai. But Whyte’s letter, which he received soon after landing, ‘gave encouraging account’ about his prospects and thus permitted him to stay for a few days.

Stein landed in Yokohama and the very same day did a tour of Kamakura. He then travelled up to Tōkyō where he spent three days visiting tourist sites and meeting academics. His diary shows that he headed first to the Maison franco-japonaise to meet Henri Maspero (1882–1945), the French sinologist whom he had entrusted with working on the Chinese manuscripts from his Third Expedition. Although Maspero’s initial notes on the material were very encouraging, and Stein had used them in Innermost Asia (1928), there had been no progress since then and Stein had been unsuccessful in getting a clear answer from him. During a visit to Paris a year earlier Stein learned from the Indologist Sylvain Lévi (1865–1935) that Maspero was working in Tōkyō. Lévi also suggested that perhaps Paul Demiéville (1894–1979), a Swiss Sinologist and resident at the Maison franco-japonaise, could work on the material if Maspero was too busy. Stein arrived to find that Maspero had already left. Demiéville, however, was there, and Stein met him and his family several times.

While in Tōkyō, besides the sightseeing, Stein also had a chance to meet members of the Japanese academic community, most of whom he had met personally or corresponded with before. Among them were Yabuki Keiki 矢吹慶輝 (1879–1939), a historian of religion, whom he had known primarily because of Kabuki’s interest in the Dunhuang manuscripts. He had spent the first half of 1923 in London, working on the Stein Collection at the British Museum. Stein also met the art historians Taki Seiichi 瀧精一 (1873–1945) and Dan Inō 團伊能 (1892–1973), and the historian of China Kato Shigeshi 加藤繁 (1880–1946), who were all professors at Tōkyō Imperial University. He appears to have met the archaeologist Harada Yoshito 原田淑人 (1885–1974) as well, but did not mention him in his diary.

Stein was also introduced to Prince Ōyama Kashiwa 大山柏 (1889–1969), a great archaeology enthusiast and collector of neolithic artefacts, who had studied in Berlin and was fluent in both English and German. The prince was the son of Marshal Ōyama Iwao 大山巌 (1842–1916), one of Japan’s war heroes, commander-in-chief of the Japanese armies in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–5 and it was his victory there that earned him his princely title. Their scholarly interests and military experience (Stein had military training too) clearly made for stimulating company, hence the ‘hearty farewell from soldier scholar’ note in Stein’s diary. Finally, on his last night in Tōkyō Stein visited the Imperial Academy and was taken out for dinner by Sakurai Jōji 櫻井錠二 (1858–1939), President of the Imperial Academy, and other scholars including Aneesaki Masaharu 姉崎正治 (1873–1949), a leading Japanese intellectual, and scholar of religion, and Shiratori Kurakichi 白鳥庫吉 (1865–1942), renowned professor of history at Tōkyō Imperial University.

After Tōkyō, on 13 April, Stein travelled west to the Kansai region. His first stop was Nara where he spent a couple of days looking at local museums and temples. He also met his old friend Sir Charles Eliot (1862–1931), former British Ambassador to Japan, who accompanied him for the next few days. Then Stein took a train to Kyōto where, again, he visited the usual attractions and met with a number of leading Japanese historians and archaeologists, mostly professors from Kyōto Imperial University. Among them was Haneda Tōru 羽田亨 (1882–1955), historian of Central Asia and a leading researcher in the field of Dunhuang studies; the archaeologist Umehara Sueji 梅原末治 (1893–1983), and the Sinologist Kano Naoki 狩野直喜 (1868–1947). He saw briefly Naitō Konan 内藤湖南 (1866–1943), one of the most influential Sinologists in Japan and a leading historian of the 20th century, whom he described as ‘a fine old China scholar.’ The Stein Collection at the LHAS includes a framed photograph of Naitō with a dedication ‘To Dr. Aurel Stein’ which must have been received at this meeting (Fig. 1). The

![Figure 1](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Figure 1** Naitō Konan’s photograph presented to Stein (Courtesy of LHAS)

![Figure 2](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**Figure 2** Kano Naoki’s photograph presented to Stein (Courtesy of LHAS)
LHAS also has a photograph of the Sinologist Kano Naoki (狩野直喜) (1868–1947), which has a dedication on the cover: ‘To Sir Aurel Stein with the best compliment of Naoki Kano, Kyoto, Japan’ (Fig. 2).\(^1\)

Following his meetings in Kyōto, Stein made another short visit to Nara, and from there he travelled to Kōbe, where he met with Inouye Shiten 井上秀天 (1880–1945), a Zen Buddhist scholar who was working at the British Consulate-General (Kōbe), and Harry J. Griffith (1882–1944), an English expatriate who had lived in Kōbe since 1907 and was at that time a publisher of books on Japan. Finally, on 20 April, Stein boarded the Nagasaki Maru and, after a brief stop the following day in Nagasaki, sailed for Shanghai.

During his trip to Japan Stein was trying to secure a chance for his long-time friend, the art historian Zoltán Felvinczi Takács (1880–1964), to study there. Felvinczi Takács was the Director of the Ferenc Hopp Museum of East Asian Art in Budapest,\(^2\) and the two men enjoyed an ongoing correspondence. In 1930, Felvinczi Takács was trying to organize a Hungarian art exhibition in Japan. Stein was eager to support his younger friend,\(^3\) and mentioned it to Hungary’s former prime minister Sándor Simonyi-Semadam (1864–1946), when he ran into him in a hotel in Kyōto.\(^4\) The ex-statesman was visiting Japan in connection with the Hungarian Nippon Society, of which he was the co-president.\(^5\) As Stein’s diary shows, the two of them ran into each other several times in hotels in Kyōto, and Nara. Stein wrote about his visit to Japan and chance meeting with Simonyi-Semadam to Felvinczy Takács a few weeks later, at the time of his departure from China:\(^6\)

> I spent unforgettable days in scenic Japan; I especially enjoyed the Buddhist art of Nara and its surroundings. The archaeologists and scholars, etc. of the universities and academies in Tokyo and Kyōto received me with great attention. I saw wonderful Chinese artefacts in private collections, and the results of Korean excavations in archaeological institutes. I was truly happy to run into Dr Simonyi-Semadam in my hotel in Kyōto, and to learn from him that he will bring up semi-officially the issue of the Hungarian picture exhibition at the Japanese Ministry of Education. Naturally, I emphasized the academic benefits of you having the opportunity to stay in Japan for an extended period of time and study the Japanese and Korean collections. I really hope that this plan of yours will come true.\(^7\)

A few months later, already in Kashgar on his Fourth Expedition, Stein wrote to Felvinczy Takács again and told him how happy he was to learn about Simonyi-Semadam’s apparent success in Tōkyō. Stein also expressed his opinion that Felvinczy Takács would be able to learn more in ‘beautiful Nippon’ about Chinese art than in ‘poor chaos-stricken China’ which was so busy on its way to modernization that it was destroying much of its own heritage.\(^8\)

Almost a year later, having returned to India after the failure of his Fourth Expedition, Stein revisited the same issues in another letter:

> I was especially glad to learn about the useful assistance of Simonyi-Semadam. I sincerely hope that the Japanese-Hungarian exhibition can be carried out and you, my Dear Friend, will soon have the opportunity to become acquainted with the artistic treasure house that is so carefully preserved in that beautiful country. At the time I felt sorry that I could not have seen Simonyi-Semadam only briefly in Kyōto and Nara. During those few days I was kept fully occupied by my Japanese contacts and my old benefi ciary, the late Sir Charles Eliot, former British Minister and famous scientist, who was, as I had realized at the time, nearing the end of his industrious life.\(^9\)

In the end, the exhibition did not materialize, at least not under the auspices of Felvinczi Takács. Yet Stein continued to support his friend and wrote letters to people he thought would be able to help. For example, the Stein Collection at the LHAS includes two long draft letters written in 1932 to Haneda Tōru and Harada Yoshito with the request to help this ‘very deserving Hungarian scholar’ to come to Japan. In the absence of other correspondence, we do not know whether either of these professors provided assistance, but four years later Felvinczy Takács was able to spend a year in Japan in 1936.\(^10\)

Although Stein’s visit to Japan was mostly sightseeing in nature, it cannot be discounted as a tourist trip of a retired academic to an exotic land. Far from it — he was in the middle of organizing his Fourth Expedition and there was tension in the air. In a few days he would go to Nanking and begin lobbying for a visa and permit to enable him to conduct archaeological work in Xinjiang and Mongolia. He was aware of the new wave of nationalism and its impact on large-scale foreign expeditions, including those of Sven Hedin (1865–1952) and Roy Chapman Andrews (1884–1960).\(^11\) He understood that obtaining the permit in the current political atmosphere was not going to be an easy task, and this was precisely the reason why he travelled to Nanking in person. His time in Japan could be counted as a few days of peace among scholars. His three weeks in Shanghai and Nanking would be devoted to getting the appropriate permissions, and there would be little time for sightseeing.\(^12\)

We know that he achieved his aims in Nanking and came away with his visa and digging permit. But the tension continued, and the Expedition ended prematurely. Under pressure from a group of Chinese activist intellectuals, the government revoked Stein’s visa and he was forced to exit the country, leaving behind everything he had collected at sites on the way.

Stein’s connection with the field of Dunhuang studies in Japan has been the subject of a thoroughly-researched monograph by the Chinese scholar Wang Jiqing.\(^13\) As a supplement to his book, Wang also published a translation of the relevant portion of Stein’s diary and notebook, with copious annotation. Although this material was originally written in English, it has not been published previously in English, only in Wang Jiqing’s Chinese translation. In this article, my aim is to make the original English text available for further research, and to provide supplementary information to Wang Jiqing’s book.

The diary and notebook presented below were written during the 12 days Stein spent in Japan. They are currently in the collection of the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, catalogued under pressmarks MS.Stein 250, fols 68–73, and MS.Stein 224, fols 99–102, respectively. Stein kept both a diary and a notebook. The notebook was written primarily for Stein’s friends and because of this it is written in a neat,
even handwriting, with few abbreviations or ligatures. In contrast with this, the diary was intended as a personal record; it is thus more difficult to read and at times requires a great deal of effort to decipher. From the point of view of their content, because the notebook is primarily an enumeration of tourist sites and museum exhibits, its guidebook-like descriptions are less interesting today to us than the diary which details Stein’s meetings and lists the people with whom he interacted. In addition, the notebook is incomplete and does not cover all of the days Stein spent in Japan. The diary and notebook were conceived and written as two separate documents, and for this reason I have not combined them, but present them separately: first the diary, then the notebook. I have annotated the text where it was appropriate to do so. I tried to identify places and people, but in general have tried to focus on academic connections rather than tourist attractions.

A few words about the transcription: ligatures and abbreviations in the text are written out in full, with their omitted portion placed in brackets (e.g. insp > insp[ectio]n; acct > acc[oun]t; Ch. > Ch[inese]). In general, brackets indicate my interventions. The & sign is kept throughout the text. Although Japanese names and words, especially diacritical marks, are often misspelled or written in a different orthography, they are presented as Stein wrote them – I provide the correct forms, whenever identifiable, at their first appearance in my notes. For the sake of convenience, I also included in the notes the Chinese characters for Japanese names, even when they appear already in the Introduction above.

The diary

10 April 1930. Thursday.


11 April 1930. Friday.


Driven past villas & old time houses to Baron Okura’s Museum. Above it burnt out Europe structure. Showed miscellaneous collection of Tang sculptures, including large Buddha relievo. Few Han carvings, inferior paintings. Whole housed with ostentatious lavishness.

Back at Maison for tea. Dinner with M. & Mad[ame] Demiéville & the two pensionaries. Talk of Chavannes’ & their daughter, of Turkestan travels. Feel tired & hoarse, comfortable Japanese & the two pensionaries. Telephone talk with Mr. Samson who tells of Sir Ch[arles] Elliot staying at Nara.

12 April 1930. Saturday.

13 April 1930. Sunday.

Up by 6 A.M. Receive Fuku[i]'s scroll & start by 9 with Dr[emi]ville in search of code & map. Grand Department Store of Maruyama, Great holiday throngs at Tokyo St[ation]. Left at 10 A.M. in comfortable 1st class comp[artment].

Cloudy weather hides Fuji, but allows green hills & well-cultivated plain to be enjoyed. Dining car full of Japanese travellers. Along shore & succession of ranges to Nagoya, the great industrial centre. Numerous estuaries around. Arrive at Kyōto at 8.3 & by 8.30 start in overcrowded tram for Nara. Tired but polite holiday folk. Luckily find Nara St[ation] & am driven in Hotel car to Nara Hotel, a fine hostelry. Received by Sir Ch[arles][arles] Eliot who has arranged for my being guided by assistant of Prefect.

Felt troubled all day by sore throat & in the evening asthma, too. Very tired, to rest by 11 P.M.

14 April 1930. Monday.


15 April 1930. Tuesday.


Return to Hotel by 5.35 & met Haneda at his study in Univ[ersity]. Shown Ch[inese] MSS. incl[uding] Nestorian roll. Dinner under Dr. Shinzo Shinzo, President of Imp[erial] Univ[ersity].

Gathering of professors of literature, history, etc. Met Kano,61 Naito (a fine old China scholar).62 Dr. Sakaki (San[sk]ri[t]).63 Hamada (Arch[aeology]).64 Ogaswa (Geo[graphy]).65 Dinner with speech read by Pres[ident] which I replied to. Compared wonder of present transform[ation] with that of 6th cent[ury]. After tea à la ch[inoise] left by 9 P.M. Met Sir Charles Eliot in his room (642) next to mine. At 12 noon Dr. Simonyi-Semadan greeted me at Hotel.

17 April 1930. Thursday.

Poor rest. Up by 6.30 & by 9 A.M. after talk with Simonyi-Semadan & change of dress taken by Umehara to Imperial Palace. Stands in fine park now open to public, no walls enclose it. Through side gate enter extensive complex of simple halls, all in wood with papered partitions. Fine matting & polished woodwork. Conducted past audience chambers to great reception hall where coronation took place. Two elaborate throne. Dandy decoration of screens, dating from 1688 when old palace was burnt down. Plain exactly reproduced. Whole impresses by its simplicity & archaic discomfort. Sir Ch[arles][arles] Eliot believes style points to Polynesian origin of Jap[anese] race.


Left at 2 P.M. & drove with Umehara to cable st[ation] below Mt. Hiei.67 Lunch in restaurant recalling those in similar situ[ation] in Switzerland. Ascent to top past ski-ing ground, wide panoramic view over Kyoto & L[ake] Biwa. Ran down in 8 min[utes] & caught 3.40 train. By 4.15 at Hotel, changed & was at st[ation] for 5.41 train.
Travelled with Ch[arles] Elliot to Nara, pleasant scenery.

18 April 1930. Friday.
Restful night & gloriously clear morning. After hasty meeting with Simonyi-Semadan started by 9.15 for Yakushiji temple by road to Horyūji. 97 Charming quiet surroundings. In main temples are far[?] fine images of Tempyo period. Bhaijsayabuddha with sun & moon by his side, all bronze with fine black patina. Pedestal of central image exactly reproduces the pedestals of D[andan] Oilik. Below three stepped bases, above them oblong member surmounted by two projections. The top one of these ornamented with beautiful vine scroll, quite Hellenistic. The three bases ornamented with lozenges, each holding a jewel within oblong pearl border. Sassanian influence. The middle high shaft shows scenes with coarsely modelled fig[ure]s which recall Indian dancers. The haloes, gilt of all three fig[ure]s, are good Momoyama work, gilt floral ornament, all three fig[ure]s show Gandhāra drapery & jewelry. In Tōyin-do temple Kaurara-Kwannon in Non-Chinese drapery; fine lacquered shrine. 98 Beautiful wooden halo, broken, from Bhaijsayabuddha; vine leaf motif.

A small shrine holds large stone with Buddha footprints, size like those of Tirath Chakra in middle. 99 Near bye [sic] Tōshōdai-ji temple, founded by Chinese teacher whom Shomo had invited. 100 1000 armed Kwan-non. Lokapāla holding pen & roll (Komonoku-ten). 101 Chōshū-ten hall, from Nara palace. 102 Simple double brackets over massive pillars. Ceiling formed by beams placed crossways. Brackets rest in plain sockets. Ret[urn]ed by 12 noon. Lacquer shop. Photos from Hotel. Wrote to Teichman, etc., after 2 P.M. walk to Museum. Leather book cover decorated with acanthus in resist process. May be non-Japanese. Chinese harp of 124 A.D. from Hōryūji. 103 Relics found below Dai-Butsu incl[uuding] beautiful small bowl said to have held a tooth of Emp[eor] Shōmu. Yamamoto explains how early in Meiji specimens of Shōsōin silks were sent by Agricultural Dep[artment] of Emperor Shōmu. Yamamoto explains how early in Meiji another imperial tomb, smaller & of similar type. 98 Then below around & behind it. Splendid broad gravelled road leads up to it. Burial mound of Emperor Meiji. Thick mixed forest covers hill. Hot walk through street to entrance of great park which holds all three figures are good Momoyama work, gilt floral ornament. The haloes, gilt of all three figures, are good Momoyama work, gilt floral ornament, all three figures show Gandhāra drapery & jewelry. The notebook

The notebook

14 April 1930.
Visit from Nara to Hōryn-ji through thriving country along Osaka road. Impressive orderliness of temple court. Within main shrine splendid display of images crowds square platform. Amītābhā's and Bhaijsayagrūpa's triads flank Buddha. Struck by absence of space for all the statues now removed to Nara Museum. Three baldachins hanging over chief groups have the truncated cone shapes & striped decoration of Ch'ien-fu-tung ceilings.

15 April 1930.
Visited Imperial Nara Museum at 10 A.M. Received by Mr. Kabuto & his aids [sic]. Impressive display of 'treasures' collected from temples of Nara & district.

Main hall contains some wonderful wooden images of Avolokiteśvara besides great array of other Bodhisattvas, Lokapālas, Vajrapāṇis etc. Here and in adjoining rooms arrangement by periods. All statues show close resemblance in pose, drapery, etc. to Ch'ien-fu-tung sculptures. Special notes recorded on following.

No. 502. Lifesize Jizō, head shaved, bariolated dress of which edge lifted up with r[ight] hand.

No. 21. Lokapāla's armour on breast shows laced unbrication.
such as always found on Vaisravana in paintings.  
No. 11. Vaisravana (Tenmon-ten\(^{\text{10}}\)) points with l. hand to ground; head uplifted in dignified pose.

No. 456. a fine life size Jizo of Kamakura period. Underdress shows dark stripes as in paintings.  
No. 23. a splendid pair of lantern-carrying demons.  
No. 133. Within wooden image of a Hōki-bosatsu\(^{106}\) there was a quantity of stone beads, etc. clay of a boy in devotion, seated saint. head uplifted in dignified pose.

No. 13. Within wooden image of a Dai-butsu; ditto quantity of stone beads, etc.  
It shows dark stripes as in paintings.  

No. 24. Magnificent saddlery meant for use by a ‘divinity’.  


16–17 April 1930.

For notes on sculptures, etc. in Kūryi-ji temple, Kyōtō Museum, etc., see Diary notebook.

18 April 1930.

For renewed visit to Nara Museum see notebook.\(^{107}\)

Notes

1 I would like to express my gratitude to Richard Ovenden and Colin Harris of the Bodleian Library, University of Oxford, for granting permission to publish the parts of Aurel Stein’s diaries relating to his visit to Japan. I am also grateful to Agnes Kelcsényi of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (LHAS) for her help in locating items connected with this trip. For items in the LHAS, see J. Falconer et al., Catalogue of the Collections of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, LHAS/BM, Budapest, 2002; and J. Falconer et al., Supplement to the Catalogue of the Collections of the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, LHAS, Budapest, 2007.

2 The Japan Times, 10 April 1930.

3 The Tōkyō Asahi Shimbun 東京朝日新聞, 11 April 1930, for example, reported his arrival in Japan with a short notice and photograph.

4 Stein MS.21, fols 80–81, The Bodleian Library, University of Oxford.


6 Their correspondence for the years of 1919–27 is kept at the Bodleian Library. For Stein’s connection with Yahoku, see Wang Jiejing 王翼青, Sitamyon ya Rihen Dandhuangse 斯坦因與日本敦煌學 [Stein and Dunhuang Studies in Japan], Lanzhou, 2004, pp. 196–204.

7 In a letter to Harada a year later, Stein specifically refers to ‘the kind welcome you gave me in 1930 on my visit to Tokyo’ (Letter from Stein to Harada Yoshito, 12 Sept 1932, LHAS Catalogue, p. 59, 5/ fols 65).

8 The LHAS collection includes Ōyama’s book on the European Palaeolithic (Oišū Kyūsekki Jidai 歐洲舊石器時代, Tōkyō, 1929) with a dedication to Stein.

9 The LHAS collection includes Hancha’s book, co-edited with Paul Pelliot, on the Dunhuang manuscripts (Tonkō iho 燉煌遺書 / Manuscripts of Toun-Howang conservé à la Bibliothéque Nationale de Paris, Kyōtō, 1926) with a dedication to Stein. This book was probably presented to Stein while he was in Japan.

10 Although catalogued simply as ‘portrait of an unidentified Japanese man’, his original name Naitō Torajirō 内藤次郎 (Koran was his penname) is written in Japanese on the photograph. See LHAS Supplement, p. 164, Stein Photo 44/1/19.

11 LHAS Supplement, p. 164, Stein Photo 44/1/18.


13 What is left of their correspondence is today kept at the Ferenc Hopp Museum, Budapest, where Felvénzyc Tákács worked.

14 Simonyi-Semadam was in office for only four months during the year of 1920. He is best known for signing the Treaty of Trianon in 1920, which is considered one of the most painful events in Hungarian history. He was a wealthy banker who acted as the Co-President of the Hungarian Nippon Society, established in 1924.

15 During this visit Kadooka (Sumioka) Tomoyoshi 角岡藤之助, a Pan-Asian nationalist and President of the Japanese-Hungarian Friendship Society, presented a Japanese sword to Miklós Horthy, regent of Hungary. Simonyi-Semadam was the one who carried this gift back home; see Y. Umemura, A Japan–Tengeri és a Duna–Parízi: Imakoa Dezcívíci Eletélpályája a Magyar–Japán Kapcsolatok Tákhelyén [From the Sea of Japan to the Banks of the Danube: The Life of Imakoa Jüchiro in Light of the Hungarian-Japanese Relations], Budapest, 2006, p. 43. The Tōkyō Asahi Shimbun, 28 April 1930, p. 11, describes the reception held to welcome Simonyi-Semadam on 27 April at the Matsumoto-65 松本楼 restaurant at Hibiya 目白 on 27 April.

16 Stein’s letters to Felvénzyc Tákács were all written in Hungarian (any English translations are mine).


19 For a short description of the problems these expeditions were having with Society for the Preservation of Cultural Objects, see Galambos, op. cit., pp. 196–7.

20 He acknowledges his debt to Stein in his book about his journey. He claims that he was invited by the International Cultural Relations Society (Kokusai Bunka Shinkōkai 国際文化振興会) and that he was financed by the Mitsui Foundation established in 1918 following the visit of Baron Mitsui Takaharu 三井高陽 to the Sea of Japan to the Banks of the Danube: The Life of Imakoa Jüchiro in Light of the Hungarian-Japanese Relations, Budapest, 2006, p. 43. The Tōkyō Asahi Shimbun, 28 April 1930, p. 11, describes the reception held to welcome Simonyi-Semadam on 27 April at the Matsumoto-65 松本楼 restaurant at Hibiya 目白 on 27 April.

21 During this visit Kadooka (Sumioka) Tomoyoshi 角岡藤之助, a Pan-Asian nationalist and President of the Japanese-Hungarian Friendship Society, presented a Japanese sword to Miklós Horthy, regent of Hungary. Simonyi-Semadam was the one who carried this gift back home; see Y. Umemura, A Japan–Tengeri és a Duna–Parízi: Imakoa Dezcívíci Eletélpályája a Magyar–Japán Kapcsolatok Tákhelyén [From the Sea of Japan to the Banks of the Danube: The Life of Imakoa Jüchiro in Light of the Hungarian-Japanese Relations], Budapest, 2006, p. 43. The Tōkyō Asahi Shimbun, 28 April 1930, p. 11, describes the reception held to welcome Simonyi-Semadam on 27 April at the Matsumoto-65 松本楼 restaurant at Hibiya 目白 on 27 April.


23 The Japan Times, 10 April 1930.

24 After the trip, Stein used these notes to create a continuous account of his time in Japan, in the form of a ‘personal narrative’. Stein MS.264, fols 1–12, Bodleian Library. However, since the ‘personal narrative’ uses the diary and notebook as its primary source of information, I only present these two.

25 4 PM. in the diary is obviously an error for 4 A.M.
26 The New Grand Hotel in Yokohama was built in 1927 in place of the old one which had been entirely destroyed by the Kantō earthquake of 1923. The new hotel was designed by the architect Watanabe Hitoshi and, it was the place where General McArthur stayed before establishing his headquarters at the Dai-ichi Insurance Building. See Hiroshi Watanabe, The Architecture of Tokyo: An Architectural History in 571 Individual Presentations, Edition Axel Menges, Stuttgart, 2001, p. 95.

27 The Tsurugashira Hachimangū 昇竜八幡宮 in Kamakura.

28 Kōkenji is a mistake for Kenchoji 建長寺, a Zen temple that is one of the main attractions in Kamakura. Stein spells it in his Notebook for this day as Kenjoji. A torii 島 is a traditional Japanese gate in front of Shinto shrines.

29 There is no temple by this name, but it might be referring to Engaku-ji 極楽寺.

30 The Dai Butsu 大仏, is the giant bronze statue of Buddha, Kamakura's most iconic attraction.

31 The last word here cannot be seen properly.

32 The Kannon Hall 觀音堂 in the Hasadera Temple 長谷寺.

33 The Kai-hin 海浜 Hotel was one of the top hotels at the time in Kamakura, it is often seen on contemporary postcards.


35 Heinrich Lüders (1869–1943), German Indologist, who also worked on Sanskrit and Turkish texts from Central Asia.

36 Harriet Stein (Henriette Rosalie Hein) (1854–1934), Stein's sister-in-law and long-time correspondent.

37 Paul Joseph Sachs (1878–1965), Associate Director of the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University, who, together with Langdon Warner (1881–1955), persuaded Stein to make a Fourth Expedition to Xianjīng to <br>84 see Bryan, op. cit.

38 Saguricho is obviously the Sakuragichō Station 桜木町駅.<br>in Yokohama.

39 Taki Seiichi 滝精一 is a Buddhist temple where several of the Tokugawa shoguns are buried. The Stein Collection at the LHAS has two different sets of eight colour postcards of the Shōgun's Mausoleum 東京陣所.<br>in Stein Supplement, p. 167, Stein Photo 44/4/14.

40 The Okura Shūkōkan Museum 大倉集古館 founded by Okura Kihachirō 大倉喜八郎. Demiëville's daughter was only a year old at this time. Today she is Mme Jeanne-Marie Allier, Librarian at the Société Asiatique. In the summer of 2011 I had a chance to talk to her in person about this small memento of her early childhood in Stein's diary and she was pleasantly surprised to learn about it.

41 Katō Shigeshi 加藤織.

42 These are the Han dynasty earth mounds (dojō 墳地) at Rakrak 楊鉄 (pronounced Rakuro in Japanese) in central Pyŏngyang. The Stein Collection at the LHAS includes an envelope with 9 postcards which must have been received during this visit. An inscription on the envelope, in Stein's writing says, 'With compliments: Rakuro, Heijō Library (near Rakuro), Corea.' The postcards, however, show photos of Chinese bronzes, not lacquerware.

43 L.M. is Stein's designation of a site near Loulan where he discovered old lacquerware.

44 Itō Tōru 伊藤多郎 was the leading Japanese journal of art history.


46 This is Michael I. Rostovtzeff's book Inlaid Bronzes of the Han Dynasty in the Collection of C. T. Lux (Paris/Brussels, 1927). At this time the author was a Professor of Ancient History at Yale University and Stein visited his home before coming to Japan. The Stein collection at the LHAS has a letter from Rostovtzeff to Stein, 16 Feb 1930 (LHAS Catalogue, p. 87, f. 29r) in which he talks about his support for the excavations at Dura-Europos, which Stein had also visited in December 1929.

47 This is probably a reference to Henri Cordier's monumental work on the history of China: Histoire générale de la Chine et de ses relations avec les pays étrangers, depuis les temps les plus anciens jusqu'à la chute de la dynastie Mandchoue, Paris, (1920).

48 Stein is talking about the Higashi Honganji 東京芝増上寺, the head temple of the Jodo sect淨土 sect of Buddhism. The LHAS includes a small brochure of the Chion-in, which must have been given to Stein on this occasion (uncatalogued memorabilia).

49 Hsingan is Xi'an 西安, commonly spelled in contemporary Western literature as Hsi-nan.

50 Prince Ōyama Kashūwa 大山柏.

51 Marshal Ōyama Iwao 大山巌.

52 Anesaki Masaharu 瀧精一治.

53 Shūatori Kurakichi 白鳥庫吉.

54 This is most likely a misspelling of Sakurajō Jōjī, who was indeed the President of the Imperial Academy at the time of Stein's visit.

55 Unfortunately, the name of the person here is illegible.

56 The name Miyamato is obviously misspelled, it appears in the diary for the next day as Miyashito, neither of which are identifiable. Similarly, Inamad is also a misspelling, possibly Inamura.

57 The Hōryū-ji temple 法隆寺 is one of the major attractions in Nara. The LHAS has 8 Hōryū-ji postcards, showing the gates and courts of the temple compound. Included is one of Kondo. LHAS Supplement, p. 167, Stein Photo 44/4/14. There are also 8 postcards from the Anuks (Suiko) (552–644) period, with Buddhist sculptures, all of which are national treasures (uncatalogued memorabilia).

58 Kondo 金堂, as Stein correctly notes, is the main hall at Hōryū-ji.

59 Chien-fu-tung, today spelled Quanchongdu 千佛洞, refers to the Buddhist temple complex at the Mogao Caves 莫高窟 near the city of Dunhuang.

60 Kōtukuji 興福寺, a Buddhist temple and one of Nara's main sights.

61 Tōdai-ji 東大寺, another Buddhist temple and important site in Nara. Nandaimon 南大門 is in southern gate.

62 The Sangatsūdō 三門, the oldest structure in the Tōdai-ji complex.

63 Boxer Indemnity here refers to the scholarship program established for Chinese nationals to study in the United States using part of the indemnity demanded by the foreign powers following the defeat of the Boxer Rebellion 義和團 in 1901.

64 Probably an error for 'scrolls.'

65 Stein's notebook gives a list and short description of artefacts he saw at the museum. The Stein collection at the LHAS also has a small pamphlet titled Catalogue of Sculptures in the Nara Imperial Museum (published by the Museum, 1926) with Stein's pencil notes in it (uncatalogued memorabilia).

66 Mr. Kabuto is clearly Kubota Kanae 久保田 嘉之.

67 The Stein Collection at the LHAS has two small brochures of the Compound of Sculptures in the Nara Imperial Museum (published by the Museum, 1926) with Stein's pencil notes in it (uncatalogued memorabilia).

68 Nyippo Yissen Kaisha 日本郵船会社, i.e. Japan Mail Shipping Line, one of the world's largest shipping companies. It operated passenger services from Japanese ports to a multitude of destinations, including Shanghai and Hong Kong. The Stein Collection at the LHAS includes a group of 5 postcards with Stein's pen writing on top: 'Nara, Nyippo Y.K.' He may have bought these at this office. LHAS Supplement, p. 167, Stein Photo 44/4/14.

69 The Shōsōin 正倉院 is the treasure house at the Tōdaiji, housing artefacts related to Emperor Shōmu 武渟 (701–75) and his consort Empress Kōmyō 光明天皇 (701–60).

70 The Fushimi-Momoyama Castle 伏見桃山城 in southern Kyōto, where the Meiji Emperor was buried.

71 The Miyako Hotel 都ホテル is one of the top hotels in Kyōto in the Higashiyama district of the city. Today it is the Westin Miyako Hotel and still a common residence of visiting dignitaries (i.e. Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles and Princess Diana).

72 Haneda Tōru 海老田 agreed to study with Leumann in Freiburg.

73 Ушинский 1869–1931, Swiss Indologist who taught in Germany. His student is probably Waki Shigeo 若信玄 who had indeed studied with Leumann in Freiburg.

74 Stein is talking about the Higashi Honganji 東本願寺 and Nishi Honganji 西本願寺 temples located not far from Kyōto Station. The former Abbot of the Nishi Honganji was Count Ōtani Kōzui 本願寺方丈大官宗内の享堂, the head temple of the Jodo sect淨土 sect of Buddhism. The LHAS includes a small brochure of the Chion-in, which must have been given to Stein on this occasion (uncatalogued memorabilia).

75 Ernst Leumann (1859–1931), Swiss Indologist who taught in Germany. His student is probably Waki Shigeo 若信玄 who had indeed studied with Leumann in Freiburg.
91 Tōshōdaiji 唐招提寺, a Buddhist temple in Nara, established by a Chinese monk recruited by Emperor Shōmu.
92 Kōmokuten 広目天 (Virupaksa), the Guardian of the West.
93 Chōshūden 朝集殿, waiting hall for officials in the imperial palace.
94 Sir Eric Teichman (1884–1944), Secretary at the British Legation, one of the people in China who helped Stein obtain the permit for his upcoming expedition.
95 This is from the famous Kaiyuan harp 開元琴 in the Hōryūji collection, dating to 724. Thus Stein is mistaken about the date.
96 This may be a reference to the events connected with Gandhi’s activities in the first months of 1930.
97 Kasuga jinja 春日神社, a Shinto shrine in Nara. Since 1946 it has been known as the Kasuga taisha 春日大社.
98 The Mausoleum of Emperor Kanmu 桓武天皇.
99 Nogi Maresuke 乃木希典 (1849–1912), a Japanese army general during the Russo-Japanese war of 1904–5. He was in charge of the successful, yet extremely costly in human life, attack on Port Arthur, which also made him famous in Europe.
100 Inouye Shūten 井上秀天.
101 Harry J. Griffi th.
102 Zoltán Felvinczi Takács.
103 The name is missing here. She is presumably the person named ‘Mrs. Sampson’ (followed by a question mark) in the diary for the next day.
104 Prince Shōtoku.
105 Tamonōta 多聞天.
106 Hōki bosatsu 法起菩薩.
107 I.e. the diary.