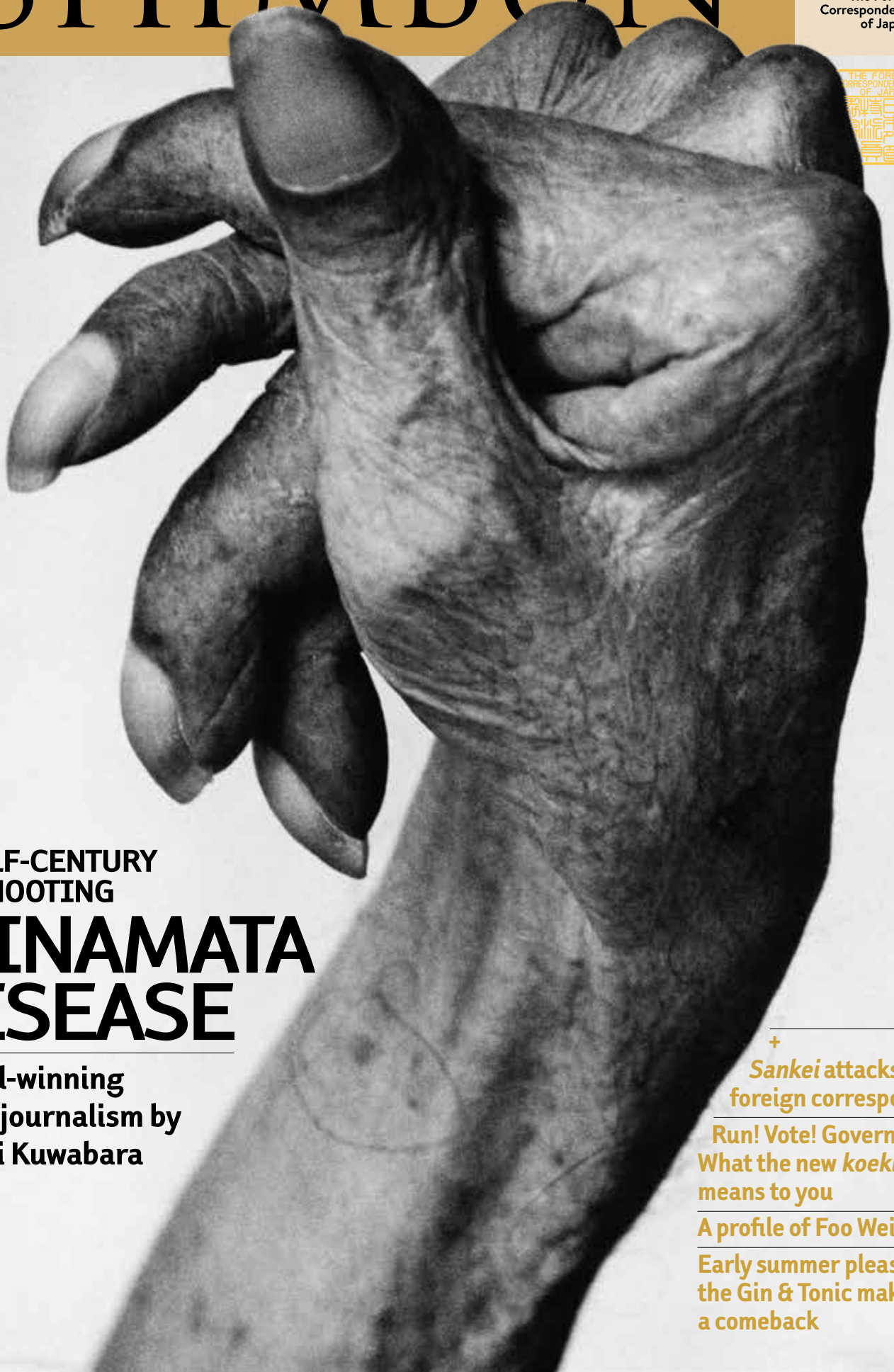


NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

May 2014
Volume 46 No. 5
¥400



The Foreign
Correspondents' Club
of Japan



A HALF-CENTURY
OF SHOOTING

MINAMATA DISEASE

Award-winning
photojournalism by
Shisei Kuwabara

+

Sankei attacks
foreign correspondents

Run! Vote! Govern!
What the new *koeki* status
means to you

A profile of Foo Wei Choo

Early summer pleasures:
the Gin & Tonic makes
a comeback



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NUMBER 1 SHIMBUN

Volume 46, Number 5 May 2014

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Published by the FCCJ
 All opinions contained within Number 1 Shimbun are those
 of the authors. As such, these opinions do not constitute
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 Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.
 Please pitch and send articles and photographs, or
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Cover photograph: Shisei Kuwabara

From the President



平成26年3月28日(MARCH 28, 2014) WAS THE DAY my shaking hand signed the official letter from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe granting us the right to become a public interest incorporated association (*koeki shadan hojin*). I couldn't resist posing with the letter for a quick iPhone photo under our historic photograph of General Douglas MacArthur famously saluting on the USS Missouri in 1945. It was an historic moment for us all, a rebirth for the Club at nearly 70 years old.

Now, one month later, we are already forging a fresh new path with projects for growth and programs for social benefit. Surely there will be growing pains. We're feeling the painful effects of an imploding media industry and shrinking journalist numbers. But I also believe the FCCJ is in a transition period, after surviving wars, recession, corrupt and ineffective governments, and even crippling attacks from within our membership.

With Japan's notorious state secrets law in place since December last year the Club is more relevant than ever. We will continue to offer an unbiased platform for all to share their views. We will also continue to serve as a watchdog against corruption and abuse of power, a vital function amidst an increasingly controlled Japanese media. The FCCJ has rightly earned its reputation for fairness, and promoting freedom of the press and freedom of speech.

Throughout our history we have also celebrated Japan's many accomplishments. Recent examples among our invited speakers include Olympic figure skating icons Yuzuru Hanyu and Mao Asada, Pritzker Prize-winning architect Shigeru Ban, maverick businessman Hiroshi Mikitani, and many more.

For me, the most poignant reminder of the Club's importance in Japan occurred last month – when Empress Michiko held out her hand to shake mine after I told her I was the FCCJ president. After standing frozen for a timeless millisecond, staring wide-eyed at her warm smile, I quickly reciprocated. Indeed, it was the warmest handshake I've ever had. Of the long line of diplomats and influential politicians, I was the only one she greeted this way. The Crown Prince, Prince Akishino and Princess Takamado also kindly greeted me after learning the organization I represented.

So why then is it suddenly popular in some areas of the press to bash the FCCJ and foreign journalists? The online *Sankei News* came out with a biting article in April (see page 6). I've been warned the May issue of *Sankei's* opinion magazine *SEIRON* also has a blistering piece about the Club. Passages critical of the FCCJ and its foreign journalists in a recent *Rekishitsu* piece are factually wrong. Most disappointing is *FACTA*. Publisher Shigeo Abe was specifically asked in mid-April to speak with me as the Club's spokesperson before the article was published. But he never contacted me. The article is a one-sided, sloppy piece of journalism, so unlike the fine investigative work the magazine is known for. *FACTA's* articles exposing corruption at Olympus garnered great admiration and many fans among FCCJ journalists, myself included. Abe-san even spoke to my journalism students about the importance of accurate reporting.

I'm trying to understand what these publications gain in criticizing the FCCJ in this manner. I shudder to think these publications were fed misinformation by Club members with personal legal or political agendas, or recalcitrants unhappy with the service, programs or new *koeki* status. If they are so unhappy with the Club then why be a member?

Again, we have always promoted freedom of speech, and stand by that position, but an apparent smear campaign of this kind is unprecedented. Fact one: Without the structural and financial changes we are now undertaking, there would be no FCCJ. Fact two: Changes take time to refine. Fact three: Japan needs the FCCJ and its journalists to communicate with the rest of the world.

Have a wonderful month of May.

– Lucy Birmingham

SINGAPORE: THE BEST PLACE FOR NEWS ABOUT ANYWHERE BUT HERE

Forget the political sex story;
go with crocodile gnawing –
or fly to Bangkok.
By **Jan Lund**

THE GLOBAL HEADLINES REPORTING THE LATEST rankings read, "Singapore: the most expensive city in the world!" But we knew that already down here in the Little Red Dot, where people dream of going to Tokyo for a cheap, prolonged weekend.

Of course, true to their role as defenders and promoters of Singapore Inc., the local media immediately ran stories that claimed the ranking only concerned expats. For the locals, they said, the story was different. Locals were still living an affordable life, thanks to all kinds of government support programs. Which, of course, is true.

There are already enough problems with the general perception that 2.1 million foreign passport holders out of a population of 5.4 million might be a tad too many. It's important for the media to report frequently and matter-of-factly that those numerous strangers are not running away with all the benefits.

Still, Singapore is an incredible success story – one that, in general, the Western media doesn't like to report. They'd prefer the chewing gum story that's stuck to the bottoms of the newsroom desks (nowadays you can chew as much as you like, though it's not for sale anywhere in the republic). Or the eternal story about the delinquent American youngster getting caned. (Yes, they are still using the old British praxis of caning convicted criminals. Yours truly is fortunately out of that loop since they only beat males under 50 years of age.)

For Singaporeans, the news stories are trade, finance and the economy. This is not a place where big ideological and philosophical discussions take place; not in the media and – after eight years here, I can say – not in private. Singapore lives on a burning platform of fear – fear of being left behind on the stormy globalized seas. It's all about survival: "If we don't outperform everybody else with our skills and determination, we are doomed."

For the guys ruling the hardcore newsrooms of the Western world, those stories are of no or little interest. Which is why the Foreign Correspondents Association (FCA) here is a motley crew without its own premises, very fragmented and with more than half of the

Jan Lund, a former correspondent for the Danish newspaper *Jyllands-Posten*, has settled in Singapore, where he writes columns, books and publishes magazines.



members belonging to newswires.

The FCA fights for relevance and survival, a difficult task since most reporters outside the financial conglomerates like Bloomberg are not here for Singapore. They're here because Singapore is the center of Asia, ideally located for operations all over Asia.

For a one-man band this is the place to be – no matter if it's a company running just one facility east of Suez or a freelancer like me targeting all of Asia. We have easy instant access to the whole region from Changi Airport, where an airplane takes off or lands every 90 seconds 24/7.

Another major reason to settle here is the number of accessible think-tanks; it's like nowhere else in Asia. Books, papers, speeches and presentations from

(except the free paper *Today*), and Media Corp., which runs all the electronics.

They don't exist to throw bloody knives at the government – but are surprisingly unbiased in their coverage of elections, society and, especially, the scandals that roll through political life in Singapore. In fact, no detail in a sex scandal or court case is too small to report and we're always supplied with full names and photos.

To report news from here on a daily basis is almost impossible. Though my eight years here have seen Singapore transform itself beyond recognition, I'll only grab space overseas when something like the Marina Bay Sands casino opens with all its tinsel and wonders.

When I was a stringer for DPA, I once tried to pitch a story about how the

MOST REPORTERS ARE NOT HERE FOR SINGAPORE. THEY'RE HERE BECAUSE SINGAPORE IS IDEALLY LOCATED FOR OPERATIONS ALL OVER ASIA

international groups float around this English-speaking universe. Once again, there's not so much about Singapore – but there's plenty about trends and developments all over Asia.

If you need generalist input from the region, the *Straits Times* is the newspaper to read: broad, deep and very informative, despite the fact that it is, as an editor once explained to me, a supporter of the ruling PAP party and plays a part in the nation building. Don't expect censorship, but understand that the stories on Singapore are carefully weighted and valued from this perspective.

The local media landscape is framed by two partly government-owned monopolies: Singapore Press Holdings, which is in charge of all the print

speaker of parliament, who was considered a potential prime minister, was caught with his pants down – a fashion statement he was sharing with a young female party worker. He was sacked from party and parliament, but there was no interest at all. I found more acceptance for a feature about Singaporeans turning to crocodile eating and a campaign for upgrading public toilets.

So yes, Singapore is a terrific place to cover everything else but Singapore. From a rational point of view, it may be the place to run all-Asian coverage. Setting up my media company in Singapore instead of Tokyo was not easy, but it was a commercial management decision. Singapore is my brain – though my heart still belongs to Tokyo. 🇸🇬



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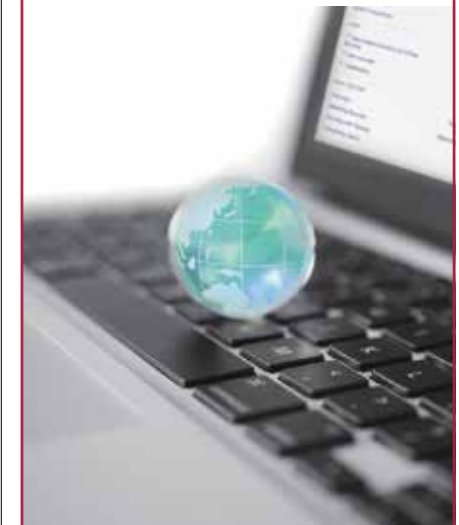
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The service will be billed by the Club. The FCCJ benefits from all subscriptions sold under this arrangement.

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For those already in on the secret, the application form is available on the FCCJ website or from the 19F Club office.



Journalist members react to bizarre claim by a Japanese news organization

FCCJ correspondents: Blind believers in propaganda? Sankei thinks so

On March 29, *Sankei News* published a column entitled "Takao Harakawa's East Asia Anemometer: Foreign Correspondents in Tokyo Blindly Believe Anti-Japan Propaganda by China and Korea; Press Conference Turns into Meeting to Condemn Japan."

The article focused on a press conference held by two Tokyo-area municipal assemblywomen, members of a delegation that visited Glendale, California to protest that city's erection of a "comfort women" statue.

Harakawa scolded the attending journalists, claiming that one of the assemblywomen was "visibly confused when confronted with unanticipated questions," including one about Koreans being forced to work in the coalmines of Oita. (He did not identify the questioner, FCCJ Member Fred Varcoe, who recorded his take in "My question to comfort women deniers," [No.1 Shimbun, April, 2014]).

The article also said the questions from the foreign journalists "were clearly based on a lack of understanding and prejudice." It chided a "German journalist" (the unidentified Siegfried Knittel) for asking the women if the act of denying the military was involved in the "comfort women" activities would not gain the world's understanding, but invite a backlash.

One anonymous journalist is quoted saying to one of the politicians after the press conference: "Today's press conference was held not to ask questions, but for the purpose of denouncing Japan, wasn't it?" Then the article quoted an assemblywoman as saying, "The Japanese government has never made a serious effort to offer counterarguments, and the Korean propaganda is much louder, so I feel that antagonism against Japan is building among many foreign journalists."

The only attributed statement was by FCCJ member Hiroyuki Fujita (the interpreter for the assemblywomen), who blamed the journalists' questions on the fact that "What foreigners, particularly those from Allied countries, believe to be the truth is based on the Tokyo War Crimes Trial view of history. . . Mr. [Henry Scott] Stokes is an exception. He is one of the very few foreign correspondents who seriously studies the subject." All other quotes were unattributed.

The charges made in the headline, however, were surprising enough that *No.1 Shimbun* asked some FCCJ correspondents, including the questioners, for their take on *Sankei News'* claims.

Commentator Takao Harakawa believes foreign journalists in Japan are influenced by Chinese and South Korean anti-Japanese propaganda. But foreign journalists here are well informed: we would never accept at face value Chinese and Korean propaganda, nor are we victims of the Japanese nationalist-conservatives' propaganda about the denial of comfort women, the Nanjing massacre and forced labor in the mining industry.

"Many foreign journalists in Japan are concerned with the stubbornness of the nationalist-conservatives' refusal to acknowledge Japan's responsibility for the war in East Asia from 1931 to 1945 and the war crimes that took place. Many journalists are worried that Japan will isolate itself through these denials, since the outside world does not understand the current government's way of dealing with the past. We know that Japan is not a revanchist state despite China's pronouncements, but the inability to acknowledge the past by the Japanese national-conservative government and media like *Sankei* is a huge help to Chinese anti-Japanese propaganda.

Siegfried Knittel
Freelance journalist (Germany)

FCCJ elder correspondents are naturally aware and informed. We are like a Japanese drum, or *taiko*, whose beat resonates with history. Japanese right-wingers always challenge the guilty vision of the past, reject the idea of aggression, and deny the atrocities committed by the Japanese Imperial Army in Asia. This amnesia has invaded textbooks and television – and even some *manga* serve up a nationalist political message. But questioning and commenting is the right of journalists, and it's possible to ask questions to anyone in Japan, or even attend the Emperor interviews. In general, in Japan, it's necessary to ensure that the person understands the questions, as Japanese are very emotional in matters of communication. As a background to my questions, over the years I researched WWII with American and Asian experts in Congress, as well as journalists and historians, and found a lot of information in the archives. For the benefit of the public, the media and researchers, I hope more archives will be released, some 69 years after the defeat of Japan.

Joël Legendre-Koizumi
RTL France Broadcasting

I hope *Sankei* appreciates the irony of a news organization lambasting journalists for putting politicians through the wringer. The idea that experienced foreign reporters, many with an academic background in East Asian studies, are blindly swallowing South Korean and Chinese propaganda is risible at best. As a correspondent for a newspaper based in the U.K., where the media are not afraid to show their political colors, I have no problem with editors using their pages to generate debate on sensitive political and historical issues – in this case wartime sex slaves and the Nanking Massacre. That, however, doesn't seem to be the motivation for their attack on foreign correspondents. Instead, it came across as the journalistic equivalent of playing the man, not the ball. But we'll live.

"The column got one thing right, though. Japan does a spectacularly poor job of explaining its position on diplomatic issues to the rest of the world. The fault for that lies with politicians, not the foreign journalists who rightly treat all official pronouncements with skepticism, whether they emanate from Tokyo, Seoul or Beijing. Critics of coverage by Japan-based foreign correspondents should direct their ire towards the country's leaders. Then again, that might involve asking them one or two uncomfortable questions.

Justin McCurry
The Guardian

I know the *Sankei* people. They are good people. At the same time I hate to see us being challenged by them. The media world is very small and fragile and we have real-time stories breaking as I write. I hope that we can reach out to and learn from our Japanese colleagues, not least the folk at *Sankei!* Their own

track record over the last half-century – notably in respect to their coverage of Beijing during the 70s and 80s – has been exemplary. They declined to be bullied by Beijing and settled for an independence from Beijing that the other big dailies here failed to match.

Henry Scott Stokes
Yukan Fuji columnist

It was shocking to realize that the two assemblywomen believed that by alleging cases of bullied Japanese schoolchildren in California, their attempt to revise history could gain sympathy from foreign journalists, many with much experience covering the Korean peninsula and China as well as Japan. Right-wing nationalists, including PM Abe, are surprisingly blind regarding their appearance to the world. No international media, apart from the Japanese right-wing media, supports their claims denying military involvement in the "comfort women" system. As was pointed out by a German journalist in the Q&A session, Japan is facing a loss of sympathy in international society. Before throwing around outdated arguments like "victors' view of history," Japan should respect the foreign media as objective and realistic Japan watchers.

Fuyuko Nishisato
Producer, ZDF TV (Germany)

In the interest of public debate, the FCCJ welcomed two legislators to discuss their belief that thousands of women herded into brothels by the wartime military were prostitutes, and that anyone who says otherwise is victim of the propaganda mills of the Chinese and Koreans. Such beliefs invariably come from people who have never talked to a single "comfort woman," and often come from people with a long pedigree of revisionist denial. Nobody at the FCCJ pointed out that one of the speakers, Yoshiko Matsuura, has deep connections to Yukio Mishima's private militia, *Tate no Kai*.

"Such people are not interested in debate. If they had confidence in the veracity of their beliefs, surely they would welcome probing questions of the kind they got a very mild taste of at the FCCJ. Instead, they smear the Club with the taint of "anti-Japanese bias." Takao Harakawa concludes that Japan must counter propaganda, including using "additional budgetary measures." My advice is to save the money. If the government had confessed, apologized properly and paid compensation in full, the comfort women issue would have disappeared from the news long ago. It is precisely these denials that keep it alive and force foreign correspondents to keep revisiting it.

David McNeill
The Independent

As moderator for the press conference, I fully expected tough questions on a controversial and divisive subject. My priority was to allow the speakers to present their views, and I left the event feeling it was a significant success. The speakers had a fair chance to say their piece and the journalists a fair chance to cross-examine them. That perception gaps remained between many of the participants was to be expected.

"The FCCJ hosts speakers of highly diverse ideological points of view. That our Club has journalists who challenge the speakers and ask tough questions is a point to be celebrated and take pride in. I wonder what kind of media culture *Sankei* must support to believe that journalists should not be skeptical and penetrating in their questioning. In a free society, a media that challenges politicians and power-holders is a necessity.

Michael Penn
Shingetsu News Agency

I was not at the event, but I did read the *Sankei* article. While I think it is true that China is seeking to discredit Japan, and South Korea is appealing for international support on the "comfort women" issue, these efforts should not be conflated with foreign journalists in Tokyo asking tough or skeptical questions. In fact, it is potentially dangerous – not to mention self-defeating for Japan – when a news organization here accuses fellow journalists of being "anti-Japanese" simply because they express different views of history. This is what I would expect from Chinese or even North Korean state-run media, but not a major journalistic institution in a free society.

"Japan's greatest strength is the fact that it has been a peaceful, democratic nation for nearly 70 years, an accomplishment that very few of its neighbors can match. An important part of this has been a free and open press, including foreign news organizations, which have played an important role in Japan by providing the critical perspectives that large local news organizations can lack. Trying to vilify or marginalize foreign journalists risks descending into the sort of witch-hunt that I would expect to see in some of Japan's less liberal neighbors, but not here in East Asia's oldest democracy.

Martin Fackler
New York Times



Choo Wei Foo

by Monzurul Huq

For some, a journalism career begins with a passion for something close to the world of media. For Singaporean Choo Wei Foo, that early enthusiasm was for drama, particularly the shows she enjoyed watching on the small screen.

When the 18-year-old Foo finished her general education, she was offered a chance to go to Europe for her higher studies. But she had something else in mind, and made a sudden, unexpected decision. "At the time, Japan was enjoying a prestigious position in Asia," Foo says. "Everything Japanese was highly regarded, including the TV dramas that were shown in Singapore. I liked the acting of Momoe Yamaguchi and the sophistication of Japanese TV production. Its perfection was extremely fascinating to my contemporaries and me. And that convinced me to look into the possibility of studying TV production in Japan."

In 1983, she was admitted to Nihon University, where she planned to get a degree in TV production. It was the only university in Japan at the time that offered such a program.

Naturally, courses in producing dramas were part of the curriculum. But the young Singaporean student also began to learn the techniques behind documentary making. It was her first experience that touched on the real world of journalism, focusing on the lives of people and their surroundings.

After obtaining her university degree, she wanted to put into practice what she had learned during her stay in Japan. "I returned to Singapore in 1989 and started working for Singapore Broadcasting Corporation through the introduction of my father, who was also in the drama production business. But the initial days were a bit difficult as I was not fully convinced about the career track I was on." And then came another sudden decision. "While in Japan, I had a Japanese friend with whom I continued exchanging mails after returning home," she says. "In 1991, I returned to Japan, and soon after we got married, while I continued my studies at the University of Tokyo. That was the second turning point in my life; one that led to a life in Japan that is now well over

three decades. It also pushed me firmly towards a career in journalism."

But the breakthrough did not come overnight. She definitely had her ups and downs, more so because she was now in a foreign land that had yet to open many doors to expatriate professionals. Meanwhile, Foo gave birth to two children, and the period from 1991 to 1994 was spent mostly in rearing her children. When her second child was a year old, however, she once again had time to respond to her professional desires by leaving her daughter in the hands of a baby-sitter. She fondly remembers how supportive her husband was during that early period.

Her first step was to join the film



The businesses and homes of many Indonesian Chinese became targets for random looting; many fled for their lives, leaving behind all they owned.

Foo was approached by Asia Press to cover the ongoing events. She agreed to be posted to Indonesia, where she started reporting from the field wearing a Hinomaru armband. Some of her footage appeared on NTV while she also filmed and recorded for Singapore television. Working for two different television channels in two Asian countries showed her another hidden aspect of how TV reporting reaches the audience. Whereas her footage and reporting were broadcast in Singapore with little alteration, NTV would re-edit the pieces to bring them in line with its editorial policy.

The crisis ended, but for Choo Wei Foo, there was no going back. The Indonesian experience opened the door for her to become a correspondent for Singapore Press Holdings (SPH) in Japan. Since 2002, she has also worked full-time for SPH, reporting for the Chinese-language TV channel U and writing for the Chinese-language daily *Lianhe Zaobao*. It was around that time that she became a member of the FCCJ.

Foo focuses on a variety of issues ranging from politics to culture, and finds herself at the mercy of an increasingly busy schedule as Japan's interaction with Singapore deepens. However, she also feels that "there is a wide difference between how we look at issues related to Japan's recent past because of how history is taught. In Singapore we have more than 70 pages of school textbooks devoted to what happened in the 1930s and early 1940s. In Japan, students just get a glance of that."

Straddling print and the electronic media is not an easy task for any journalist. But Foo says that the challenge has turned out to be enjoyable as well as fulfilling: "I feel lucky to be in Japan, interviewing people and telling their stories to the readers and audience in Singapore." ❶

department of education publisher Gakken as an assistant director, where she began making films with a team of mostly Japanese men. It was an eye-opening experience that she found herself enjoying, despite the realization that her boss was often nervous about the lone foreign woman on the team.

She left Gakken for TBS after the broadcasting company expressed its desire to explore possibilities in the Asian market. Though she was mostly involved in market research, she was sometimes asked to assist the news production unit. Soon she began to feel, however, that TBS was not very sure about their intentions overseas; she realized that the Japanese media, despite its size, was largely content confining itself to the domestic market.

Her life might not have changed much had the 1997 Asian financial crisis not come along. But the fall of the dictatorial regime of Suharto sparked violence against Indonesia's Chinese community.

Monzurul Huq represents the largest-circulation Bengladeshi national daily, *Prothom Alo*. He was FCCJ president from 2009 to 2010.

Celebrating a publication that changed the face of the Asian media, and the lives of its correspondents

Legends of FEER: 10 years after

by Anthony Rowley

Sic transit gloria FEER. That last word is not bad Latin but an acronym for the late lamented *Far Eastern Economic Review*, the 10th anniversary of whose untimely passing was celebrated or “mourned” by some one hundred ex-staffers including myself at a Hong Kong reunion in early April.

The “glory” of the *Review* had already been diminished by the time that its then-owners, Dow Jones, decided to kill it off 10 years ago by turning the former beacon of irreverent and incisive Asian journalism from a weekly magazine into an irrelevant monthly journal of opinion. It had been owned by a number of Hong Kong companies, including the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corp. before Dow moved from being a minority shareholder to full ownership of the magazine.

Several short-lived editors continued to trade on the reputation of the *Review*'s greatest editors – Derek Davies, and his gifted immediate successor Philip Bowring – after they were disposed of by the *Review*'s owners, as did various newly-recruited correspondents.

But the light of inspired “tell it like it really is” journalism that had illumined the magazine for decades from its founding as a humble, Shanghai-based newsletter after World War II through its glory decades in Hong Kong had not so much faded as been snuffed out.

The lives of many of the *Review* “Greats” have also been terminated since by the passage of time and it was only the ghosts of people such as Derek Davies, Richard Hughes, David Bonavia, Donald Wise and others that gathered with us in the former British colony to remember the *Review* as it was.

Bowring was there, however, and it is a tribute to the remarkable sense of camaraderie or family that pervaded the *Review* in its heyday (often in the face of real adversity such as correspondent arrests) that former staffers also came from all corners of the earth to be present.

I was Singapore bureau chief, then Business Editor of the *Review* for 10 years from 1977, and later International Finance Editor in London and Tokyo, until 1993.

During those years I had the privilege of working with some of the *Review*'s most colorful characters.

None was more colorful than Derek Davies himself, a mercurial and boisterous Welshman, who graduated from being a British diplomat to editor of the *Review* for 25 years.

Davies' name became synonymous with that of the *FEER* – but never with fear. He boldly went where other journalists feared

TWO MEN BREEZED INTO THE OFFICE AND DEMANDED TO KNOW WHO I WAS. I SAID I WOULD CALL THE POLICE “WE ARE THE POLICE,” ONE OF THEM RESPONDED

to tread, often offending presidents and prime ministers alike when there was a need to chronicle corruption, incompetence, arrogance or worse at the top.

His personal magnetism (although he could also be as cutting in his manner as his writing style was incisive) attracted a wide range of gifted writers from diverse backgrounds, multiple disciplines, cultures, political and religious beliefs and different ideological persuasions. His gift as an editor was, paradoxically, not to edit. Or, at least, not to over-edit. The *Review* during his reign chose its correspondents more by instinct than on the basis of formal journalistic qualifications

Anthony Rowley, a former President of the FCCJ, is currently Tokyo Correspondent of the *Singapore Business Times* and Field Editor (Japan) for *Oxford Analytica*.

and then trusted to their judgment “on the ground” or in the field.

The *Review*'s “style” was the antithesis of American-style journalism while Davies and Bowring were in charge. The magazine did not always demand quotes to back up stories but instead trusted writers to cultivate sources who felt freer to talk if they knew they were not being quoted.

Davies presided over his “empire” as might a prime minister over his territories, receiving dispatches (stories) from his embassies (bureaux) and printing them for the information and enlightenment of what were, at the peak, 85,000 subscribers.

What enraged rather than amused some of those readers, especially those in high places, was precisely the fact that the *Review* believed in editorial honesty rather than kowtowing to national leaders and others in Asia who expected journalists to “show respect” even where none was due.

When *Review* correspondents were not actually imprisoned, as a number were, in Southeast Asia especially, they were often hauled into court to answer trumped-up charges that amounted to no more than having the temerity to tell the truth. But the *Review* always backed up its correspondents.

I vividly recall my own first day in the former Singapore Marina House office in Shenton Way in 1977. I had gone in on a Saturday morning ahead of my scheduled first appearance the following Monday morning, in order to familiarize myself with the layout.

About half way through the morning, two rather nondescript-looking men in casual attire breezed into the office and demanded to know who I was. I, in turn, demanded to know who they were and when they declined to answer I said I would call the police. “We are the police,” one of them responded.

They were from the Internal Security Department. Imagine my astonishment when they brought my colleague Ho Kwon Ping into the office in handcuffs! After another colleague – and even my secretary – were arrested I came to appreciate the need for strong editorial backup.



At least I was not arrested, though other *Review* staffers such as Salamat Ali in Pakistan, Murray Hiebert in Indochina and others came to know prison cells from the inside. All this, of course, served to enhance the reputation of the publication for reporting “without fear or favor.”

There are lighter anecdotes to tell, such as when Bertil Lintner turned up for an interview in Indochina on the back of an elephant labeled “Press”; that being the



Clockwise from top left
The author speaking at the reunion; Philip Bowring, Rita Bidulph (widow of BBC Far East correspondent Jim Bidulph) and the author; Bertil Lintner on his elephant; the late Derek Davies at the FEER offices in the good old days.

only transportation available in a war zone. He had been offered a chance to rent a tank but preferred the elephant.

There was the hard-bitten professionalism of *Review* people like David Bonavia who had been bureau chief for *The Times* of London in Moscow and Beijing before joining. He could polish off a couple of bottles of claret at lunch and then write a perfectly cogent analysis of a complex subject. I know, as I edited his copy for some years.

There was the *Review*'s brilliant cartoonist, Morgan Chua, whose satirical and lampooning sketches could move some Asian leaders, as well as self-important individuals, to fury. It was the late Andrew Davenport's searching exposés that helped put the *Review* on the map in business coverage (and even led to Hong Kong adopting insider trading laws).

It is invidious to mention a few more names but they should include Nayan Chanda, who stayed on in Saigon after its “fall” and filmed North Vietnamese tanks smashing down the gates of the presidential palace. Names like Rodney Tasker, John MacBeth, “Rocky” Pura, Richard Nations and (in Tokyo) John Lewis, Tracy Dahlby and Susumu Awano-hara also stand out.

As Bowring wrote recently in the *South China Morning Post*, the *Review*'s “honesty and independence were established through its coverage of the Vietnam war, the Malaysian race riots in 1969, and the disturbances in Hong Kong both in 1966 – the Star Ferry riots – and during the Cultural Revolution.

“It quickly became viewed with hostility by governments around the region, not least in Hong Kong [where] the press remained relatively free while the situation elsewhere in the region was dire; Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, Indonesia all in the grip of authoritarian regimes, the media being gradually squeezed to death in Singapore, and muzzled in Malaysia and the Philippines.”

The *Review* “inspired other Hong Kong-based regional publications, including *Asia Magazine*, *The Asian* and *Asiaweek*. They brought improved standards of journalism, provided independent media in countries where the local ones were controlled, and encouraged the development of a cadre of Asian journalists who would flourish in their own countries.”

It was fitting somehow that the second day of the *FEER* reunion (after dinner, speeches and reminiscences at the Foreign Correspondents Club of Hong Kong on the first day) took the form of a boat trip to Po Toi island. The sea was rough enough to make some green around the gills but the *Review* never feared sailing into rough waters. 🐘

How to run, how to vote, how to govern: the new rules of *Koeki Shadan Hojin*

by Kazuo Abiko

The change in association status also means changes in how the Club is operated



On April 1 the FCCJ embarked on a new chapter in its history as a *koeki shadan hojin*, or a public-interest incorporated association. The Club's new Articles of Association and Bylaws took effect simultaneously on that date.

There are a number of changes that will affect the operation and governance of the Club, and the rights and responsibilities of Club members. Under our old rules, for example, a General Membership Meeting (GMM) resolution had supreme authority in the Club's decision-making. In other words, the Board of Directors had to obtain the general membership's approval on almost all decisions it made; any Board decision could be overturned at a general meeting as well.

This is no longer true.

The Club's governance and operations are now under the Act on General Incorporated Associations and General Incorporated Foundations, or the *Shadan Hojin Law*, which governs both general and public-interest incorporated associations and foundations. As explained at various Club meetings, the *Shadan Hojin Law* is based on the *Kaisha-ho*, or Companies Act.

This means, from now on, our general meeting will be equivalent to a corporate shareholders meeting.

Certain matters are to be resolved at the GMM, but most of the operational decisions are now left to the Board of Directors. In other words, the Board now has much stronger powers – and heavier responsibilities – than it had under the old rules. As a result, the Kanji's role has become critical.

The Directors and (one or two) Kanji will be elected by resolutions at a GMM, which is why we needed to change our election procedures. The President and other senior officers will then be selected from among members of the Board by resolutions at a Board meeting.

You can find all these changes stipulated in the new Articles and Bylaws on our website. But here's a brief explanation of the major changes, especially in the general meeting procedures and the process to elect the Directors and the Kanji.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING CHANGES

The Club will hold at least two GMMs a year – with the annual general meeting in

June and another regular GMM in March in order to approve the budget and business plan. In addition, an extraordinary GMM may be held at any time as needed.

In the new system, a quorum requires one-half of the general membership, whereas it has been one-fifth of the general membership for many years.

This is a major challenge for us, as it requires a lot of involvement of our members. So just as is widely practiced at corporate shareholders meetings, the FCCJ Board will send out a GMM agenda to all Regular members, including detailed information on all the proposed resolutions, no less than two weeks before the meeting. A reply sheet and/or postcard will be included in the package, so that Regular members who aren't able to attend the meeting may vote on the issues in advance, using written or electronic methods, or designate another Regular member as a proxy to exercise their voting right.

Regular members who are unable to attend the GMM may also designate the Chair of the meeting as their proxy. This is a new device, primarily for the purpose of

constituting a quorum. The Chair, however, must cast these proxy votes in accordance with the proportion of "yes" and "no" votes cast by physically attending members and absentee ballots for the respective agenda item. This means the Chair cannot go against the wishes of the majority.

Incidentally, Regular members may cast a maximum of two proxy votes; this hasn't changed.

There is another significant change regarding "New Business" items, or resolutions proposed on the spot from the floor. We no longer can adopt a resolution that is not proposed in the agenda. This is in accordance with the law to ensure informed discussions in our decision-making process, as well as to prevent attempts by a small group of Regular members in attendance to make a Club decision in a precipitous manner.

The agenda of the GMM will be set by the Board. But as stipulated in the Bylaws, the Board is obliged to add an item to the agenda if a signed request is made by at least one-thirtieth of the general membership no less than six weeks before the GMM. That means, for example, if the number of Regular members is 300, as few as 10 members could add an item to the agenda.

Similarly, to make an amendment to a proposed resolution and have it distributed to Regular members before a GMM takes place, at least one-thirtieth of the general membership must submit a signed petition to that effect no less than one week before the meeting.

An amendment to a proposed resolution may still be made from the floor at a GMM. But from now on it will need the approval of a majority of all attending members, including absentee votes and proxies. This means that such amendments will have a higher hurdle to clear, as absentee Regular members will not be able to vote on the amendment, even though they are included in the number of attendees for vote counting on any resolution.

THE NOMINATION PROCESS

The President establishes an Election Committee consisting of at least three Regular members, preferably former Board members, no less than six weeks before the annual GMM in June. The Election Committee's role will be basically the same as before.

Nominations in writing for all candidates should be submitted to the Election Committee no less than three weeks before the GMM. The nominations won't be valid unless the nominee has consented in writing to run for office. Candidates



The makeup of the Club changes from its previous *Shadan Hojin* status.

for elective office must have held a membership card for at least one full year prior to his or her nomination.

For Directors, there must be at least eight nominees from Regular members and four nominees from Professional Associate and Associate members. For Kanji, there must be at least two nominees from Regular members. In the event the Club decides to have more than one Kanji, the second Kanji shall come from Professional Associates and Associate members and there shall be at least two Kanji nominees from Professional Associate or Associate members.

The nomination of each Regular member candidate must have the signatures of at least two Regular members. Self-nomination requires the signatures of at least two other members endorsing the nomination. At least six of these candidates for Directors will be elected, along with one or two as reserve Directors, with the ranking based on their respective number of votes. At least one of these candidates for Kanji will be elected along with another as reserve Kanji.

The nominations of candidates from among the Professional Associate and Associate members shall be made through the Associate Members' Liaison Committee (AMLC) in accordance with the guidelines established by the AMLC and agreed to by the Board. At least three of these candidates for Directors will be elected along with one or two elected as reserve Director(s). In the event the Club decides to have more than one Kanji, at least two of these candidates for Kanji will be elected, one as Kanji and another as reserve Kanji.

The deadline for nominations may be extended for a maximum of five days if the Election Committee does not receive enough nominees for Directors and Kanji(s) to hold an election by the aforementioned date.

The Election Committee must notify

the Board of a list of candidates at least three weeks before the annual GMM to ensure that the Board can announce the candidates' names and affiliations to all Regular members at least two weeks before the meeting. The list should be included in the meeting agenda.

ELECTION CHANGES: THE VOTE

The election of Directors and Kanji will be held at the annual GMM, and a ballot sheet will be handed to each Regular member as he or she arrives and signs in for the meeting.

Each Regular member may vote for eight Regular member candidates and four Professional Associate or Associate member candidates for Directors, and two candidates for Kanji – unless the number of Board and Kanji positions has been set otherwise at an earlier general meeting. Regular members should mark their ballots and deposit them in the ballot box before the meeting is called to order.

A Regular member who is unable to attend the annual GMM may cast his or her absentee ballot by post, fax or email in accordance with the procedures established by the Election Committee, listing his or her choice of candidates.

The six Regular member candidates and the three Professional Associate or Associate member candidates with the largest numbers and a majority of votes cast will be elected as Directors (unless the number of Directors has been set otherwise at an earlier GMM). Similarly, the Kanji candidate(s) with the largest number(s) and a majority of votes cast shall be elected as Kanji(s). In case of a tie, the candidate(s) with the longest cumulative active membership shall be declared elected.

The newly elected Directors and the Kanji will take office at the end of the annual GMM and immediately elect the President, Vice Presidents, Secretary and Treasurer. The terms of Directors expire at the end of the annual GMM the following year. The term of the Kanji expire at the end of the annual GMM two years later.

Those are the changes in the new Articles and Bylaws that will affect Club members. I highly recommend that everyone read them carefully to understand their rights as well as their responsibilities (Section 10 of the Bylaws deals with the election process). They are posted on our website under "About FCCJ." ❶

Kazuo Abiko, former AP general manager for Northeast Asia based in Tokyo, was FCCJ president in 2001-02. He is co-chair of the *Shadan Hojin* Panel.

Capping two centuries of popularity, the Gin & Tonic is currently enjoying a phenomenal moment as the “it” drink at the hottest bars in New York, London and Tokyo. While the Main Bar at our own FCCJ upholds the classic taste, a new wave of dedicated artisans are on a quest for their intimately personalized Holy Grail, with passionate discussions about the best gin or the proper tonic ratio being held in bars all over the world.

The new gin boom is all about delivering the fullest flavor in every sip, and it's riding on an explosion of new gin distilleries, many of them small boutique producers that have fans waiting months for their limited output. Apart from the essential juniper that all gins contain, the current wave of recipes have wildly differing levels of alcohol bursting with novel aromatic combinations – like fruit peels, nuts and spices – so lovingly nuanced that many fans now sip them neat. In just a few years, the new wave has already produced big name stars like the Botanist and Hendrick's, which are quickly becoming the new standards, while the venerable Tanqueray still reigns as the perpetual favorite of traditional distillations. Even the ever-reliable Beefeater has recently added hints of Chinese tea and grapefruit to nine botanicals in a new super-premium edition.

Much of the new global obsession with gin can be traced to the aficionados of Spain, where the drink has grown from its first encounters through British Gibraltar to become a virtual national drink. Spanish artisans kept the devotion through the 1980s and '90s, even as the drink was overshadowed everywhere else by vodka and other concoctions whose images were deemed more elegant than gin's firewater image that it could never quite shed.

Barcelona is now the destination of the world's most ardent fans, with a growing number of popular bars serving nothing else. Gone is the time-honored tall glass, which is now seen as an inferior vestibule for the unique aromatic blends of lovingly chosen botanicals and exotic garnishes. Now devotees seek out glasses with increasingly wider rims and plenty of swirling space – some approaching the size of a *kingyo* bowl. And pre-chilled glasses with an optimal ice mass are now *de rigueur* to slow down dilution.

Gin's ancestry can be traced back to the distilleries of 12th-century Salerno, Italy,

Proud of its historical impact, the drink is making headway in trendy bars everywhere

The Gin & Tonic is humble no more

by Mary Corbett



Stiff upper lip to soulful sips: An ad in a 1963 issue of *Playboy* celebrates the drink's colonial origins; a half-century later, distillers shun the past for a more youthful, trendy approach.

but the version we enjoy today has its true roots in the popular Dutch drink *gen* – a popular grain distillation from the coniferous juniper plant (*genever* in Dutch), long known for its medicinal properties. Records exist of a Dr. Sylvius de Bouve in Leiden, who had a best-selling juniper remedy for inflammation and kidney ailments in the 16th century.

THE SPIRIT

Popular legend tells of English soldiers taking a shine to a drink they called Dutch Courage while fighting on the Continent in either the Dutch War of Independence in the late 16th century or the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) and taking it back to England. From there *gen* evolved in stages into the London dry gin we know today.

Gin's allure was further boosted when William and Mary ascended the English

throne in 1688. Dutch and staunchly Protestant, William promptly slapped high duties on imports of wine and brandy from the detested Catholic countries and encouraged cheap gin production from grains grown in England.

Consumption predictably skyrocketed in the ensuing years, paving the way to perhaps the world's first urban drug epidemic by the early 18th century. Society's elites were alarmed by growing public drunkenness and crime, not to mention the dramatic drop in the numbers of able-bodied laborers, with magistrates declaring in 1721 that gin was “the principal cause of all the vice and debauchery committed among the inferior sort of people.” The government introduced heavy taxes in the 1730s, but the measures seem to have accomplished little but to send the sellers underground. The craze finally started to wane in 1751 when high license fees were imposed on

gin shops through the Tippling Act, though spiraling grain prices may have had as much to do with the decline in demand.

THE MIXER

In a timeline echoing gin's rise and fall in England, Spain was exploring the medicinal properties of a bitter bark that the Catholic missionaries in Peru had observed natives using to treat fevers, shivering and muscle cramps. Most significantly, it showed great potency as a cure for malaria, which presented a considerable obstacle for European expansionist ambitions into the tropical, mosquito-ridden regions of the world. (Malaria arguably has killed more people over history than all the wars and plagues combined.)

Soon, the Catholic Church was distributing the alkaloid powder ground from cinchona trees throughout the Old World at mind-boggling profit. But not everyone was enchanted with the drug. Quinine, as the active ingredient came to be known, was widely referred to as “Jesuit's Powder” – which led to Protestant rejection amid widespread suspicion of a possible Papist genocidal plot targeting them.

It was a bias that may well have killed Oliver Cromwell, who, dealing with his second attack of malaria in 1658, refused the doctor's prescription of the powder and promptly took his last breath. A few years later, Charles II was also stricken with the disease. English, but a Catholic, he took his quinine and lived, as did his French, and very Catholic, friend Louis XIV.

To meet global demand, the cinchona seeds were eventually smuggled out of Peru, and large-scale plantations in Java were soon prospering under the Dutch.

THE ALCHEMY

The fortuitous wedding of gin and tonic took place in the 1820s. British troops stationed in India are believed to have come up with the ingenious way to make the gut-wrenchingly bitter quinine more palatable. All manners of masking had been attempted, mostly by increasing the sugar content of the tonic. But low compliance for daily quinine ingestion remained a major concern in the colonies until some uncelebrated soldier (or soldiers) discovered what a magical bitterness-blocker gin could be.

The classic drink of the Empire was thus born, and Mary Poppins herself couldn't have helped the medicine go down any easier.

The combination was to change history. With malaria outbreaks now largely under control, the British civilian population in India grew quickly, and the sparkling remedy became the most fashionable drink in the Empire.

THE CHILL

Helping its popularity in the planet's hot spots was, no doubt, the addition of pristine ice. It came from halfway around the world – thanks to the marketing ingenuity and acumen of flamboyant Bostonian businessman Frederic Tudor. Although his first shipments to Martinique and Cuba in 1806 turned out to be catastrophic meltdowns for both ice and investors, he tenaciously pursued technological innovations until he was able to harvest and transport his chunks of frozen ponds across the globe.

He cleverly targeted the tropical outposts, at first giving away samples to add to what were then rather tepid cocktails. With drug-like effect, the customers were soon hooked, making chilled drinks forever the norm and Ice King Tudor a very rich man. It was a case of Walden Pond meeting the Ganges. While Thoreau observed with bemusement workmen chopping away at ice blocks from his beloved Walden Pond, Tudor quickly conquered India. Buckingham Palace was soon to fall.

By the late 1820s, the notoriety of gin, once so painfully depicted in the “Gin Lane” prints of Hogarth's 18th century London, was magically reinvented to help ease its entry into the grand salons of London's high society, where it continues to hold a special place of honor to this day.

No less a man than Winston Churchill famously endorsed the drink for perpetuity when he proclaimed that “the gin and tonic has saved more English lives, and minds, than all the doctors of the Empire.”

THE GARNISH

The traditional crowning of the sparkling drink with a wedge of lime, or lemon as the preference may be, is also a tradition born of necessity during the relentless push for colonial expansion. On long ocean crossings in the Age of Discovery, scurvy would often kill up to 70 percent of the crew.

While Hippocrates knew some 2,500 years ago that a lack of

fresh vegetables and fruits for extended periods would bring on the symptoms of scurvy, scientists later seemed more intent on finding culprit pathogens, and the debate raged for centuries while tens of thousands died at sea under the most horrific circumstances.

In 1747, Dr. James Lind published what may have been the first clinical study conducted in history, which made use of control groups to identify the efficacy of citrus fruits as scurvy preventives. His advice was pretty much ignored until 1794, ironically the year of Lind's death, when on the insistence of officers, the British navy finally issued lemon juice for seamen (amounting to an extremely small 10mg per person ration) on the HMS *Suffolk*, which sailed for 23 weeks non-stop to India. Even on such a minuscule regimen, the citrus was enough to prevent serious episodes of scurvy, prompting the astonished Admiralty to finally issue citrus fruits routinely to the entire fleet, forever branding their seamen “Limeys” in the lingo of their mocking Continental neighbors. The Germans carried sauerkraut as their source of vitamin C on long journeys, hence giving the aforementioned Limeys a reason to call them “Krauts.”

Old gin lore has it that the preference for a wedge, rather than a drop of bottled or canned lime juice, was to prove its freshness, and thereby, high anti-scurvy efficacy.

The lime wedge continues to protect us from scurvy. Alas, one would be ill advised to rely any longer on tonic as a malaria shield, as its quinine level is now legally capped at a fraction of the recommended medical potency. To compensate for the lapse of the defining bitterness of a bygone era, perhaps, devotees are now obsessive in their selection from amongst the ever-expanding choices of novel tonics on the market for which a well-matched garnish is now considered critical to gin and tonic's unique alchemy.

Be your preference cucumber, a twist of yuzu, or something else unspeakably exotic you found at the market, what better season, or reason, to re-explore the full potential of the gin and tonic experience in the Main Bar on June 6, when Tanqueray will host an evening celebrating its legendary distillation, reintroduced to Club members with a 21st century touch: big ice, chilled glasses . . . and quixotic garnishes Queen Victoria couldn't have even dreamed of. ❶

Mary Corbett is a writer and documentary producer based in Tokyo.

THE TRADITIONAL CROWNING OF THE DRINK WITH LIME IS ALSO A TRADITION BORN OF THE RELENTLESS PUSH FOR COLONIAL EXPANSION

Remembering John Rich 1917-2014

by Charles Pomeroy

One of the FCCJ's legendary correspondents, John Rich, died April 9 at his home in Maine, just five weeks after the passing of his wife, D. Lee, on Feb. 28. They were soul mates to the end.

John Rich led an extraordinary life, first as a decorated war veteran, then as a correspondent – with a career spanning almost 50 years from the end of WWII through the Gulf War in 1991-92.

Rich came to Japan right after WWII as correspondent for International

News Service. His wry sense of humor can be seen in the first reference to him in the Club's history book. Appearing with several other Japanese-speaking correspondents on a 1947 NHK quiz program in which a bell was rung to signify a wrong answer, John quipped that they were "No-bell prize winners."

In a more serious role, the history describes Rich's coverage of the 1948 executions of war criminals before going on to mention his service as the Club's 2nd Vice-President in 1948-49. During this period, he covered the civil war in China and the Indochina War in which Ho Chi Minh was fighting French forces. John's command of both French and Japanese served him well during those turbulent years.

He switched to NBC News in 1950, filing radio reports on the Korean War from its very beginning in 1950 to the armistice at Panmunjom in July, 1953 – setting a record for the longest coverage of the war by a single correspondent.

Like many correspondents during that war, John alternated between the battlefield and Tokyo. During one stint in Tokyo, the history recounts his wry description of the overturning and burning of his new car by student protesters during the 1951 May Day riots, an event captured on film by the AP's Max Desfor. Rich had lent the car to a friend who, unwittingly, had parked it near MacArthur's headquarters.



Left to right, John Roderick, John Rich, Mack Chrysler and Max Desfor, all former presidents, carrying the FCCJ sign to its new home in Yurakucho.

Not long after Panmunjom, it was in Seoul that John met his future soul mate. Doris Lee Halstead – known to one and all as "D. Lee" – was working for the State Department as a secretary. After marrying in 1954, the couple started a family while living in New York before moving to Berlin, where John headed the NBC bureau. Berlin ended up as the base from which he covered other wars, both the cold one in Europe and hot wars in Africa. After the Berlin Wall went up in 1961, the family moved to Paris, but only until Rich was declared persona non grata for expressing his views on the war in Algeria.

This perhaps hastened Rich's return to Tokyo in 1962 – this time with D. Lee and four children – and a renewed involvement in FCCJ affairs that culminated with his presidency in 1970.

D. Lee Rich, meanwhile, was active in the College Women's Association of Japan (CWAJ), whose annual sale of woodblock prints raises funds for its scholarship program. That's where I first met her in the 1960s when one of my prints was included in the CWAJ show at the Tokyo American Club (my ambition to become an artist faded soon thereafter). I recall being impressed by her knowledge of modern Japanese prints. It was only later, as a newly minted correspondent, that I got to know John.

Two critical issues were resolved during Rich's year as FCCJ president from

July, 1970. First was the "membership crisis," in which the increasing number of Associate Members threatened to overwhelm the correspondent membership. In response, the total number of members was frozen at slightly over 2,000. Secondly, he established a committee to rewrite the Club's Articles of Association and By-Laws, a project that continued for the next four years. The result served us well until the recent revision to bring the FCCJ's governance in line with its new status as a public-interest

non-profit organization.

One of the major stories during his tenure as Club president was China's so-called "Ping-Pong diplomacy," and Rich was among the select group of FCCJ journalists (including John Roderick and Greg Clark) invited to China to cover it.

In 1976, when the Club moved to its current home in Yurakucho, a photo in the history book shows Rich and fellow Club stalwarts carrying the FCCJ sign on the short march up Nakadori to our new home (see photo).

From his base in Tokyo, Rich also covered the war in Vietnam for NBC until the fall of Saigon in 1975. But that was not his last battle. An old warhorse at 73, John couldn't resist covering the Gulf War in 1991-92, this time for the *American Journal of Westbrook, Maine*. It was a fitting way to end a long career as a war correspondent.

My final contact with him was in 2004 during his last visit to Tokyo. Having heard he was in the Club, I called from my retirement home in Otsuchi to welcome him back. We had a nice chat, in which he described his return to Tokyo as "delightful." Ever the gentleman, he sent me a follow-up postcard, dated October 12, 2004, that I have kept as a memento of our friendship. 🍎

Charles Pomeroy has been a member of the FCCJ since 1965 – covering Japan's health care industry until his retirement in 2004. He also edited the Club's official history.

FCCJ EXHIBITION MINAMATA DISEASE by Shisei Kuwabara



Shisei Kuwabara won this year's Domon Ken Award (a photography award sponsored by the Mainichi Shimbun) for his book *The Minamata Disaster* and his half-century of work on Minamata disease.

THIS BOOK WILL PERHAPS BE MY LAST WORK DURING LIFE AS AN IMPOVERISHED photographer who began with Minamata disease and returned to it in the end ... I attempted to select photographs from among approximately 30,000 frames. I hope to imagine the surprise of the readers when they are told that an image of a now-deceased patient, who finally won her lawsuit, is among the photographs I took 53 years ago while she was alive. I hope to describe and investigate more than half-century of Minamata disease's passage up to the present... The only thing I can do is to leave behind these photographs.

Shisei Kuwabara graduated from the Tokyo College of Photography in 1960. His complete works have been published in four volumes and a photographic museum opened in his name in his hometown of Tsuwano in 1997.



AT THE CLUB...



April saw another impressive line-up of visitors speaking at the FCCJ. World-renowned architect **SHIGERU BAN** came by on April 2 to share his thoughts on receiving the Pritzker Architecture Prize, architecture's highest honor, for his work providing low-cost housing to refugees from war or natural disasters.

The younger generation was represented by 13-year-old child prodigy **ETHAN BORTNICK**, whose press conference – and musical performance – took place on April 22. Bortnick appeared along with the head monk of Miyagi Prefecture's Jigenji Temple, to draw attention to his charity activities in support of the children affected by the 3.11 disaster.



TOTTORI PRESS TRIP



A SNOW-GRACED MT. DAISEN looms behind the participants of the SPC Press Tour of Tottori Prefecture, known for its massive sand dunes, hot springs, peas and Japanese beef. The group, which included nine journalists from six countries, inspected the horticultural research and livestock centers of the prefecture in late April.



Heard at the Club

“I’d like to say to young people that it’s very important to give your all in trying to achieve what you want to do. But when you do achieve a certain measure of success, you should always stand back and realize that you didn’t do it on your own. It also is due to the support of those around you.”

Yuzuru Hanyu
Sochi Olympic
Figure Skating
Men’s Single Gold
Medalist

April 24



NEW MEMBERS



OSAMU SATO is the correspondent of the Mongolian daily newspaper, *Undesni Shuudan*. After graduating from Hosei University in 1969, Sato has seen a long career in the publishing industry, including stints as the manager of the South America News Agency’s Tokyo branch office, and as editing member of former prime minister Kakuei Tanaka’s policy paper. He was also deputy chief editor of *Keizaikai* from 2004 to 2008, when he interviewed the president of Mongolia for a special issue. That interview is what ultimately led to his present position.

PROFESSIONAL/JOURNALIST

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Brandi Goode, Custom Media K.K.
Vicki L. Beyer, Freelance
Kaoru Shimada, Seitoku University

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Kunihiko Taue, Mitsubishi Estate Co., Ltd.
Ken Mori, Infas Publications, Inc.

Kenji Ishikawa, Orfeu Co., Ltd.

Erika Nakajima, Bristol-Myers K.K.
Koichi Murata, Mitsubishi Corporation Urban Development
Katsushi Miyake, Miyake Architects & Associates, Co., Ltd.
Ryohei Tsuchida, Ohgien

NEW IN THE LIBRARY

I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey

Izzeldin Abuelaish
Walker & Company
Gift from Izzeldin Abuelaish

I am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up For Education And Was Shot By The Taliban

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