

Japan Studies Association of Canada (JSAC)

カナダ日本研究学会



Fall 2015

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Dear JSAC Members and Friends,

Well, it's that time of the year again. I can hear the scurry of my colleagues sorting through old folders, re-organizing class notes – yes, even in the digital age! The copy machine is chugging along, spewing syllabi. The line outside the IT staff office is long with instructors seeking assistance in posting to their websites or the campus learning management system. The odd student is lurking, interested in changing his or her schedule or seeking advice on courses to take. Anticipation is in the air. A fresh start. The angst of the first class!!

Summer seems a long while ago. How did you spend your summer? Prime Minister Abe must have spent some of his polishing his notes regarding an apology for the war 70 years ago this year. He was also distracted in the past month or two from

the important task of mending Japan's faltering economy due to certain Olympic fiascos and tweaking the government's long-standing interpretation of the Constitution to circumvent its pacifist principles by preparing a set of legislation that would enable Japan to engage in collective self-defence and expand the scope of the Self-Defense Forces' overseas missions.

Much of my summer was spent in Japan conducting interviews along the Sanriku Coast, which was subject to a devastating tsunami in 2011 but is now undergoing tremendous construction, putting in new sea walls, housing for those currently in temporary accommodation, and new residential areas on higher ground, some cut into hillsides surrounding coastal bays. As I write this in early September I am watching on various media the aftermath of heavy rains due to typhoon Etau in southern Ibaraki, and wide-spread flooding due to bursting of the banks of the Kinugawa River, together with amazing rescues by SDF helicopters of survivors on roof tops. Japan has had its fair share of natural disasters recently.

Finally, on behalf of JSAC and our Executive I would like to thank my conference co-organizers, the many presenters, the staff at the Canadian Embassy, Chuo University Law Faculty, and student volunteers, who all made our May 2015 International Conference in Tokyo successful and enjoyable. This was the first time JSAC 'traveled to Japan'. We should do it again soon!

David W. Edgington, President JSAC

Where in Japan?



Can you guess where this picture is from? The answer will be given in the Spring 2016 edition of the JSAC Newsletter.



The picture in our last newsletter was of the 'Gigantor' (iron man) statue in Nagata ward, Kobe.

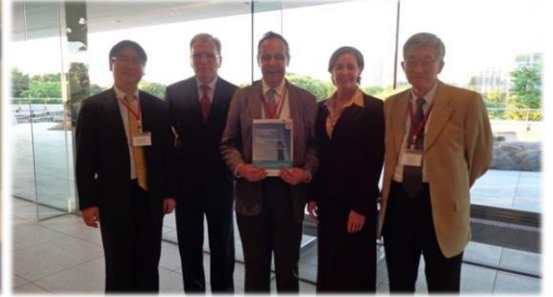
JSAC-JACS-JCIRN International Conference 2015

By the numbers:

100+ participants	1 Canadian Ambassador
85 papers in 25 panels	1 delicious banquet
4 days in May at 2 locations in Tokyo	1 field trip
4 co-organizers	countless student helpers
\$48,000 contribution from the Japan Foundation (Thank you!)	

Other kind donors and in-kind donors were Manulife Life Insurance Company (Japan) and The Embassy of Canada to Japan (Thank you!)

By the pictures:



JSAC 2015 Mt. Tsukuba Field Trip

By Tom Waldichuk (Thompson Rivers University)

(Photos: T. Waldichuk)

Summary

On Sunday morning, May 24 the JSAC 2015 Mt. Tsukuba field trip took place. Five people: Millie Creighton, David Edgington, Chizuru Kinjo, Akira Tabayashi, and Tom Waldichuk took part in this adventure. First, we headed about 50 km northeast from Tokyo by train to Tsukuba Science City, Ibaraki Prefecture. We then boarded a bus for Mt. Tsukuba and arrived there in about half an hour. We spent about an hour looking at and around Tsukuba shrine before boarding the cable car to take us up to a saddle between the two peaks of Mt. Tsukuba. We had 'Tsukuba udon' for lunch and then headed back down the mountain and boarded the mid-afternoon bus for Tsukuba city. The group split up in Tsukuba, and three of us went to look at a reconstructed thatched roof farmhouse near the Tsukuba Expo Centre, and after that we met up with fellow JSAC participant Leslie Tkach-Kawasaki and our keynote speaker Jon Heese, for drinks and snacks at an izakaya near the Aeon mall and the Daiwa Ryonet hotel near Tsukuba station.

From Akihabara to Tsukuba Science City by the Tsukuba Express line:

The Tsukuba Express train was opened in 2005 and has led to much population growth along the route between Akihabara station (figure 1) in Tokyo and Tsukuba City. According to the Japan Statistical Yearbook for 2015 and the Japan Statistics Bureau home page, Tsukuba City grew from about 200,528 in 2005 to about 219,000 in 2014. Much of this development has taken place near Kenkyu Gakuen station, west of Tsukuba station (figure 2). There is now a new city hall –Tsukuba used to have several town halls from the municipalities that amalgamated. There has been much urban development at the stations along the route, and construction is still continuing. The new line has brought more visitors to Tsukuba City, who then board buses to go to Mt. Tsukuba.



Figure 1: Akihabara



Figure 2: The new section of Tsukuba City west of the old Tsukuba Centre. Mt. Tsukuba can be seen faintly in the background.

A brief history of Tsukuba Science City:

Most of the following information was taken from an annotated map of Tsukuba titled “My City Tsukuba” (Tsukuba City 2011). In 1963 Tsukuba was chosen to be a new Science City. It is currently the home of several Japanese government institutes, including the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology and the Japan Automobile Research Institute (Tsukuba Watching Map n.d.). Tokyo University of Education also relocated to Tsukuba in 1973 and became the University of Tsukuba. Tsukuba hosted Expo '85, and by 1988 five municipalities merged to form the City of Tsukuba. The movement of government research facilities to Tsukuba helped to relieve some of the overcrowding in Tokyo. Of 11,000 researchers, 5,000 of them have doctorates.

Mt. Tsukuba and Tsukuba Shrine:

Mt. Tsukuba has two peaks, one is 871 metres and the other is 877 metres (Tsukuba Watching Map n.d.). Geography Professor Keisuke Matsui of the University of Tsukuba had previously told me about the mountain and shrine. Mt. Tsukuba and Mt. Fuji mark out the eastern and western edges of the Kanto Plain. During the Heian era Mt. Tsukuba became a Buddhist mountain with many resident monks. Its location is northeast of Edo, so it was considered an evil gate through which enemies would pass when attacking Edo. The Tokugawa Shogunate dedicated land and money (JNTO n.d.) to the temple, and Mt. Tsukuba then prospered. During the Meiji era the Buddhist temple changed to a Shinto shrine -- anti-Buddhist sentiment was running high at the beginning of the Meiji period (Landau 2012).

Annotated Photos of our Trip to Tsukuba City and Mt. Tsukuba:

Figure 3: New urban development along the Tsukuba Express train line.



Figure 4: David Edgington and Chizuru Kinjo on the train to Tsukuba.



Figure 5: We passed by several souvenir shops on our way to the shrine.



Figure 6: The view looking south toward downtown Tsukuba and Tokyo from the souvenir shops.



Figure 7: A samurai was demonstrating that Tsukuba frog oil would miraculously heal cuts to his arm made with his sword.



Figure 8: The approach to Mt. Tsukuba shrine.



Figure 9: We left at 12:55pm to go up the mountain by cable car.



Figure 10: The restaurants and souvenir shops at the top of Mt. Tsukuba; Nyotaisan peak (877m) with its tower is on the right.



Figure 11: Eating Tsukuba udon noodles for lunch at the top of Mt. Tsukuba.



Figure 12: A shop selling frog or toad oil.



Figure 13: The old urban centre of Tsukuba, with AEON shopping mall in the foreground, the Expo rocket in the centre, and Mt. Tsukuba in the background on the left.



Figure 14: Sakura Minkaen, a rebuilt thatched roof house located near the Expo rocket, which illustrates how people used to live long before Tsukuba became a Science City.



(Left) Figure 15: Tsukuba former councillor Jon Heese (left), with David Edgington and Akira Tabayashi as they board the train back towards Tokyo.

References:

JNTO (Japan National Travel Organization) (n.d.). Tsukubasan shrine. jnto.go.jp/eng
 Landau, Avi (2012, 10 November). The site of the ancient Rokusho Jinja shrine comes to life one day a year during the

autumn Festival at the Foot of Mt Tsukuba (Tsukuba-Sanroku no Aki Matsuri). TsukuBlog. A local perspective on life in Tsukuba, Ibaraki, Japan. blog.alientimes.org/

Tsukuba City (April 2011). My City Tsukuba. Community Services Department, International Affairs Division. city.tsukuba.ibaraki.jp/

Tsukuba Watching Map (n.d.). Tsukuba travel map, Tsukuba, Mt. Tsukuba, Kenkyu-Gakuen. Tsukuba Tourist and Convention Association. ttca.jp/wordpress/(in Japanese)

JSAC 2015 Annual General Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2015 – Executive Dining Room, Canadian Embassy, Tokyo

1. Approval of Agenda – Moved by Fumiko Ikawa-Smith, Seconded by Norio Ota
2. Acceptance of Minutes – Moved by Ken Coates, Seconded by Tom Waldichuk
3. President's Address

JSAC/JF Toronto lecture series – Since our last AGM in October 2014, JSAC supported a lecture in this series by Jeff Alexander on the 'history of the beer sector'. Jeff spoke at Saint Mary's University. The talk was video-cast and recorded, and the link will be placed on the JSAC website. Suzanne Pragg of the Japan Foundation has informed JSAC that a budget would be available for another Japanese scholar to come to Canada under this lecture series in 2015-16 and give a series of talks. The Japan Foundation must approve the scholar selected. He/she must be willing to give talks at two university campuses and at the JF Toronto. JSAC members who are interested should contact David Edgington.

The spring JSAC newsletter went out earlier this month.

In November 2014, papers edited by Jacob Kovalio from the JSAC 2012 conference were published on the JSAC web site. Thank-you, Jacob!

Thanks very much to members of the JSAC executive for all their hard work this year.

David Edgington is president of JSAC until October 2016. At the next JSAC we will need nominations for a new president. Norio Ota said: Thanks very much, David, for your efforts!

4. JSAC 2014 Conference Report

Jim Tiessen reported on the JSAC 2014 conference, which was held at Ryerson University from Oct. 17 – 19, 2014. The theme was 'Post Growth Japan'; 80 people attended. The Japan Foundation contributed \$20,000 and Ryerson University contributed \$10,000. (The Ryerson contribution was significant considering it is an institution without any Japan Studies focus.) Thank you to the Japan Foundation and to

Ryerson for their support. Jim will be publishing proceedings from the conference. Jim has submitted the financial report to the Japan Foundation.

5. JSAC 2015 Conference Report

David Edgington noted that two years ago it was suggested the 2015 conference would be held in Tokyo, and now we are here. This year's conference with its theme of 'Culture, Identity and Citizenship' and the involvement of JACS and JCIRN has been very successful. There are 104 people registered and there are 85 presentations on 24 panels. It is truly integrated conference with both Japanese and Canadian participation. We would like to give our sincere thanks to Norio Ota, TK Chan, Filipe Medeiros, David Edgington and the staff of the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo. The possibility of a publication will be explored.

JSAC was not sure if the Japan Foundation would fund a Canadian group funding a conference outside of Japan but we are grateful they did! Reimbursement for airfare for full JSAC members is therefore possible. Receipts (with boarding passes) should be sent to Norio Ota. As it is not clear how much money can be reimbursed, please keep copies of your documents.

6. 2016 JSAC Conference

Alwyn Spies announced that the JSAC 2016 conference will be held at UBC Okanagan from October 28 – 30, 2016. The theme will be Pop, Politics and Protest. David Edgington said: thank you very much to Alwyn Spies and UBC-Okanagan.

David Edgington said that the JSAC executive will see who is interested in hosting the 2017 JSAC conference.

7. Treasurer's Report

Norio Ota presented the JSAC financial Report. David Edgington said: Thank you Norio!

Norio noted that JSAC people need to pay their 2015 membership fees.

8. Other Business

Ken Coates provided an update on the JSPS summer program and encouraged members to promote the program to their graduate students.

The Klaus Pringsheim award was not awarded this year but will be awarded in 2016.

9. Adjournment – Moved by Teri Ursacki, Seconded by Tom Waldichuk.

Report submitted by Carin Holroyd

Members News

Jeffrey Alexander (Associate Professor, History, University of Wisconsin, Parkside) has a new publication:

(2015) 'Medicating the Salaryman Lifestyle: Fear-based Marketing of Liver Stimulant Drugs in Postwar Japan', *Japan Forum*, 27, 1-30.

Ken Coates (Professor and Canada Research Chair in Regional Innovation, Johnson-Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy, and Director, International Centre for Northern Governance and Development) was elected a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

David W. Edgington (Professor, Geography, UBC) conducted field work during the summer of 2015 in Northeast Japan focusing on the recovery from the 3.11 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear power plant accident. A report on his research along the Sanriku Coast can be found on: <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/david-edgington-along-the-sanriku-coast/>.

Kimie Hara (Professor and Renison Research Professor, University of Waterloo; Director, East Asian Studies, Renison University College) has recently published the following:

(2015) 'Okinawa, Taiwan, and the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands in United States–Japan–China Relations', *The Asia-Pacific Journal*, 13 (Issue 28, No. 2), <http://www.japanfocus.org/-Kimie-Hara/4341/article.html>

(2015) 'Continuing San Francisco System – Politics, Security and Territories', in Ryuhei Narita and Hiroshi Yoshida (eds.), *The Asia-Pacific War in Memory and Recognition — Iwanami Series on the Asia-Pacific War, Post-War volume*, Tokyo, Iwanami Shoten, <https://www.iwanami.co.jp/moreinfo/0610590/top.html>

「継続するサンフランシスコ体制 — 政治・安全保障・領土」、成田龍一・吉田裕編『記憶と認識の中のアジア・太平洋戦争 — 岩波講座アジア太平洋戦争 戦後篇』、岩波書店;

(2015) *Japan-Russia: Northern Territories/Southern Kuriles*, in Emmanuel Brunet-Jailly (ed.), *Border Disputes: A Global Encyclopedia*, Santa Barbara, ABC-CLIO;

(2015) 'Northern Territories Problem', in Nobuo Shimotomai, Makoto Iokibe, Alexei Truknov and Dmitri Strelitsov (eds.), *History of Japan-Russia Relations: Parallel History Challenge*, Tokyo, Tokyo University Press, <http://www.utp.or.jp/bd/978-4-13-026265-1.html>

「北方領土問題」、五百旗頭真、下斗米信夫、アレクセイ・トルクノフ、ドミトリー・ストレリツォフ編『日露関係史—パラレル・ヒストリーへの挑戦』、東京大学出版会].

Kimie has also made a number of recent presentations:

(Invited talks)

「サンフランシスコ条約の盲点」、現代文化會議 (‘Blind Spot of the San Francisco Treaty’) Gendai Bunka Kaigi, Tokyo, August 8, 2015;

‘70 Years after World War II: Re-thinking the San Francisco System in the Asia and the Pacific’, Kyoto University, July 23, 2015;

‘Senkaku/Diaoyu in the San Francisco System’, paper presented at Reconstruct the Origins of Territorial Disputes from Multiple Governmental Archives, Macau University of Science and Technology, May 27-30, 2015;

‘Continuing Legacies of the San Francisco System: Past, Present, and Future Options’, paper presented at The long shadow of the San Francisco Peace Treaty: East Asia From Post-war Settlement to 21st Century Tensions - and Beyond, Australian National University, April 17, 2015,

http://ciw.anu.edu.au/events/2015/sanfran/kimie_hara.pdf;

‘Okinawa, Taiwan, and the Senkaku/Diaoyutai Islands in United States-Japan-China Relations’ (Workshop Presentation), in The Long Shadow of the San Francisco Peace Treaty: East Asia from Post-War Settlement to 21st century Tensions - and Beyond, April 15, 2015,

http://asiapacific.anu.edu.au/sites/default/files/images/Program_Long%20Shadow_Final%20final%20version.pdf.

(Presentations at annual meetings)

‘Border Disputes in North East Asia: 70th Years after the War against Japan’, Association for Borderland Studies (ABS) Annual Conference, Portland, OR, April 8-11, 2015;

Japan Futures Initiative (JFI) Panel ‘Identity and Japan’s Foreign and Security Policy’, JSAC 2015 Conference, Embassy of Canada to Japan & Chuo University, Tokyo, May 20-23, 2015 (with David Welch, Masayuki Tadokoro and Takamichi Mito);

Japan Futures Initiative (JFI) Panel*, European Japan Advanced Research Network (EJARN) Workshop 2015, University of Pavia, Italy, June 4-5, 2015 (with Carin Holroyd, James Tiessen, Keith Hipel and Ken Coates/video). *The panel was supported by the Japan Foundation Grant for Intellectual Exchange Conferences.

Scott Harrison (Postdoctoral Fellow, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada) has the following updates:

Paper Presentation: 'Convergence of State and Non-State Borders: The Indigenous Factor of East Asian Engagement with the Arctic', Association of Borderlands Studies/Social Sciences / Western Social Sciences Association, Portland, OR, April 8-11, 2015.

Upon completion in September of a post-doc research fellowship position at the Asia Pacific Foundation I will continue working at the APF as a Project Specialist.

Stephen Nagy (Associate Professor, Politics and International Relations, International Christian University) recently posted a number of online opinion pieces on China-Japan-South relations, reconciliation and the politics of apology:

(2015) 'No Reconciliation is Possible for China, Japan and Korea Without a Deep Understanding of What Matters to One Another', South China Morning Post, July 12th, <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1846760/70-years-after-hiroshima-japan-grapples-adapting-its> ;

-日中韓和解のカギは、互いの「自己評価」を認め合うこと, Diamond Online, July, <http://diamond.jp/articles/-/74251>

(2015) 'Why Sorry is Still the Hardest Word to Say for Japan, 70 years After the Second World War', South China Morning Post, August 13th/14th, <http://www.scmp.com/comment/insight-opinion/article/1849237/why-sorry-still-hardest-word-say-japan-70-years-after-second>;

(2015) 'History in Hindsight: China, Japan and Versions of the Truth', Asia and the Pacific Policy Society, September, <http://www.policyforum.net/history-in-hindsight-china-japan-and-versions-of-the-truth/>;

(2015) Interview in 'Memories of World War II: How 70 Years past is Shaping our Future', Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Sunday September 6th, <http://www.abc.net.au/correspondents/content/2015/s4306795.htm>.

Norio Ota (Professor, Department of Languages, Literatures and Linguistics, York University) was awarded a Japanese Foreign Minister's Commendation acknowledging his work over three decades dedicated to developing and promoting Japanese language education in Canada and other countries.

The link to details of the Commendation can be found on:

<http://www.toronto.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/english/news/infocul-news/ota-commendation.html>.

Please send your updates for the Spring 2015 Newsletter to david.edgington@ubc.ca

New Book Publication

Japanese Journalism and the Japanese Newspaper: A Supplemental Reader

by Anthony Rausch, Amherst, NY, Teneo Press, 281 pages, ISBN-13: 978-1934844700.

This reader offers eleven chapters that speak to the role and function of journalism and the newspaper in contemporary Japanese society. Individually, each chapter provides important information on the particular topic that is its focus, while at the same time elucidating on how that particular topic is addressed by the media and revealing how the coverage of that theme or event affects society overall. The combination of different themes and research approaches yields a unique work that brings insight into how information is disseminated and processed in Japan, thereby offering valuable contributions both to Japanese Studies and Area Studies, as well as Journalism Studies and general Social Sciences. The diversity of research themes, analytical viewpoints and methodological approaches that are exhibited across the chapters offer academics and students a range of issues and depth of treatment that will enhance understanding both of Japan and Japanese journalism and the workings of modern media in general. Taken as a whole, the contents provide a map of how news is approached by journalists, how it is transmitted to the public through the newspaper, and how this news then affects public consciousness, public opinion and governmental policy. The chapters cover a range of themes related to news production: historical, geographical, and technological. The contents outline implications that are political, international and in the creation of public consciousness. The book also includes a section on journalistic treatment of the 3.11 Great East Japan Earthquake.



Teneo Homepage: www.teneopress.com/teneopress.cfm?template=4&bid=610

Interview with Dr. Aya Fujiwara

Over the summer I had the chance to interview Dr. Aya Fujiwara, the new Director of the Prince Takamado Japan Centre, University of Alberta, about the role of the Centre, her research and her academic interests.

Aya, please tell me more about the history of the Prince Takamado Japan Centre at the University of Alberta. The University of Alberta has been a home to the Centre for the Teaching of Japanese Language since 1996. When Prince and Princess Takamado visited the University of Alberta in 1999, Dr. Roderick Fraser, our then President, asked His Imperial Highness to give the university the honour of naming the Japan Centre in the Prince's name. His name was an ideal one for a Japan centre in Canada, due to his passion for this country and devotion to the development of the Canada-Japan relationship. In 2004, the Japan Centre was renamed as the Prince Takamado Japan Centre for Learning and Research. After Prince Takamado passed away, the Centre became an administrative body of the Prince Takamado Japan Canada Memorial Fund.



What events and visitors have you been involved in recently?

Under the directorship of the former Director, Dr. Kaori Kabata, this centre has evolved significantly. She played a fundamental role in installing a number of academic programs, including the Japan-Canada Academic Consortium, which hosts a student forum every year. Twenty-eight selected students who participate in this forum will work on their group projects and meet high-profile speakers from academia, government, and the business community. Last year, Laval University hosted this forum successfully, under the leadership of Professor James Thwaites. In 2016, Nagoya University will host this event. In addition to this forum, the PTJC hosted one of the JSAC/JF lecture series, a talk by Professor Masako Iino of Tsuda College in September 2014. On another occasion, Mitsui Canada's former CEO, Tesuo Komuro, visited the U of A campus to give a talk on his company and business in general to U of A students. PTJC also works closely with the Japan Foundation and the Consulate-General of Japan in Calgary for Japanese language programs.

I understand you are organizing an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Japan.

Yes, the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II is a very significant event not only for Japan, but also for the entire world. Thus, I thought that we could do something with the collaboration of the Department of History and Classics at the University of Alberta. Rather than focusing on a very narrow historic question, however, we decided to take an interdisciplinary approach, conceptualize how Japan and the rest of the world embraced the atom over 70 years, using it as a weapon, energy sources, diplomatic tool, and medical cure. It has also been incorporated into popular discourses and culture, in form of films and literature. For the conference organizers, both military and civilian uses of the atom are not separate issues. Given what is going on in Japan right now – the opening of the first nuclear plant since the Fukushima accident, Japan's move towards the reinterpretation of Article 9 and subsequent rise of youth protests for peace – we anticipate a very active debate. We will also expand the scope to nuclear proliferation and the impact of nuclear accidents. Luckily, we will have a number of distinguished guests, including Dr. Ritsuko Komaki, who lived through the reconstruction era in Hiroshima after the dropping of the first atomic bomb, David Edgington, President of JSAC and Professor of Geography at the UBC, David Welch, Professor of Political Science, the founder of Japan Futures Initiative and Senior Fellow of CIGI at Waterloo University, Takao Takahara, Professor of International Politics, Meiji Gakuin University, Noriyuki Kawano, Professor of Peace Studies, Hiroshima University, and Osamu Ieda, Professor of History, Hokkaido University. Due to the generous funding by several institutes at the U of A and SSHRC, we are also bring students from Japan, Italy, France, Canada, and the United States.

And what about your own academic history - where did you do your degrees, and what research are you currently focusing on in the University of Alberta?

I currently research in the field of the ethnic and immigration history of Canada, taking transnational and comparative approaches. About 20 years ago, I started my first degree in Japanese history. Then I had a chance to study at UBC as an exchange student and took some Asia-Pacific courses, one of which was taught by David Edgington. Since then, I maintained my interest in Canada. My first book was a comparative study among Japanese, Ukrainians, and Scots in Canada, comparing how three completely racially, ethnically, and numerically different groups maintained ethnic boundaries, negotiated with mainstream Canada, and defined multiculturalism. I am also working on the history of Japanese-Canadian sugar beet farmers who came to Alberta from the West Coast of British Columbia during World War II. My current book project focuses on the transformation of Japanese Canadians' religious cosmology and worldviews since their immigration.

JSAC Executive 2015-2016

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