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< 研 修 概 要 >

I was able to spend a sabbatical year in the UK, where I was a Visiting Fellow in the Department of English at King's College London.

I spent most of the year in the British Library, but also made use of the National Archives, the Wellcome Library, the Maughan Library, the Bodleian, the Edinburgh University Library, and the British Museum. I was able to work with many original materials from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, including rare first editions and handwritten manuscripts which would not have been accessible in any other way. My research centred on rhetoric and literature, especially from the early modern period.

I gave three papers. One was at King's College London, one at St. Hugh's College, Oxford, and one at the University of Edinburgh. The first paper was on the classicist and rhetorician John Stirling, the second on Jonathan Swift's use of satirical rhetoric, and the third on Roland Barthes and the rhetoric of the image.

King's College London was kind enough to allow me to host an international conference on August 25th, and this was attended by scholars from all over the UK, as well as the US and Japan. The conference I organized will lead to the publication of a volume for which I shall be the principal editor. At present, we are in discussions with Boydell and Brewer, a major international academic publisher.

I was able to undertake extensive research, and this has resulted in the writing of seven articles and book chapters so far, three of which have already been submitted. Two will be chapters in different upcoming volumes, and the third has already just been published in our own Bulletin of the Faculty of Humanities.

I was also approached, whilst at Oxford, by a publisher who is interested in building a stronger relationship with Japanese scholars. To that end, they are currently looking at appointing me as a series editor and possibly also a future board member. Their hope is that this would be a good way to increase the number of Japanese scholars in early modern studies publishing internationally. That relationship should unfold over the coming year.

On a personal note, I was able to be the featured soloist for the annual concert of the British Society of Eighteenth-Century Studies, performing with a small chamber group.

All in all, it was a very productive and valuable year. I have done my best to represent Seikei University internationally and am very grateful for the opportunity provided.