



THE ORIENTAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY N.S.W. 2006

The Oriental Society in conjunction with The Australasian Humour Studies Network cordially invites members, friends and guests to the December seminar 2011. OSA will be celebrating the end of year with a dinner followed by the presentation. The dinner will be made special with a first class Turkish musical performance.

Date: Tuesday 13th December, 2011

Time: 4:30 for 5.00pm to 6.30 pm

Venue: The Refectory Room (H113), Main Quad (S-W corner, basement level), The University of Sydney

Guest Lecture: Dr Barak Kushner
Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge

Title: "Nothing to laugh at: Chinese humor and the image of Japan"

Abstract:

Humour is as much a cultural force in China as it is in other East Asian regions, although in the English-speaking world we might not always regard the offerings as “funny”, in the strict laugh-out-loud sense. As a deep-seated barometer of social attitudes, humour is an informative historical set of values through which to examine the last century of Sino-Japan relations. Wartime and post-war layers of Chinese humour shaped an enduring motif of the *guizi* or “devil” image of Japanese soldiers. However, on the eve of the twenty-first century, these accumulated layers of representations of Japan have given rise to a marked change – Japanese depicted not only as humorous “devils” but also as corruptible human entities.

Biographies:

Barak Kushner received his PhD in history from Princeton University and works on wartime propaganda, humour and media as well as the history of Sino-Japanese relations. He is a Senior Lecturer in modern Japanese history at the University of Cambridge. His many publications include a parallel study to the present topic – of Japanese propaganda cartoons against the Chinese, “Laughter as materiel: The mobilization of comedy in Japan’s fifteen-year war”, *The International History Review* 26, no. 2 (June 2004): 300-330.

Dinner: 7:00pm-Efendy Turkish Restaurant

Address: 79 Elliott Street (Corner of Darling Street) Balmain NSW , Tel: (02) 9810 5466

Enquiries and dinner attendance: please contact Seiko Yasumoto by the 4th December

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