

Embassy of Japan in Ireland

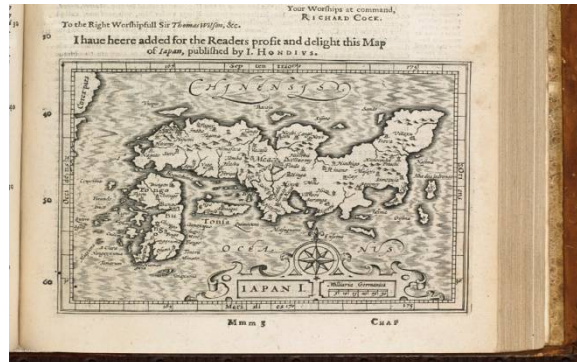
Marsh's Library

1 April 2014

[14-07]

## "Imagining Japan, 1570-1750"

**An exhibition in Marsh's Library, Dublin from 14 April to 14 June 2014**



Marsh's Library is a perfectly preserved library of the early Enlightenment located in the heart of Dublin. When it opened in 1707 it was the first public library in Ireland.

*Imagining Japan, 1570-1750* is a unique opportunity to examine early European encounters with, and interest in, Japan.

The exhibition displays a number of rare early maps of Japan, the most striking of which is taken from Blaeu's 1662 hand-coloured *Atlas Maior*. It also shows how Japan's isolation enabled it to become the backdrop for European fiction, most notably in Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*. This exhibition is presented in association with Experience Japan 2014.

**Location:** Marsh's Library, St Patrick's Close, Dublin 8 (beside St Patrick's Cathedral).

**Opening Hours:** 9.30 – 17.00 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

10.00 – 17.00 Saturday.

Closed Tuesday & Sunday.

**Admission:** €3 adults. Concessions €2.

Children under 16, and Jobseekers admitted free.

Group tours available on request. Tours for school groups provided free.

To book a tour, please contact: [keeper@marshlibrary.ie](mailto:keeper@marshlibrary.ie)

The building is not wheelchair accessible.

### (Contact)

Yuichi Yamada / Jenny O'Connor, Press and Cultural Affairs Section, Embassy of Japan in Ireland

Tel: 01-202 8305, e-mail: [cultural@ir.mofa.go.jp](mailto:cultural@ir.mofa.go.jp), website: [www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/](http://www.ie.emb-japan.go.jp/)

Jason McElligott, Marsh's Library

Tel: 01-454 3511, e-mail: [keeper@marshlibrary.ie](mailto:keeper@marshlibrary.ie), website: [www.marshlibrary.ie](http://www.marshlibrary.ie)

## “First Impressions of Japan in Europe: Image and Reality”



A public lecture by

**Dr Declan M. Downey, RAH**

This presentation will focus on the earliest representations of Japan and its people and culture by Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and English travellers in their respective accounts and observations. With reference to the collection of 'Japanalia' and 'Orientalia' in Marsh's Library, and elsewhere, this lecture will illustrate how they influenced the subsequent European (and later American), perspectives and attitudes towards this island nation in the far-distant East. This lecture is presented in association with Experience Japan 2014.

**Location:** Marsh's Library, St Patrick's Close, Dublin 8 (beside St. Patrick's Cathedral).

**Date and time:** 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m., Monday 14 April 2014.

**Admission:** Free. All welcome.

**Advance booking essential:** [keeper@marshlibrary.ie](mailto:keeper@marshlibrary.ie) or 01- 454 3511.

**Declan M. Downey**, LL.M. (Leiden), Ph.D. (Cantab.), RAH, lectures in European and Asian diplomatic history at University College Dublin. He co-directs the BCL in Law with History Degree Programme. His research interests include the history of diplomacy and international law, Japanese-European relations and Irish émigrés in Habsburg Europe. His extensive publications and leading role in major international research projects have been recognized with international honours and awards including the Knight's Cross of the Austrian Order of Merit (2003) and Knight-Commander of the Spanish Royal Order of Isabel la Católica (2008). On 4 December 2009, he became the first Irish citizen to be elected to membership of the Spanish Royal Academy of History. In 2010, he received the Japanese Ambassadorial Commendation in recognition of his promotion of the study of Japanese history and culture at University College Dublin. In April 2012, he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin Castle. He advises Irish and European institutions and organizations on East Asian and particularly Japanese affairs.

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### (Contact)

For the lecture: Jason McElligott, Marsh's Library

Tel: 01-454 3511, e-mail: [keeper@marshlibrary.ie](mailto:keeper@marshlibrary.ie), website: [www.marshlibrary.ie](http://www.marshlibrary.ie)