Visitor from Scotland: Uncovering Hidden Links
By Yoshiko Murahata
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What does “Scotland” remind you of? Some think of Scottish whiskey, some think of the capital city of Edinburgh, some may think of bagpipe music and tartans, and sport fans may say it is a home of golf or talk about famous soccer players in the Scottish Premier League. Alexander Graham Bell was born in Scotland and later came to the States and invented the telephone. Arthur Conan Doyle, who is the father of Sherlock Holmes, was also from Scotland. Sean Connery was born in Scotland. But who would talk about the relationship between Scotland and Spokane?

Here is a lady Mrs. Anne Malcolm from Scotland. She visited the JCC on April 18th and told us a surprising relationship between Scotland and Spokane, which also reveals a relationship between Nagasaki, a city in southern Japan, and Spokane. Mrs. Anne Malcolm is chairwoman and trustee of the Thomas Blake Glover Foundation. Who is Thomas Glover? His name may not be familiar at all to citizens of Spokane, but anyone who visits Nagasaki will visit Glover Garden and the oldest western-style wooden house Glover left there. It is a glorious and elegant mansion which stands on top of the hill looking down the port of Nagasaki, next to Oura Church, the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Japan.

Thomas Glover was born in Scotland and came to Nagasaki in 1863. Around then Japan had started to open up the country and concluded trade and friendship treaties with other nations after nearly 200 years of isolation from the outer world. It was a new age for Japan. In the midst of the transformation of the country, Glover was a successful business man and played an important role in the modernization and industrialization of Japan, dealing with shipbuilding, coal mining, and tea. He helped a young Japanese merchant, Yataro Iwasaki, to start a coalmining business, which later developed into a giant corporation Mitsubishi Corporation. He was also involved in establishing a beer company, which is the present Kirin Brewery. He also introduced the steam railway locomotive to Japan for the first time. Some people also want to relate Thomas Glover to Giacomo Puccini’s opera “Madame Butterfly”, although his Japanese wife in the opera story is quite different from what they really were.

This never ends if we start talking about what Thomas Glover did. So well-known as he is in Japan, and my jaw dropped open when I heard from Mrs. Malcolm that the famous Thomas Glover came to Spokane with his brother Alex Glover in 1882 and stayed about one year. She must have enjoyed my face as I barely said, “Did Glover come to Spokane? Do you mean he was in Spokane?” Mrs. Malcolm slowly nodded many times. I was so thrilled. She also told us that Alex Glover’s descendants are still in Spokane too.

Mrs. Malcolm actually first called JCC on February 12th this year, and she said she was thinking of coming to the
Used Book Sale
at the Japanese Cultural Center, MFWI, 4001 W Randolph Rd, Spokane, WA
1pm to 5pm on Friday, June 7th
There will be many Japanese magazines and books as well as books in English about Japan for sale!

Japanese Cooking Class
Saturday, August 24 11am to 1pm
at the Japanese Cultural Center, MFWI, 4001 W Randolph Rd, Spokane, WA
MFWI students will teach how to make two Japanese dishes. Reservation and payment are required to reserve your spot. $10.00 per person. Call now! (509) 328-2971

Ten Ikebana Sessions Finish
We completed ten Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) sessions on Monday this week. We must tell you that we all really enjoyed arranging flowers with our Ikebana teacher Ellen Krehbiel.

We were at first a bit puzzled when we were told to consider heaven, mankind and earth: that is, the tallest of the tree, two thirds of the heaven, and half of the heaven respectively. If you are still curious about what they are, you should come and attend.

As we learned how the trees and the flowers should be arranged, we learned at the same time that a little difference in the height of a flower, in the direction a flower faces, or in the degree a flower leans makes a big difference to the whole balance of the arrangement. It was so hard!

In the last lesson, Ellen said we were going to arrange a “free arrangement,” and we didn’t have to think about heaven, mankind and earth, and there was no negative area where flowers should not go. It was a lot of fun, though it was still as difficult as it had been!

Summer lessons start June 17th, see page 3 for more details!

Mukogawa Students Go Back to Japan
Two hundred and thirty Mukogawa students left Spokane for Japan in three groups on the mornings of 23rd, 24th, and 25th May, after completing their four-month English intensive course at MFWI. They all had very precious experiences, studied English hard, communicated with a lot of local people in Spokane, and grew in many ways. They will never forget the time they spent in Spokane! (photo by Goro Murahata)
States sometime in Spring. She called us several times after that before she came, but she did not tell the hidden purpose of the trip. She was not sure then how her trip to Spokane would turn out, how she could tell people in Spokane about the connection between Scotland and Spokane, and whether she could find someone in Spokane who truly understood who Thomas Glover was. As chairwoman and trustee of the Thomas Blake Glover Foundation, her mission was to gain a foothold in Spokane to reopen the historic link and develop it. She came all the way from a town Fraserburgh in Scotland, which is 160 miles north of Edinburgh, and where Thomas and Alex Glover were born and spent their childhood years. Fortunately, Spokane has a comparatively strong connection with Japan among those with other countries. Its first sister city is Nishinomiya, Japan, since 1961, and it has been holding Japan Week for more than 20 years. She was very happy to meet Rol Herriges, chairman of Spokane-Nishinomiya Sister City Association, who was also surprised but delighted to know the connection between Spokane and Scotland.

After Spokane, Mrs. Malcolm visited California, which also reveals another unexpected historical link. The Glovers hosted the first Japanese student studying in Scotland, Kanaye Nagasawa, while he was going to grammar school in Aberdeen. Nagasawa later came to California in the 1875 and got involved in wine business by cultivating grapes. He was known as the “Wine King” and he was the first to introduce California wines to Europe from his winery, Fountain Grove. Part of it is succeeded as Paradise Ridge Winery today.

Why don’t you have some wine tonight, and think about the around-the-world connections which start in Nagasaki, to Scotland by a short stop at Lucca, Italy, the birthplace of Puccini, to Spokane, to California, then to Nishinomiya, Japan? I’m sure you will be flying around the world in your sweet dreams.

* Gardiner (2007)
** http://www.glover-garden.jp/foreign/english.html


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**Ikebana - Summer Session**

Summer session starts Monday, June 17th from 4pm—5:30pm at JCC.
Classes taught by Ellen Krehbiel. No cost for lesson, but fee to cover cost of flowers. Reservation required in advance to purchase flowers. Limited Space. Call Candie at (509) 328-2971 ext 223

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**Open House in the Tea Room**

May 28, June 4, 11, & 18th
3:30pm—4:30pm

We enjoy making Usucha (Japanese powdered green tea) and drink with Japanese sweets. Reservation Required, Limited Space.
Call Candie to RSVP 328-2971 or JCC@mfwi.edu

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**Japanese Cultural Center @ MFWI**

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