

The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn in New York

BOOK AND ART EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 30—OCTOBER 14, 2011

THE NIPPON GALLERY AT THE NIPPON CLUB, NEW YORK

Organizers: The Planning Committee for The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn in New York / Matsue City
Co-organizer: The Nippon Club
Sponsors: New York Shimane Kenjin-Kai
HANKYU HANSHIN EXPRESS CO., LTD. / The San-in Godo Bank, Ltd. New York Representative Office
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Lafcadio HEARN was born to Rosa KASIMATI on the island of Lefkada, Greece, on June 27, 1850. His father was Charles HEARN from Ireland. Separated from his parents at an early age, he spent his childhood in Ireland. After travelling to the four corners of the earth, he eventually reached Japan and settled there. Hearn viewed Japan from his own unique perspective and grew to love and understand the country. He had an open mind free from racial or religious prejudice. In this modern world, we should appreciate and understand his ideals and learn how to share his attitude.

October 2010 saw “The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn” Exhibition open its doors in Matsue. As a collection of artworks by Japanese and artists of other nationalities, the exhibition featured the artists’ various expressions of Hearn’s ‘Open Mind’ through art. The exhibition was housed in both the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum Matsue and Matsue Castle, a place that Hearn himself was particularly fond of. Over the course of the exhibition, approximately 45,000 visitors made their way to Matsue, with the exhibition not only reaching out to Hearn fans and art fans, but also to a wider audience who previously were unaware of Hearn and his works. The original ‘Open Mind’ exhibition culminated in October 2009 at the American College of Greece, Athens, which made an indelible impression on all who visited it.

At the mere age of nineteen, Hearn boarded a New York bound immigration ship from London before departing to New York. In September 1869, Hearn stepped out onto what was to become his twenty years of life in America. During his time in New York, Hearn became acquainted

with the likes of H. E. KREHBIEL, E. HENDRIC, and W. H. PATTEN, who were the people who understood him most. And it was the fact that Hearn lived in New York that in turn led him to find himself in Japan. The majority of Hearn’s works were published in New York adding further significance to the city for him. New York is said to be a heaven for modern art and this exhibition combines Hearn’s open-mindedness expressed through art, New York-published editions of his works, and quotes which highlight his progressive mindset.

The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn

Mr. Takis EFSTATHIOU, a Greek art coordinator, along with Mr. Masaaki NODA, a New York based artist, have been cherishing this project since 1996. A monument produced by Mr. Noda and titled by Mr. Efstathiou was installed on the campus of the American College of Greece in Athens in October 2009. An art exhibition under the same title, featuring works from all over the world, was held in the ACG Art Gallery. Then in 2010, the exhibition was held once more expressing Hearn through art, but this time in the symbolic castle and the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum of Matsue. In connection with the exhibition, NODA Masaaki once more donated a monument, which was erected this time on the shore of Lake Shinji (the original stands at ACG Athens). Hearn’s dedication to harmony and tolerance is evident throughout his works, including the well known ‘KWAIDAN’ (ghost stories). Mr. Takis EFSTATHIOU, an avid collector, has managed to

gather together an enviable collection of valuable editions of Hearn's works, boasting Hearn's debut publication as the piece-de-resistance. He continues to play a part in increasing awareness of Hearn's open-minded philosophy by giving others the opportunity to view these rare books.

Implementation

'The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn in New York' will display 24 pieces which were exhibited in Matsue, 2 pieces from the American College of Greece and 2 of Hearn's cherished personal items from the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum Matsue. The exhibition will be housed in the 'Nippon Gallery' (The Nippon Club, NY). The Nippon Club was established in 1905 by Dr. Jokichi TAKAMINE and currently boasts 1,100 members. The club oversees events to promote Japanese-American relations and to cater to the Japanese community residing in New York. Although Hearn and Takamine didn't actually meet, they were both enthusiastic about the New Orleans Exposition. When Takamine returned to Japan, he took the opportunity during his lectures to call on the Japanese government to give precedence to people such as Hearn who showed compassion for Japan and would introduce Japan to the world. The exhibition will be held for a duration of two weeks in the 'Nippon Gallery', located on the first floor of 'The Nippon Club'. By creating the opportunity to view this exhibition in New York, we hope to spread awareness of Hearn's way of life and open-minded philosophy amongst club members and throughout New York.

There will be a display of over 20 beautifully-bound first

editions of Hearn's books, mostly published by New York publishing houses such as Harper & Brothers, Houghton, Mifflin & Co., and Macmillan & Co.

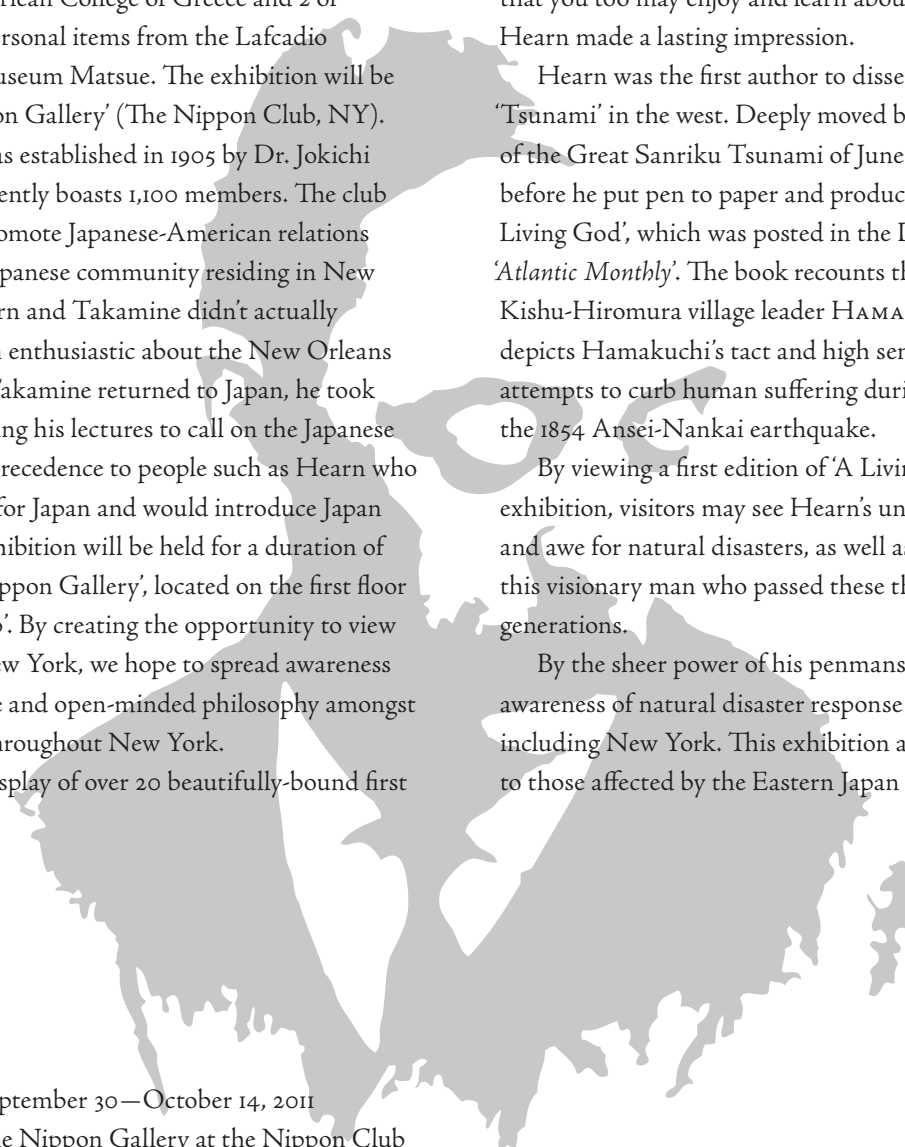
There will also be a quotes display, revealing Hearn's open mindedness to the reader, along with complimentary explanatory notes by Bon KOIZUMI, Hearn's great-grandson.

The exhibition will be held in the cooperation with The Nippon Club, the Shimane-New York Association and Sanin Godo Bank New York Branch. There will also be a panel display featuring Hearn's beloved city of Matsue so that you too may enjoy and learn about the town in which Hearn made a lasting impression.

Hearn was the first author to disseminate the word 'Tsunami' in the west. Deeply moved by the human suffering of the Great Sanriku Tsunami of June 1896, it wasn't long before he put pen to paper and produced his next story, 'A Living God', which was posted in the December issue of the 'Atlantic Monthly'. The book recounts the true story of the Kishu-Hiromura village leader HAMAKUCHI Goryo. Hearn depicts Hamakuchi's tact and high sense of morals as he attempts to curb human suffering during the aftermath of the 1854 Ansei-Nankai earthquake.

By viewing a first edition of 'A Living God' at this exhibition, visitors may see Hearn's unprecedented curiosity and awe for natural disasters, as well as the importance of this visionary man who passed these things on to succeeding generations.

By the sheer power of his penmanship, Hearn increased awareness of natural disaster response throughout the world, including New York. This exhibition aims to offer support to those affected by the Eastern Japan earthquake.



Date	September 30—October 14, 2011
Location	The Nippon Gallery at the Nippon Club 145 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019
Time	MON—FRI: 10:00AM—6:00PM SAT: 10:00AM—5:00PM Closed on Sunday and Columbus Day (October 10)
For Details	TEL: (212) 581-2223 E-MAIL: info@nipponclub.org URL: www.nipponclub.org
Admission	Free

COMMEMORATIVE RECEPTION

Tuesday, October 4, 2011 7:00PM—8:00PM

Please RSVP to yhonda@nipponclub.org

With Lecture by Bon Koizumi, Great Grandson of Lafcadio Hearn

6:00PM—7:00PM

Lafcadio Hearn

1889, Philadelphia

Collection of Koizumi Family



LAFCADIO HEARN

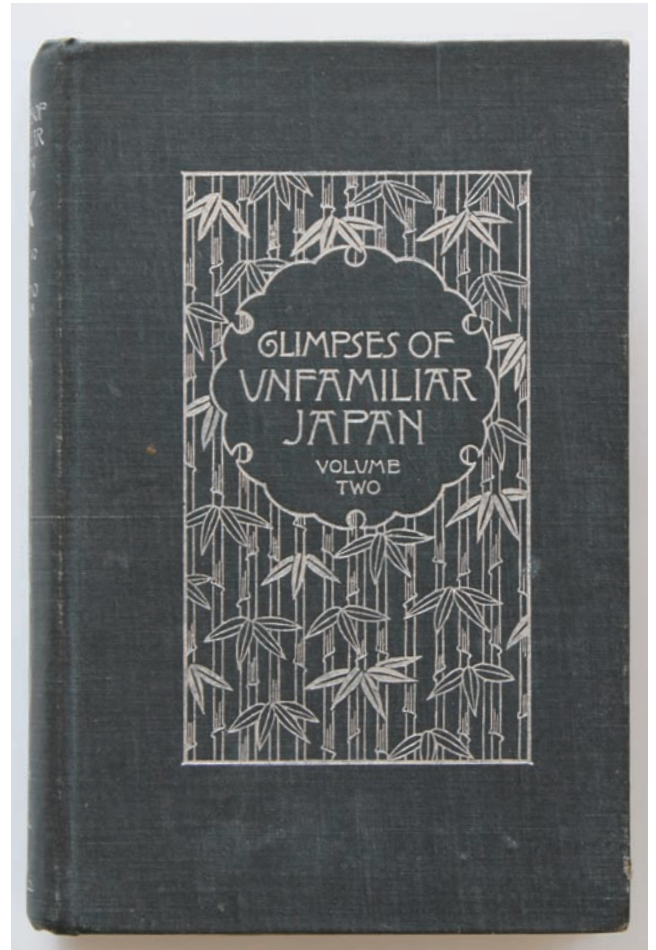
Glimpses of Unfamiliar Japan I & II (1st edition)

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

1894

Collection of Efsthathiou Family

Hearn's first work after his arrival in Japan, and the pinnacle of his works which belong to the genre of travel books and reportage. Drawing on his five senses, he expressed the fundamental culture of Matsue, Izumo and Sanin Area, provincial areas in Japan, together with his ethnological observation of the people's inner joy in a literary way. The tension between the culture and the people's inner joy described has made the book a longtime seller.



LAFCADIO HEARN

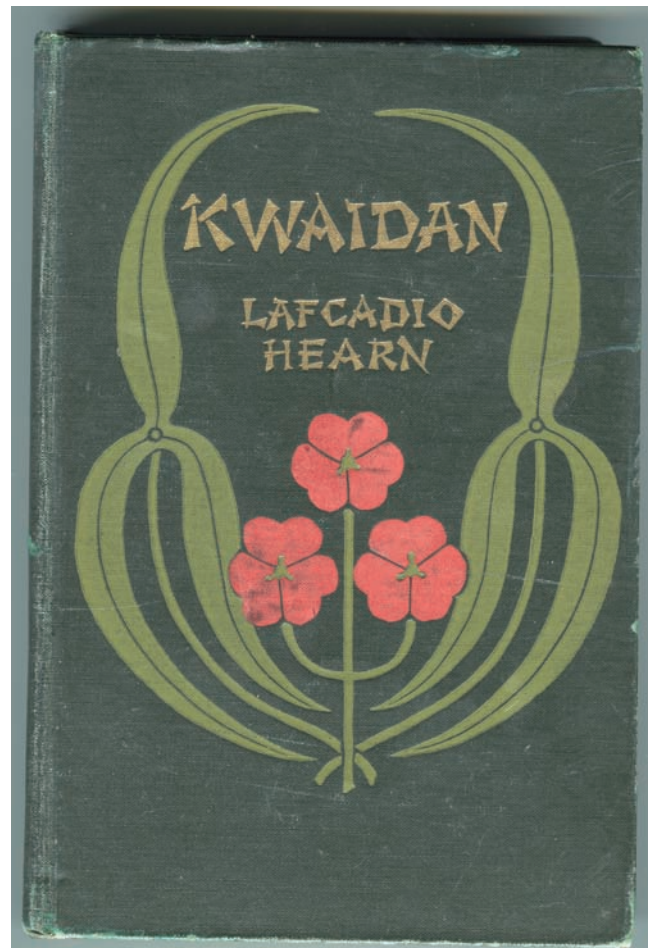
Kwaidan (1st edition)

Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

1904

Collection of Efsthathiou Family

The best work among his works which belong to the genre of retold tales. He rewrote Japanese traditional grotesque tales narrated by his wife, Setsu, in English, having infused literary spirits in them. Hearn wrote this book to persuade the universal truth which he believed is the mental base for human beings to live on. The book has been translated into many languages.



YNEZ JOHNSTON

USA

Ocean Images

33.5×30.5cm

water colors on shikishi paper

2010

Collection of Matsue City

Johnston's work is characterized by 'jigsaw' shapes reminiscent of primitive designs. Her unique style blends modernism and ancient art forms from her travels to Africa, Greece, Italy, Mexico, India, Japan and Nepal. It was these journeys that perpetuated her interest in exoticism and a mythical world, and this penchant for the foreign or otherworldly is embodied in the present homage to Lafcadio Hearn.

Megakles Rogakos

ACG Art Curator of The American College of Greece



MASAAKI NODA

Japan (act: USA)

The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn—II

76.2×56.3cm

graphite and pencil on paper

2010

Collection of Matsue City

This drawing is modeled after "The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn", the sculpture symbolizing Hearn's open-minded lifestyle, spirit and communication with people over generations. It varies depending on the angle of view, which relates to the diversity of Hearn's spirit. The heart space in the center embodies Hearn's spirit. The title of the sculpture has become the title of the event in Greece and Matsue as it is.

Masaaki Noda

