

ITCS Seminar # 01

Garden as a Paradise in the Arid Region: An Observation Based on Architecture of Persian Origin

Date : Friday, December 19, 2014, 17:00~19:00

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturer : Dr. Naoko Fukami (Adjunct Researcher, Organization for Islamic Area Studies, Waseda University, Japan)

The first seminar of Institute of Turkish Culture Studies 2014 was held at the Koshien Hall on December 19 (Fri.), 2014, inviting Dr. Naoko Fukami, researcher at Waseda University, to give a lecture titled “Garden as a Paradise in the Arid Region: An Observation Based on Architecture of Persian Origin”.

She first introduced the characteristics of the oriental garden in the pre-Islamic period such as that of ancient Mesopotamia, ancient Egypt, Achaemenid Empire (Persia) and Sasanian Empire (Persia). Then, the characteristics of the Islamic garden in the early Arab world, and the same of nomads and Persia were explained. After an explanation of the concept of the ‘paradise’, she illustrated a transition of enclosed gardens of the ancient Orient, ancient Persia, ancient Mediterranean area, Judaism, Christianity or Islam. Also the feature of architecture of the Persian style was explained. She concluded the lecture with the commentary on the differences of perspectives of nature or that of gardens nurtured by the two contrastive climates, i.e. arid region and wet region, in comparison of Persia and Japan.

The seminar turned out to have been an ideal opportunity to encourage audiences to think about the interrelations between the man-made environment (architecture, city plan, garden), natural environment and gods or Utopia.

(Reported by Kazuhiko Yanagisawa)



The lecture at K-222



Dr. Fukami as giving the lecture

ITCS Seminar # 02

Hellenism the Opening to a New and Diverse World

Date : Thursday, February 19, 2015, 13:30~15:30
Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall
Lecturer : Dr. Kosaku Maeda (Professor Emeritus at Wako University, Japan)

The second seminar of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies 2014 was held at the Koshien Hall on February 19 (Thu.), 2015, inviting Dr. Kosaku Maeda, professor emeritus at Wako University, to give a lecture titled “Hellenism the Opening to a New and Diverse World”.

He began by asking the audience what was meant by Hellenism before he explained the definition of the era of ‘Hellenism’ and a conclusion given by a German historian J.G.Droysen i.e. ‘an amalgamation of cultures of Greek and Orient’. Then he introduced the accomplishment of Alexander the Great, or the promoter of the Hellenism, illustrating the route of his expedition which spanned far wider areas than before him. He also explained the changes in the Hellenic countries in the period after Alexander focusing on the ruins of Ai-Khanoum, a city of the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom in central Asia. At Ai-Khanoum where routes of traffic crossed there was a junction of different people with their various goods, ideas, religions and cultures. Dr. Maeda introduced various Hellenic characteristics as seen in the ruins such as the theatre, gymnasium, epitaph in Greek and coins using many graphics and pictures. Hellenism has seen a transformation of Greek culture influenced by the Persian and Buddhism cultures giving rise to a multitude of varying forms. This was an expression of diversity in coexistence which becomes more and more significant in the modern world where there are so many collisions between different cultures.

It was a valuable seminar giving a glimpse of a huge sphere of cross cultural exchange along the Silk Road.

(Reported by Kazuhiko Yanagisawa)



The lecture at K-222



Dr. Maeda as giving the lecture

ITCS Seminar # 03

Archaeology in Jerusalem: Its Developments and Tasks

Date : Friday, March 6, 2015, 13:30~15:30

Venue : K-222, Koshien Hall

Lecturer : Dr. Tomotoshi Sugimoto (Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University, Japan)

The third seminar of the Institute of Turkish Culture Studies 2014 was held at the Koshien Hall on March 6 (Fri.), 2015, inviting Dr. Tomotoshi Sugimoto, professor at Keio University, to give a lecture titled “Archaeology in Jerusalem: Its Developments and Tasks”

The lecture began with the case of an excavation of the ‘City of David’. Dr. Sugimoto’s explanation ranged from an episode in the discovery of the ‘House of David’, features of the Canaanite defensive construction and water facilities, excavation of ruins at Khirbet Qeiyafa, foundation of the nation by Solomon with features of the temples, palace buildings to housing construction of those days. He then explained the relation between the nomads and the building of the nation of Israel by David.

Next, he discussed the identification of the ‘Tomb of Jesus’. There are three possible ‘Tomb of Jesus’, and he elaborately explained the possibilities of each case based on facts. He further presented the major changes in attitudes to life and death in the light of the style of construction of tombs, which varies across the ages.

The audience appreciated the comprehensible explanation with ample pictures and figures. It was an evocative and interesting seminar to illustrate the relations between the archaeological and the Biblical world.

(Reported by Kazuhiko Yanagisawa)



The lecture at K-222



Dr. Sugimoto as giving the lecture