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OBOEGAKI

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The Newsletter of the Early Modern Japan Network
近世日本研究会報告

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Time to Renew?

IS THIS YOUR LAST ISSUE of *Oboegaki*? Most subscriptions will expire with this issue. Please look on your mailing label for the telltale words "last issue." Your paid memberships have allowed us to continue publishing substantive articles, such as this issue's bibliography of early modern art history. We look forward to your continued support.

Update on Historical Preservation

As reported in the March issue of *Oboegaki*, Luke Roberts is working on having a samurai residence preserved in Kōchi city in Japan. Roberts research revealed that the home, although in disrepair, enjoys a storied list of residents, ranging from samurai activists to a modern novelist. Dr. Roberts recently notified us of a partial victory in the preservation movement and requested help to secure a full restoration. The following is excerpted for Roberts' e-mail notice to the network:

After four years of work by our preservation committee, the city finally agreed to try to save the residence. The city will dish out the ¥300,000,000 to buy the land and our preservation movement is trying to collect the ¥100,000,000 to cover restoration costs of this old but beautiful home in need of repair. We have collected a lot, but recently the collection has lagged and the movement needs a little psychological boost.

I would like to ask if those of you who are interested in this project to contribute a small sum and I would like to use the names of contributors in a cover letter to the preservation committee along with the total contribution. The dollar amount itself is not of great consequence, but a show of concern and support from a group of foreign scholars would, I think, be very beneficial. It was, after all, my *gaijin* letter to the local newspaper that galvanized the movement.

If I get responses, could I call the contribution from "EMJNET"? or perhaps from "A concerned group of American (British etc.) historians?" If you are interested please send a check payable to Luke Roberts at the address below. If you are able to contribute just your name, this too would be very helpful.

Luke Roberts
Dept of History
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106

If you prefer, write directly to the preservation office in Kōchi with a brief message of support and the contribution in yen.

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