

The Correspondence of Sir Ernest Satow
while he was British Minister in Japan (1895-1900)
from the Satow Papers

held at [The National Archives](#), Kew, London

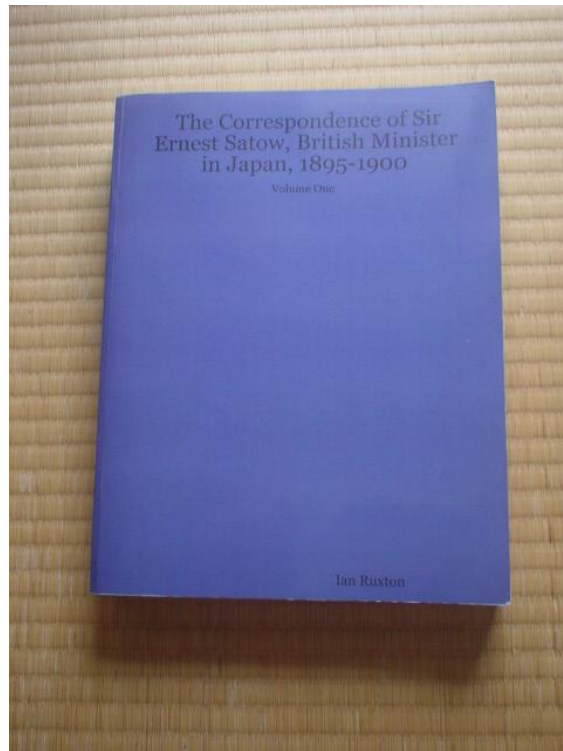
Published in Full for Researchers with Notes
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Volume One

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Illustrations on p. 265 and 291 are photographs from the files taken by the author.

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Preface

The following represents as closely as possible what a researcher would see in the mostly handwritten files of the Satow Papers on a visit to the [National Archives](#) (formerly the Public Record Office) in Kew, West London. The Satow Papers were left to the nation in the last will and testament of [Sir Ernest Satow](#) (1843-1929). This substantial book is just a small part of the available papers, and contains a great deal of minutiae which may be of limited interest to those without a specific and related research topic in mind. Nevertheless, an accurate impression of the preoccupations and language of Victorian diplomacy and consular work in late 19th century Japan may be gained by all readers. Annotations have been added to assist the reader's comprehension.

The letters in this book are almost all addressed to Satow. The first two files are of official letters from superiors at the Foreign Office in London, including the only one Satow received from Lord Salisbury. The third file contains letters from the Office of Works about legation and consular buildings and their upkeep. The remaining files, except for the sixth, are chiefly from subordinates. The fourth is from J.H. Gubbins, the Japanese secretary, and shows what kind of work he was engaged in, chiefly the monitoring of Japanese newspapers. The fifth file contains various letters from Tokyo legation staff, the sixth some of Satow's own memoranda, and the last four contain letters from consuls and consular staff at the treaty ports of Hakodate, Kobe and Nagasaki.

It is intended that this shall be the first volume of a series.

Ian Ruxton
May, 2005

By the same author:

- *The Diaries and Letters of Sir Ernest Mason Satow (1843-1929), a Scholar-Diplomat in East Asia* (Edwin Mellen Press, 1998) selected and edited by I. Ruxton, available on [amazon.com](#) and [translated into Japanese](#) as *A-nesuto Satō no Shōgai*. This book is an overview of Satow's life.
- *The Diaries of Sir Ernest Satow, British Minister in Tokyo (1895-1900): A Diplomat Returns to Japan* ([Edition Synapse](#), Tokyo, 2003), edited by I. Ruxton. These are the unabridged diaries for Satow's period as Minister in Tokyo.

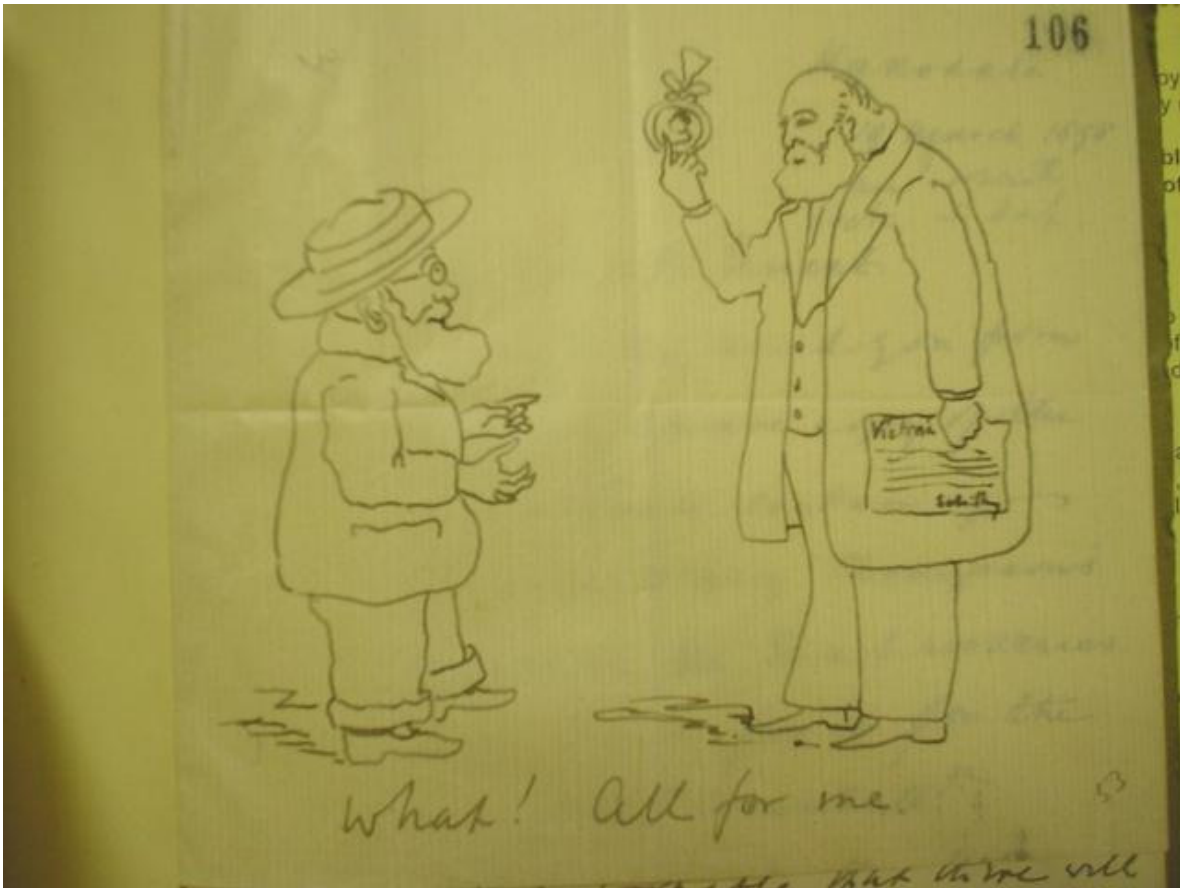


Illustration on p. 265 photographed by Ian Ruxton. Lord Salisbury giving Troup his pension?
(Note: These photographs appear in black & white in the printed book.)

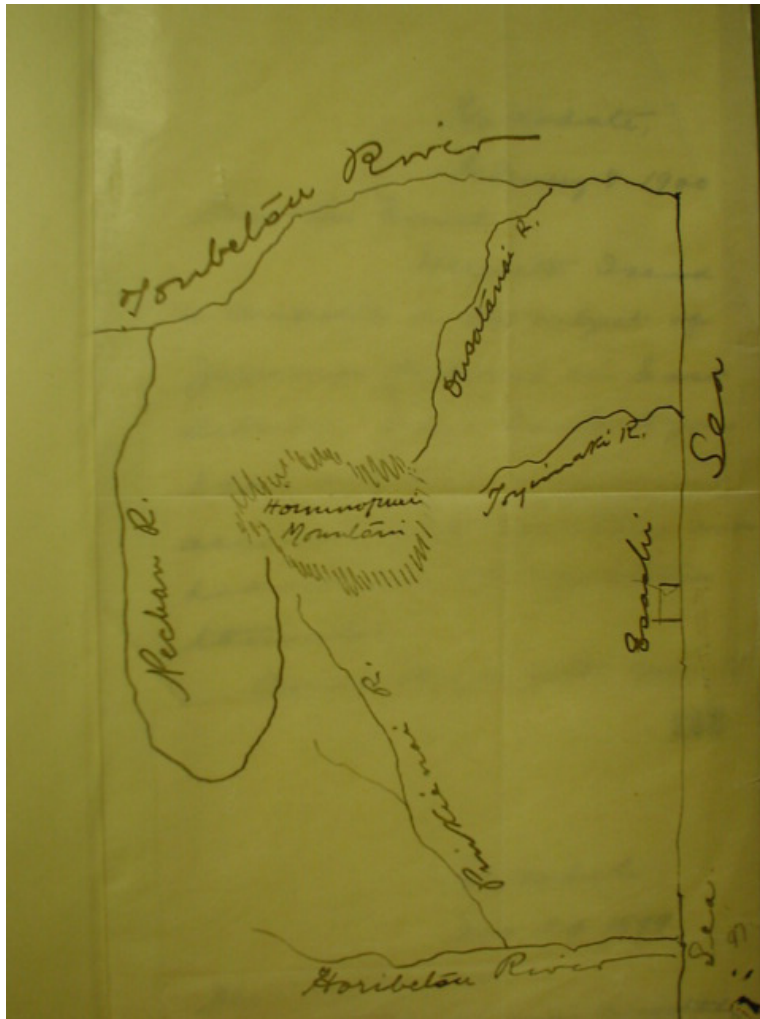


Illustration on p. 291 photographed by Ian Ruxton – Freehand map of part of Hokkaido

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/1

**Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Foreign Office (official).
(June 1895)**

1. Foreign Secretary Lord Kimberley's letter of appointment to Sir E.M. Satow K.C.M.G.

Foreign Office,

June 1, 1895

Sir,

I have to inform you that the Queen [Victoria] has been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary, Minister Plenipotentiary and Consul-General in Japan and to assign to you in that capacity a Salary of four thousand Pounds [Margin: £4,000] a year.

I have to add that a further Sum of One thousand four hundred Pounds will be issued to you as an Outfit Allowance.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Kimberley

2. Kimberley to Satow [very faded, barely legible]

Foreign Office,

June 25, 1895

Sir,

The Queen having been graciously pleased to select you to be Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at Tokio, I transmit to you herewith a letter which Her Majesty has addressed to the Emperor of Japan accrediting you in that character, and I am to desire that you will deliver the letter in the usual form.

A copy of your letter of introduction is also enclosed.

I am, with great truth and regard,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

Kimberley

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/2

Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Foreign Office (official).

(Sept 1895 – June 1900)

1. Assistant Under Secretary F. H. Villiers to Satow's predecessor as Minister, Hon. P.H. Le Poer Trench

Private

Jan 25, '95

My dear Trench,

Pressure of work has, I am sorry to say, caused much delay in dealing with your despatches Nos. 27 and 28 Consular of last year.

Your recommendation that Student Interpreters, when Acting Assistants, should be considered qualified for the Interpreter's Allowances has, however, been carefully considered.

On the whole the Authorities are of opinion that it would be undesirable to alter the present rule. There are only 3 Students¹ and the length of service, according to your computation, preceding promotion has varied from less than 2 to more than 6 years which even in the latter case is not a very formidable period.

The proposed change might also, it is feared, result sometimes in hardship where one of the 3 Assistants not in receipt of an allowance should, from causes beyond his control, have been unable to qualify as soon as one of the Students. [First Class Assistant at Yokohama Raymond de B.M.] Layard and [E.M.] Hobart-Hampden is a case in point.

The present system, however, seems to afford the best inducement to the Students to keep up the Study of the language, until they become Assistants, and similarly to the 3 Assistants in waiting for a vacant allowance.

Another point is that if the change were made in Japan it wd. [would] probably also have to be introduced into China where no such alteration has been suggested and where in a larger or more scattered Service, the difficulties which it might cause wd. be more likely to occur.

Beyond this it is proposed to lay down the rule that a certificate of qualification for an Interpreter's allowance can only be obtained by an Actual Assistant, i.e. men will not be allowed to pass the examination until they are Assistants.

Before, however, making this regulation we want to have your opinion privately.

Yrs very truly

F. H. Villiers²

¹ In 1895 these were Ernest M. Hobart-Hampden (Tokyo); John B. Rentiers and Harold G. Parlett (Yokohama). (F.O. List, Kuwata, Bulletin of Kobe International University, 1995, p. 153).

² Rt. Hon. Sir Francis Hyde Villiers (1852-1925). Entered F.O. 1870. Asst. Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, 1896-1905.

2. Wylde to Satow

Sept. 17, 1895

Dear Satow,

Your No. 236 re [military attaché to Tokyo Legation Capt. Noel] du Boulay's despatches. We do not print them but send them in orig[ina]l to War Office. We have asked for copies and W.O. have promised them.

Yrs truly

G.W.[?] Wylde

3. Foreign secretary (& prime minister) Lord Salisbury to Satow

Private

Oct. 3, 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

In your letter of August 15³ you ask me to give you "some directions as to what line you should take". Of course, at such a distance I can only do so in very general terms. My impression is that our strategic or military interests in Japan can easily be over-estimated. She may no doubt be of use in hindering Russia from getting an ice-free port. But how long would her obstruction be effective? Japan might hinder her getting access to it by water, but by the hypothesis the ice-free port, to be of any use to her must be accessible by land. What chance would Japan have of preventing her from taking the port in [the] rear, and even if Japan could do it – would she? Russia could always find some bribe in those seas for Japan: and it is very doubtful whether, as several powers are in greater or less proximity in those seas, the addition of another would be seriously to the injury of Japan. My impression is that the shrewder Japanese ministers will not be sorry to see enough Russian power in those latitudes to counterbalance the power of England.

I would not therefore thrust upon them any advice – or the hint of any naval or military cooperation [e.g. an alliance] either against Russia or China. But this will in no way hinder you from maintaining a most friendly attitude to the Japanese Government. The great advantage for which we should look in their [recent?] development, is undoubtedly improved trade; and if, as is sometimes thought, they can be used for obtaining greater facilities from the Chinese, the result would be very valuable. I think you should give great attention to the commercial part of your duties. In recent years the old doctrine of entire abstinence from any succour or support to particular English firms has become antiquated – especially in view of the action of the Germans. In our efforts to observe perfect neutrality as between competitors of our own nation we have given assistance to none of them. The Germans unfettered by any such scruples have pushed particular favourites. The net

³ See PRO 30/33 14/8 (Satow's letter book). Also I. Ruxton, *Diaries and Letters of Sir Ernest Mason Satow*, Edwin Mellen Press 1998, pp. 205-7.

result has been that the contracts have gone to Germany and not to England: and the fact that we have helped to disappoint all the English competitors with perfect impartiality is a very poor consolation. I am well aware that the German practice may lead to great abuses; and probably we could not ever go as far as they do in this policy. But while trying to be fair among various English rivals, it is of the highest importance to prevent contracts [e.g. for ships, armaments etc.] going to Germany which might go to England.

What you tell me about the apparent disinclination of the Japanese Government generally to cultivate our exclusive friendship, rather confirms the impression that in the end they will be convinced that it is in rather their interest to join with Russia and perhaps with France in cutting up China, than to exchange platonic assurances of affection with us. Of course you should watch carefully for any such symptoms and let me know of them. I do not know what motives we shall devise for operating on the Japanese: we must find them when the time comes if we can. But I am quite sure their conduct will not be biased, when the time for decision arrives, by any recollection of what we or Russia or France may have done for them or against them in the past.

Believe me,

Yours very truly

Salisbury ⁴

4. Sir Arthur J. Bigge, private secretary to Queen Victoria, to Satow

Balmoral Castle [purchased for Queen Victoria by Prince Albert in 1852]

Octr. 5, 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

The Queen and the Prince of Wales [later Edward VII] have both seen your letter of the 15th Augt. and are much gratified at the kind manner in which His Imperial Highness Prince Yosihito [the future Taishō Emperor] ⁵ had alluded to his visit to England in 1893.

Yours very truly,

⁴ “The ambivalence of Satow’s position in Japan during 1895-1900, prior to the signing of the [Anglo-Japanese] alliance [in 1902], is evident from the fact that he could obtain no explicit instructions from London despite his own best efforts. All he ever received from Lord Salisbury was one personal letter phrased very much in generalities, four months after his arrival in Tokyo.” (N. Brailey, introduction to *The Diaries of Sir Ernest Satow, British Minister in Tokyo 1895-1900*, ed. I. Ruxton, Edition Synapse, 2003. Hereafter cited as “Ruxton, 2003” with page numbers.) This is the letter.

⁵ Emperor Taishō (1879-1926) reigned 1912-26. He was the third son of Emperor Meiji. Soon after birth he contracted what appeared to be meningitis. His health remained poor. Although he was deemed competent to ascend the throne in 1912, by 1919 he had become unable to perform basic state ceremonies. In 1921 Crown Prince Hirohito became regent (*sesshō* 摂政) for his father, and succeeded him in 1926.

Arthur Bigge

P.S. I hope that my brother commanding the [cruiser] “Pique” will have the pleasure of meeting you again. ⁶ I heard from him a few days ago at Hong Kong.

5. H.G. Bergne to Satow

Oct 17, '95

My dear Satow,

We will publish the trade statistics of Mr. [Joseph Henry] Longford [then Vice-Consul, Tokyo] in our Foreign Office Series. It seems quite suitable for the purpose – and then there is no need to hand it over to the B. [Board] of Trade.

I'm sorry to hear you don't like the climate of Japan – but suppose it is only unpleasant during a short period of the year, as I have always thought it was a good climate on the whole.

Nothing stirring here in the way of news.

By the way it would be a good thing if you could by any means get protection for British Trade Marks in Japan before the new Treaty comes into force. ⁷ It is a measure of honesty which ought not to be delayed.

Yrs ever

H.G. Bergne

⁶ Satow met Henry C. Bigge on March 16, 1896 and several times thereafter. (Diary, Ruxton, 2003, p. 75 et seq.)

⁷ The Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation was signed in London on July 16, 1894 by Lord Kimberley and Aoki Shūzō. It abolished extraterritoriality for British subjects with effect from July 17, 1899. (See I. Ruxton 'The Ending of Extraterritoriality in Japan' in *Turning Points in Japanese History*, ed. Bert Edstrom, Japan Library, 2002, Chapter 7, pp.84-101).

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/3

**Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Office of Works.
(December 1895 – November 1899)**

1. Satow to [F.J.] Marshall (Shanghai representative of the Office of Works) ⁸

Private

Tokio,

December 11, 1895

Dear Mr. Marshall,

Just a line or two in addition to the official letter sending you a copy of a despatch to the F.O. recommending the employment of Mr. [Josiah] Conder ⁹ to look after the public buildings here. I send you my despatch in order that you may tell the Chief Commissioner what you think of the proposal. Judging from the past correspondence wch. I have perused I am inclined to think it might be personally agreeable to yourself to be relieved of the immediate superintendence of works in Japan, and I am inclined to the opinion that the public interest would be promoted if there were a permanent Office of Works in this country. Of Mr. Conder's personal fitness you have no doubt had opportunities of judging (experience), and the terms on which he is willing to undertake the work do not seem to be unreasonable.

There is an alteration to the First Secretary's house which seems extremely desirable, namely the construction of a covered way on the south side of the backyard to the isolated bedroom. At present it can be reached only by passing through another room, which is very inconvenient to the occupant. I am thinking of making an official recommendation that this work should be undertaken.

From Kobe I have had another request for a grant of part of the consular site for a church ¹⁰, but I have replied that the matter having received full consideration cannot now be re-opened. In my own opinion, it would be regrettable if the value of the property were diminished even by a sale of a small portion. Later on when it becomes necessary to rebuild, the funds required could I suppose be most easily be procured by a sale of the portion not needed for building on. I should like to say that it appears to me desirable at Kōbe that the consul's residence should if possible continue to be in the same block as the offices, and it is to be requested

⁸ On the Office of Works, a separate government department to the Foreign Office, see *Embassies in the East* by J.E. Hoare (Curzon Press, 1999).

⁹ Josiah Conder (1852-1920) was in Japan from 1877-1920. Often described as the Father of Japanese modern architecture. Taught at Imperial College of Engineering. See *Westerners in the Modernization of Japan* by Teijiro Muramatsu (Tokyo: Hitachi Co. Ltd. 1995). See also 'Josiah Conder (1852-1920) and Meiji architecture' by Dallas Finn, Ch. 5, *Britain and Japan 1859-1991: Themes and Personalities*, ed. Cortazzi and Daniels (London: Routledge, 1991).

¹⁰ See Enslie to Satow, letter No. 8, 28 November 1895, PRO 30/33 5/8.

in the interest of the public convenience that the consuls at Yokohama and Nagasaki have obtained rent allowances, instead of occupying public buildings in a readily accessible part of the foreign settlement. If an opportunity presented itself I should be glad if the arrangement which prevailed in former times could be reverted to.

y.v.t.

E.S.

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/4

Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Legation Staff. J.H. Gubbins ¹¹ (Japanese Secretary) (July 1895 – October 1899)

1. John H. Gubbins to Satow (p.2)

31 July, 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

I enclose a précis of the Jiji's [Jiji Shinpō] ¹² article wh. [which] I mentioned to you this morning. What it says is on the whole fairly true I think.

Fukuzawa's paper is the most serious I think of all those published – and the article translated is a fair specimen of the tone of the paper.

The point in question, namely, the management of Japanese business concerns is one in wh[ich] we are more or less interested, and it is also one on wh[ich] opinions amongst foreigners is sharply divided. Some people maintain that the business capacity of the Japanese, in so far as large enterprises is concerned, is small, and that there is an absence of honest management. Others say the Japanese have made great strides in this respect, and that the management of many of their mills and manufactories is very creditable.

Yours

J.H. Gubbins

Précis of Article in Jiji Shimpō of July 30, 1895. (p.4)

Under the somewhat misleading title “Vigilance is useless” the Jiji deprecates Government interference with commercial and industrial enterprises, and recommends that so long as existing laws are not infringed, promoters and shareholders of unsubstantial companies and business concerns of all kinds should be left to their own devices. According to the “Jiji”, during the years 1886-89 there was a remarkable outburst of commercial and industrial activity. The year 1890 was a year of commercial depression, and in the crisis which then occurred heavy losses were sustained and some of the business associations formed during the previous period became bankrupt. But the number of failures was nevertheless small, and the cause in each

¹¹ John Harrington Gubbins (1852-1929) was appointed student interpreter in the Japan consular service in 1871. Appointed English Secretary to the Conference at Tokyo for the Revision of the Treaties after Satow left Japan in 1883, and on June 1, 1889 became Japanese Secretary at Tokyo. Employed in London at the Foreign Office from February to July 1894 in the Aoki-Kimberley negotiations which resulted in the Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation of July 16, 1894. A close friend of Satow, especially in retirement. See ‘John Harrington Gubbins, 1852-1929’ by Ian Nish, Ch. 8, *Britain and Japan: Biographical Portraits*, Vol. 2, ed. I. Nish. (Japan Library, 1997). See also the private correspondence from Gubbins to Satow, 1908-27, PRO 30/33 11/8, 11/9 and 11/10.

¹² 時事新報 Jiji Shinpō. A newspaper started by the educator Fukuzawa Yukichi in Tokyo in 1882.

case was either the absence of a solid basis, or a mistaken estimate as to the working results of the companies concerned. Most of the commercial and industrial concerns in question emerged from the ordeal sounder and more substantial in every respect; for economies were effected, the expenses of management being curtailed wherever possible, and they were reorganized on a sound financial footing. From that time forward the recklessness which characterized the earlier enterprises has disappeared, and the business associations now formed are established only after careful enquiry has elicited beyond doubt the profitable character of the businesses to be conducted. The intervention [on April 23, 1895] of the three powers [Russia, France & Germany] in connection with the retrocession of the Liaotung peninsula [from Japan to China] gave a momentary check to all enterprise, but the peaceful solution of the difficulty has been followed by a renewed business activity.

The article concludes by urging upon the Govt. the undesirability of hampering the progress of general enterprise in Japan by introducing greater [] into the laws relating to business associations.

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/5

**Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Legation Staff. Various.
(August 1895 – April 1900)**

1. Captain Noel W.H. Du Boulay (Military Attaché) to Satow

7 August 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

I have enquired about the forces in Liaotung peninsula. The 4th Division has headquarters at Kaijo (Haicheng) and 2nd Division at Kinchou; but, of the latter, one Infantry Brigade (the 4th) with some guns and cavalry has gone to Formosa. The 11th Brigade of 6th Division is at Wei-hai-wei.

But for your knowledge of the Japanese language, I should have supposed that you had mistaken “Dai ni shidan” for “ni shidan”, and “ichi riodan” for “ichi shidan”.

There is no intention of sending any more troops to Formosa at present, beyond those of the 4th Brigade, who are now en route from Talienwan.

Mr. Hall at Yokohama told me yesterday that an English ship has just arrived with a large cargo of war material, part of which was landed at Osaka and the remainder is now being discharged at Yokosuka.

Yours very Truly

N.W.H. Du Boulay

P.S. My interpreter, Kashiwamura, is unfortunately ordered to Formosa.

2. Du Boulay to Satow

Imperial Hotel

9 Augt. 95

Dear Sir Ernest,

I enclose Fujiyama's name in Japanese.

I hear there is to be a great assemblage of generals from all parts of Japan in Tokio very shortly – nominally to celebrate the victory over the Chinese, but really for some other purpose.

Yours very Truly

N.W.H. Du Boulay

3. Joseph H. Longford (Vice-Consul, Tokyo) to Satow

Hakone

Aug. 9, 1895

My dear Sir Ernest,

I enclose the memo. containing an account of the Cornes and Kimura case. ¹³ It is rather long but it is a long story, and I found that to cut it down any more would leave unexplained necessary points. Mr. [W.W.] Till [of Cornes & Co.] sent me the original documents and his own account, so that the accuracy of the facts may be relied on.

We have had a fairly fine week, though last night we got utterly lost for a couple of hours on the lake in a thick fog which came down suddenly. However we have not been kept indoors for any one day since I came up. Our friend, the Rev. J. Francis – the rector of the Church in Tsukiji – who stays with us, went down to Tokyo today. I know he intends to call on you and I hope you may see him as I am sure you will like him. He is both a nice fellow and an accomplished scholar.

I notice in the papers that the Germans have sent a consul to Formosa, or rather appointed one accredited to the Japanese Government. Our own F.O. will probably never think of this of themselves, and it seems imprudent to neglect some step too long. At present the two Consuls of the China service there can have no official status at all, and though it is perhaps unlikely, it is not impossible that something might occur any day, in the present state of affairs, productive of some inconvenience in consequence.

I shall have the Trade Returns I mentioned ready in a few days, I hope. As to the [1894] Treaty would you like me to put what occurs to me in the form of a memo. or merely jot them down roughly for yourself? My opinion of the whole being that it was as ill advised and untimely as it was possible for it to be, it would hardly do perhaps to send my views in full to the F.O. if you had that idea at all.

Yours very sincerely

Joseph H. Longford ¹⁴

¹³ A dispute between Kimura Shoten and Cornes & Co. over yarn imported by the latter which arose in July 1894 and was settled by arbitration on July 20, 1895.

¹⁴ Joseph Henry Longford (1849-1925). Appointed a student interpreter in Japan, 1869. Appointed Vice-Consul, Tokyo in 1886. Called to the Bar at the Middle Temple, 1889. Acting Consul at Hiogo 1889 and 1890; and at Hakodate 1890-92. Promoted to Consul at Tainan, February 4, 1896; and to Nagasaki, December 28, 1896. Was in attendance on H.I.H. Prince Akihito of Japan at the Coronation of King Edward VII, August 1902. Retired August 1902. Appointed almost immediately to the chair of Japanese at King's College, London. Made emeritus professor, 1916. Chairman of the Japan Society, 1921-22. Publications included: Penal Code of Japan, 1877; The Regeneration of Japan (Cambridge Modern History), 1910; Japan (Nations of Today), 1923. (Kuwata, 2003, pp.341-342 citing F.O. List, The Times and Who was Who)

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/7

**Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Consular Staff. Hakodate. ¹⁵
(August 1895 – February 1900)**

L. A.M. Chalmers ¹⁶ (Acting Consul) to Satow

Hakodate,

August 14, 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

As you wish me to inform you privately of any small events at this port, you may perhaps like to hear of the arrival of Rear Admiral Macaroff [who died early in the Russo-Japanese War in 1904] on the “Nicholas I”, which came in about 5 yesterday, and was at once saluted by H.M.S. “Caroline”. This morning a small Japanese man of war [warship] entered and saluted the Admiral. He leaves again this evening for Vladivostock.

I see in all the papers that Admiral [Alexander] Buller [of the China squadron] was entertained by the enterprising residents of Hakodate. This of course is true enough but Admiral Buller was particular in accepting the invitation in a private capacity, and not as for an official reception, though this does not seem to have been made clear to the newspaper editors. The matter does not seem, however, to have excited the universal interest that was, I think, fondly hoped for. The affair consisted only of a garden party where some Tokio [sumo ?] wrestlers performed and was really a very mild affair.

¹⁵ Hakodate was one of the first three open ports, with Kanagawa (Yokohama) and Nagasaki in 1859.

“Hakodate had been opened originally to meet the needs of the North Pacific whaling ships, and the decline of the whaling industry left it a port without a purpose, too far north to be on a regular trading route. It always had a few foreign residents, but they were not highly regarded by other foreigners in Japan. Missionaries in particular felt that the moral standards of the foreign residents of Hakodate left much to be desired, but even Ernest Satow was unimpressed by Hakodate’s foreign population [See diary, PRO 30/33 15/1, 5 October 1864]. The Russian naval establishment at Hakodate, which was once so great that many foreigners thought that Russia would annex the northern island, was gradually run down in the 1870s, thus adding further to the decline of the port. Some expected that the Japanese experiment of a colonization department, the *kaitakushi* [開拓使] would lead to a revival of Hakodate. A number of foreigners were employed as advisers on the project, but the high hopes proved unfounded and the project was abandoned in 1881. The growth of pelagic seal fishing in the 1880s made Hakodate somewhat more busy, but made little difference to the foreign community. They remained outside the currents affecting other foreigners, so remote that no life assurance company in Europe or America would issue a policy for a resident.” (J.E. Hoare, *Japan’s Treaty Ports and Foreign Settlements*, Japan Library, 1994, pp. 18-19)

¹⁶ Arthur Morison Chalmers (1862-1949). Student Interpreter in Japan, 1882. Promoted to 2nd Assistant, 1887. Acting Consul at Hakodate in 1895 and 1896. Promoted to 1st Assistant, August 8, 1896. Acting Vice-Consul at Hiogo, 1896. Acting Registrar in the Court at Yokohama, 1897 and 1898. Acting Consul in Hakodate in 1899 and 1900. Consul for Shimonoseki, 1903. Consul-General for Korea, 1912. Consul-General at Yokohama, 1914-20. (Kuwata, 2003, p.218 quoting F.O. List, 1951)

Since my arrival here I have seen neither the Governor, Mr. Kitagaki [Kunimichi, 北垣国道 1836-1915]¹⁷, nor his representative, as both have been for some months in Tokio, but as everything goes smoothly in the meantime, I suppose there is not much work for them during the summer months.

The customs superintendent at Niigata is disposing of the Consulate effects by auction as directed by Mr. [Gerard Augustus] Lowther in his desp. No. 5, and I will write officially when I get full particulars. With kind regards

Yours sincerely

A.M. Chalmers

¹⁷ When Satow met his old friend Baron Kitagaki on November 23, 1896 he had become Vice Minister of the Colonization Department (Diary, Ruxton, 2003, p.140). He had also been Governor of Kyoto.

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/8

**Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Consular Staff. Kobe.
(August 1895 – August 1898)**

1. Consul Enslie to Satow, who had arrived in Japan to be Minister on July 28, 1895

Kobe

August 7, 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

I shall be very pleased to meet your wishes as regards writing privately about political and other matters, but I trust that if you do not hear from me you will bear in mind that Kobe is not exactly the place for interesting news.

I heard quite recently on very good authority that the general attitude of Japanese in Korea towards foreigners is far from being pleasant. General intrigues and the inferior class of Japanese residing there account for this to a great extent.

Within the last few weeks a foreigner in Chemulpo [Inchon] got a piece of land within the limits of the Japanese settlement but the Consul (Japanese) would not allow him to hold it, and his action was supported by the Tokio Authorities.

On the other hand I am told that such a restriction does not apply to the Japanese in the so-called foreign settlement.

Yours very truly,

J.J. Enslie

James Joseph Enslie was appointed Consul for Hiogo and Osaka on October 1, 1888. He died on June 14, 1896, as a letter from F.W. Playfair to Satow in this file explains (no. 24 below).

2. Consul Enslie to Satow

Kobe

14 Sept. 1895

Dear Sir Ernest,

I thank you very much for the intentions expressed of looking into the questions entrusted to you in my private letter. I do not intend to trouble you with any more correspondence on the subject, but wish to add a few words in reply to your note of 11th inst.

I quite recognize there might be some difficulty about getting both Vice Consul and additional assistant.

What would however be comparatively easy is to recommend the appointment of a Vice-Consul in addition to the present staff of two Assistants. Such a proposal would certainly be fully justified by the remarkable and steady increase in the trade and shipping of this Port, and the volume of work in the Consulate.

If a Vice-Consul is appointed it appears to me that his title should be as in the old days, Vice-Consul for Hiogo and Osaka, and his duties such as the Consul may in the interest of the Public service determine; as regards judicial work, the practice followed in Yokohama would probably not be inconvenient.

Can anything be done with a view to letting the staff have the autumn holiday referred to in my former letter. Assuming that each Officer takes one month, this Office would have to be run during a period of three months by two men only; the requirements of the Public could not be met, and work would fall in arrear.

In connection with the recent arrival of the new Chinese Minister, I am told that the American consul has written to the Chiji [prefectural governor] complaining that though in charge of Chinese interests he had not been informed of the arrival. I don't exactly see how this duty of notifying the Consul devolved on the Japanese Authorities.

Yours very truly,

J.J. Enslie

Satow Papers: PRO 30/33 5/10

Correspondence and Papers (private). Japanese Mission. Consular Staff. Nagasaki.

(August 1895 – February 1900)

1. Consul John James Quin to Satow

John James Quin had been appointed a Student Interpreter in Japan on August 3, 1867. Consul at Nagasaki since October 1, 1888. He retired on a pension on November 11, 1896 and died at Kingstown, Ireland on February 2, 1897 (F.O. List, 1898 as quoted in Kuwata, 1996, p.108)

Nagasaki.

23rd Aug. 1895

My dear Sir Ernest Satow,

I have been beastly ill for nearly a year now off and on. I have no appetite and when I try to eat I am at once (sea ?) sick. I have been now for some months on a diet of plain milk and rice, and was in hopes that such a simple diet would re-establish my digestive organs, but contrariwise I am feeling worse. I am either suffering from sprue [a digestive disease, also called celiac disease] or dyspepsia [indigestion] or something of that kind, and the local medicos [doctors] do nothing for me. So if you can let me go, on say a fortnight's sick leave, I should be very much obliged. I had hoped to wait till October and then ask for leave to go North after sending off my quarter's accounts but my patience is quite exhausted, and every one seems to think I should get good advice in Shanghai. If I get cured, would it be possible to get further leave later on ?

There is nothing at all going on here. We hear of cholera, but no one takes any heed of it. I shall be most happy to write to you often if you care to hear from me.

The mail takes three or four days to get up, and as many to come down, so I trust that if you grant me leave, to have [Ralph George Elliott] Forster's authority to act, in my hands by the end of the month. I will of course notify you officially when I leave.

I hope your trip to the hills has rested you.

Yours very truly

John J. Quin

-----END OF PREVIEW-----

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It is also available (as a paperback only) on [amazon.com](#) , [amazon.co.uk](#) and [amazon.co.jp](#).

The storefront of fellow Lulu creator John Haines:

<http://www.lulu.com/Josh-Rogan>