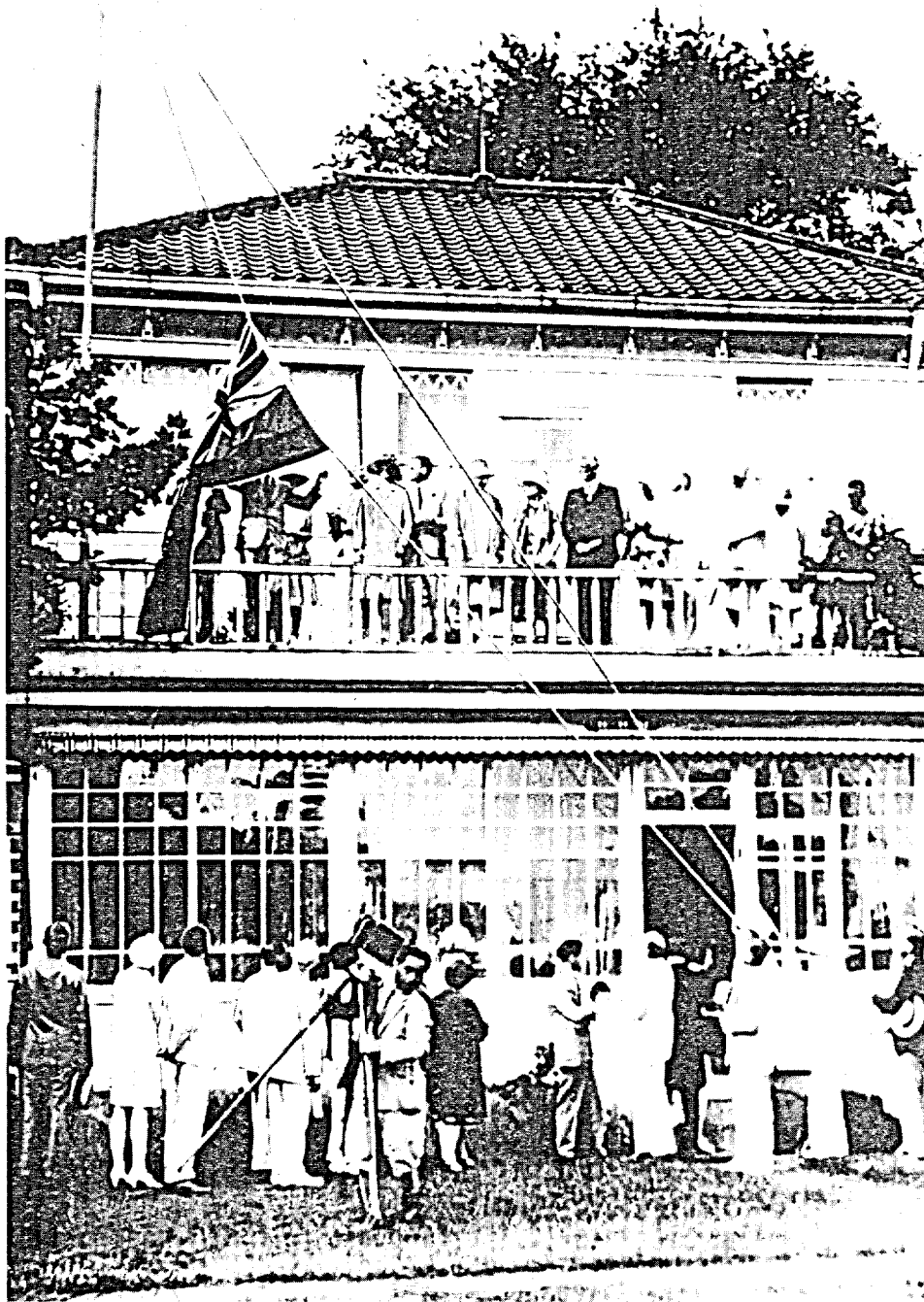


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JAPAN AND CANADA: 1867 - 1988

Moments In The History We Share



First Raising of Canada's Flag in Tokyo (and all of Asia): July 1, 1929.

...On July 1, 1867, just one year before the Meiji Restoration signalled the birth of modern Japan, the Canadian Confederation joining Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick came into existence...

...The first Japanese to land in Canada were reportedly shipwrecked sailors who came ashore in British Columbia during the early nineteenth century. The first known Japanese arrival, Manzo Nagano (Jack Nagano), a sailor, landed in New Westminster in May 1877 and spent 46 years in Canada, prospering as a fisherman, longshoreman, and storekeeper, before returning to Nagasaki in 1923. A mountain in British Columbia is named after him...

...The first Canadians to reach Japan (1873) were Davidson MacDonald and George Cochrane, Methodist missionaries, who not only preached the Christian Gospel, but transmitted their knowledge of medicine, history, language, and science to the Japanese...

...The Anglo-Japanese Alliance of 1902 made Canada and Japan allies. When Japan defeated Russia in the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 many Canadians applauded "gallant little Japan" for defeating Britain's arch enemy, "the Russian bear". The victorious admiral, Heihachiro Togo, was among the earliest prominent Japanese to visit Canada...

...Hirobumi Ito, the father of the Meiji Constitution, and Prince Tomosada Iwakura, leader of the Iwakura Mission which laid the groundwork for a modern state in Japan, both visited Canada early in the century...

...In July 1914 a flotilla of German warships from Tsingtao commanded by Admiral Maximilian Graf von Spee approached the virtually undefended Pacific Coast. Canada had only one obsolete light cruiser, the *H.M.C.S. Rainbow*. Japan, in observance of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance, sent the battleship *Izumo* and the cruiser *Asama* to help defend Vancouver. The German squadron, however, turned south from San Francisco and was destroyed by a British squadron...

...Canadian Prime Minister W.L. MacKenzie King decided in the late 1920s that Canada should have representatives in the capitals of the four great powers, Washington, London, Paris and Tokyo. He sent Herbert Marler, Canada's first Minister to Japan in September 1929...

...The Canadian flag was first raised in Tokyo at the Canadian legation near Shibuya on July 1, 1929, by Dr. Hugh L. Keenleyside, Chargé d'Affaires, who preceded Marler to Tokyo...

...During the depression of the 1930s, the Canadian government lacked the money to build a legation in Tokyo. Herbert Marler advanced the money (\$200 000) from his own pocket (at 6% interest), saving the Canadian government as much as \$250 000. Marler, who was knighted during his tenure in Tokyo, was repaid by the Canadian government five years later. Marler built what is still one of the handsomest diplomatic residences in Tokyo today, facing the palace of the Emperor's eldest brother. The building was named *Marler House* in the 1960s...

...Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida recalled to Arthur Menzies who was Chargé d'Affaires: "When I was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, I knew that Herbert Marler had been looking for a piece of property on which to build a legation. I was acquainted with a family that was having difficulty selling a well-situated property because it was alleged to be haunted by the ghosts of two suicides. It came to me in a flash that the property could be sold to the Canadians, since Westerners apprehended the presence of ghosts only when they heard the thud of heavy feet. Japanese ghosts, however, make no heavy footfalls but move silently on a wisp of smoke. I arranged to sell the property to Marler"...

...In the Pacific War (1941-1945) Canada and Japan were on opposite sides of the conflict. Canada moved quickly towards reconciliation with Japan after the war. The head of Canada's liaison mission to Japan, Dr. E. Herbert Norman, a brilliant Japanologist born and raised in Japan, was an advisor to General Douglas MacArthur, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers. Norman also served on the Far Eastern Commission and helped in the shaping of Occupation policy and the writing of the San Francisco Peace Treaty of September 1951...

...From January in 1947 until later that year Marler House was shared with international judges sent to participate in war crime trials...

...The bilateral trade volume rose from \$500 000 in 1880 to some \$55 million in 1929, declining somewhat during the tensions of the thirties. After the Second World War, trade increased to more than \$130 million by 1953. The trade balance heavily favoured Canada...

...Japan's first ambassador to Canada, Sadao Iguchi, a former Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs under Prime Minister Yoshida, was appointed in June 1952. He said that he was treated with respect and not "as the Ambassador of a defeated nation"...

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...Canada's first ambassador to Japan was a Cabinet member (Minister of Fisheries), Robert W. Mayhew, who was posted to Japan in November 1952. A number of bilateral agreements were negotiated dealing with commerce, airline traffic, and the waiving of visa fees. C.D. Howe, Canada's Minister of Trade commented: "Japan has already become our third largest customer. It seems probable that Japan will continue in the future to increase in importance as a market"...

...Crown Prince Akihito visited Canada as early as 1953, and his aunt and uncle, Prince and Princess Takamatsu, representing the Emperor and Empress of Japan, visited Canada in 1967 on the occasion of Montreal's Expo '67...

...Seven Japanese prime ministers have visited Canada — Shigeru Yoshida (1954), Nobusuke Kishi (1960), Hayato Ikeda (1961), Kakuei Tanaka (1974), Masayoshi Ohira (1980), Zenko Suzuki (1981), Yasuhiro Nakasone (1986). Japan's Prime Minister Noboru Takeshita is the eighth to visit Canada...

...Bilateral trade which was \$115 million in 1952 increased tenfold to \$1.1 billion by 1969. In 1986 it had reached \$13.6 billion.

...Former Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce Jean Luc Pepin once commented that we were the perpetual purveyors of "rocks and logs" for the Japanese market. Virtually all Canadian imports from Japan are fully manufactured goods. The 1986 Japanese Investment Mission however, discovered a "New Canada", a "High-Tech Canada"...

...Until 1983, for more than two decades, the trade balance favoured Canada by an average of close to a billion dollars per year. Since 1984, however, Canada has run a trade deficit with Japan — \$82 million in 1984, \$368 million in 1985, \$1.72 billion in 1986. The deficit is expected to be smaller in 1987...

...Five Canadian prime ministers have visited Japan: Louis St. Laurent (1954), John C. Diefenbaker (1961), Pierre Elliott Trudeau (who has been to Japan half a dozen times, but whose official visits came in 1970 and 1976), Joe Clark (who attended a summit meeting in 1979 within a few weeks of becoming prime minister) and Brian Mulroney (1986)...

...Their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Takamado (he is a nephew of the Emperor of Japan) visited Canada for nine days in May 1987, stopping in Ontario, Quebec, Alberta, and British Columbia. Prince Takamado studied for three years at Queens University in Kingston (1978-1981). In Japan the Prince is the Patron of the Canada-Japan Society...

...The Japan-Canada Businessmen's Conference is co-chaired by Mr. David Culver (President of Alcan Aluminum Ltd.) and by Mr. Minoru Kanao (Chairman of the Board of Nippon Kokan Steel Company). The conference was formed in Tokyo in 1978 and has met annually, alternating between major cities in Canada and Japan. Canada's Ambassador to Japan, Barry C. Steers, has called it "the strongest bilateral business group between Canada and any other country"...

...Some 34 Canadian communities have established sister-city affiliations with comparable communities in Japan, a practise referred to as "twinning". The first twinning was between New Westminster, B.C. and Meriguchi City in Osaka Prefecture in 1962. In 1980 the province of Alberta twinned with the island of Hokkaido. Twinning involves mutual goodwill visits, youth exchanges, educational and cultural missions, and exchanges of art, technology, animals and plants...

...In 1986, 235 000 Japanese tourists visited Canada, up from 174 500 in 1985. Some 45 000 Canadians visited Japan in 1986...

...The Canada-Japan Trade Council, an Ottawa-based non-profit trade promotion organization, was formed in 1961. The council has 500 Japanese and Canadian corporate members and distributes its monthly newsletter to some 4 000 interested parties all over the world. It publishes special studies on various aspects of trade and investment between Canada and Japan and periodically organizes special symposia for people and corporations interested in the Canada-Japan trade relationship...