

British Foreign Office: Japan Correspondence 1930–1940

GUIDE

to
The Scholarly Resources microfilm edition of
the Public Record Office Collection
Text: F.O. 371

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INTRODUCTION

Content and Organization of the Foreign Office Records

The British Foreign Office Records of General Political Correspondence for Japan, 1930-1940, in F.O. 371, is a collection of documents describing British foreign affairs concerning Japan. These documents provide a wealth of information on governmental, political, military, and economic affairs in Japan as well as policies and events in Anglo-Japanese relations.

The correspondence in this collection consists primarily of communications between the Foreign Office and various British embassies and consulates in Japan. These records are the London files, containing material received from abroad or from London departments outside the Foreign Office, and drafts of material originating in and sent out of London. In addition, the collection includes public proclamations by various national leaders, governments, and organizations, communications with foreign governments, pertinent publications, personal requests made of the Foreign Office by private citizens and groups, and records of questions asked by Members of Parliament directed to the Foreign Office. Many miscellaneous despatches and papers round out the body of the annual correspondence.

Each document arriving at the Foreign Office was processed by the Opening Branch, which identified the origin and sender and the country to which an incoming paper pertained. The document was then sent to the appropriate division of the Archives Branch according to geographical region. Each division of the Archives Branch assigned its documents registry numbers from its own annual series. The Japan Correspondence was sent to the Far Eastern Department, which identified itself by preceding its registry numbers with the letter "F." After a document had been assigned a registry number, it was assigned a "kept with" or file number. The file number was usually the same as the registry number of the first document in the file. Files ran in length from one document (i.e. "kept with" itself) to many documents totaling hundreds of pages. After filing, the document was indexed according to the country that it concerned. The index number for Japan is 23. At the end of every year, the files were bound together into volumes. Page numbers were assigned at this stage, with stamped pagination beginning at page 1 for each volume.

Scholarly Resources has published the bound volumes of the Japan Correspondence, 1930-1940, on reels of microfilm. The reels consist of from two to four complete volumes and are numbered consecutively with each year beginning at reel 1.

Format of the Scholarly Resources Guide to Japanese Correspondence,
1930-1940, F.O. 371

The Subject Guide to the Scholarly Resources edition of the British Foreign Office Japan Correspondence, 1930-1940, F.O. 371, lists each file in the order in which it appears in the volumes of correspondence, followed by a condensed description of the documents it contains.

The Subject Guide has a new heading for every change in year, microfilm reel, or volume. The secondary heading identifies the columns for the reference registry number of the first document in each subject description

group (DOCUMENT), the number of each file (FILE), a subject description of the documents (SUBJECT), and the page number of the first document in each subject group (PAGE).

Document subjects have been arbitrarily divided into subject groups that are a maximum of two typed lines long. Semicolons separate different document subjects within a subject group. The document number given for each subject group refers only to the first subject in the group; subsequent subjects' document numbers are not listed but follow that of the first subject. Similarly, the page number given for each subject group refers only to the location of the first subject in the group. Subsequent subjects in the group appear on pages after that of the first subject and before that of the next subject group.

To illustrate: "Japanese imports into Australia; Import duty imposed by Kobe Customs on Catalpo China; Japanese anti-dumping laws" is a subject group. It is found in File 32. Document number 32 refers to a document on the subject of "Japanese imports into Australia." "Japanese anti-dumping laws" will have a document number higher than 32 but lower than 2453, since document 2453 is also in File 32, and document numbers run in ascending order within files. "Japanese imports into Australia" starts on page 3; "Japanese anti-dumping laws" appears after page 3 but before page 32.

It is important for the researcher to note that within subject groups, a subject is listed only the first time it appears. Thus there may be several documents on the same subject within a subject group, with only the first one mentioned. Researchers should scan all pages included in a subject group to determine whether more than one document on their desired subject occurs there.

Document Retrieval

To locate a document on a desired subject using the Subject Guide, check the page number of the subject group in which the desired subject occurs. The document will follow this page number and precede the next page number listed. The heading then supplies the proper year, microfilm reel, and volume in which to find the document.

For example: If the researcher wants to retrieve a document dealing with "Import of rice and paddy into Japan," he or she proceeds to page 71 of volume 14751 on reel 1 of 1930.

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YEAR: 1930 ← REEL: ① ← VOLUME: 14751 ←			
DOCUMENT	FILE	SUBJECT	PAGE
16	16	Trade unionism in Japan-----	1
32	32	Japanese imports into Australia; Import duty imposed by Kobe Customs on Catalpo China; Japanese anti-dumping laws-----	3
2453	"	Visit of Mr. J. J. Kennedy to Japan; Japanese anti-dumping law; Japanese customs tariff; Import duty imposed by Kobe customs-----	32
6088	"	Import of rice and paddy into Japan---TO FIND, GO TO---	71
33	33	Protection of trade marks in Kwantung leased Territory; Sale of Japanese goods bearing false indications of origin-----	76
1173	"	Unfair trade competition in Japan; Change in practice of Japanese Patent Bureau; Japanese manufactured whiskey-----	99
4033	"	Japanese cycles branded as being of British origin; Registration in Japan of misleading trade marks-----	110
34	34	Corruption amongst members of late and present Japanese Governments; Dissolution of Japanese parliament-----	131
960	"	Yamanashi scandals in Korea; Japanese political situations; Japanese elections-----	142
2188	"	Exclusion of single women from Japanese Imperial garden parties; Instruction of Prince Takamatsu in Christian doctrines-----	185
2472	"	Tenure of office of Minister of Finance by M. Inouye Junnosuke; Proceedings in Japanese Diet; Arrest of communists in Japan-----	193

SAMPLE DOCKET (1930-1940)

1. Year - The current year was written or stamped on all documents by the Opening Branch.
2. Department - The department code was also stamped by the Opening Branch. "F" designates the Far Eastern Department.
3. Country - The country to which the document pertained was stamped by the Archives Branch division that handled the document.
4. Page Number - This number was stamped consecutively on every page of each document when files were bound into volumes at the end of each year. Pagination always begins anew with each volume. These numbers, for reference documents in the Subject Guide, are listed under the PAGE heading.
5. Registry Number* and Date of Receipt - When a document was received by a division of the Archives Branch, it was assigned a registry number from the annual series of that division, which was stamped in the upper right corner of the document's docket sheet along with the date of receipt. The registry numbers from each departmental series were preceded by the department code letter--"F" for Far Eastern, in the case of Japan.

*Note: In the Subject Guide, the column containing the reference registry numbers is labeled DOCUMENT, to distinguish these numbers from the full registry numbers (see item 6 below).
6. Full Registry Number - Typed under the heading of "Registry Number," this number is in fact the full registry number. It consists of the departmental letter code ("F" for Far Eastern in this case), the registry number for the document (item 5 above), the file number for the document, and the index number indicating the country to which the document pertains (in this case, Japan's index number 23). This full registry number is very important because the file number appears here and nowhere else on the docket. The file numbers for reference documents in the Subject Guide are listed under the FILE heading.
7. Origin of the Document and Identification - This box and the "Subject" box to the right of it (see item 8 below) were typed from information supplied by the appropriate Section Clerk, in four copies. The original was gummed to the docket sheet, the copies going to the précis jacket, the Day Book, and the Chronological File, insuring uniformity of cross-referencing information. Under the heading "Registry Number" was typed the full registry number. Also typed are the author of the document and place of origin, the number of the document in the sender's local correspondence series, the date of the document, the date of its receipt, and the departmental

2 →

1 →

3 →

6 → Registry Number } F 965/32 /23

7 → FROM Sir J. Tilley.
(Tokyo)

No. 22

Dated 20th Jan:1930.

Received in Registry 18th Feb:1930

F: Japan.

Last Paper.

9 → F32

10 → References.
F 4062/139/23/1919

11 →

12 → (Print.)

13 → (How disposed of.)
Fit INT } 26025
DOT

14 → (Action completed.) 3

15 → (Index.) 13/3

16 → Next Paper
F 2175

F

E 965
 12 FEB 1930

Import duty imposed by Kobe Customs on Catalpo China clay.

Refers to Tokyo despatch No. 417 of 1st October 1929 (F5589/139/23/1929)

Transmits copy note addressed to Minister for Foreign Affairs regarding ruling by Kobe Customs that Catalpo clay must pay import duty of 25%, also copy of letter from chief of Commercial Bureau of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to Commercial Counsellor from enclosures of which it will be seen that question of tariff classification of Catalpo clay has been under consideration since beginning of September 1929.

(Minutes.)

can not ref. DOT.

Comments

21/2

Macmillan 21/2

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE					
1	2	3	4	5	6

F.O. 371/14751

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designation letter, followed by the name of the country to which the document pertained. If the document was a telegram, the words "Telegram From" appear below the registry number, and the docket was printed in red. Dockets were normally printed in black, with secret documents distinguished by a band of green stripes across the top of the docket. Parliamentary questions were handled by gumming a copy of the question to be asked from the printed minutes, and "Parliamentary Question" was stamped in the Origin box. The Foreign Office reply was taken from the printed report of the session and gummed either below the printed question on the docket or inside the docket on the continuation of the "Minutes" section.

8. Subject - This box is the other part of the typed paper gummed to the docket sheet. It consists of a brief title for the document followed by a précis of the document's contents.
9. Last Paper - This is the number of the previous document in the case or file. It may refer to a document in the same case in a previous year, usually with a different file number than that of this document's file.
10. References - This box lists documents in the file, both forward and backward, which are particularly relevant to this document.
11. Minutes - These notations, which may run to several pages within the docket, include any comments and instructions pertaining to the document, with the initials of all those who read the docket. This section therefore records the progress of the document through the clerks and secretaries of the Foreign Office, and sometimes to the foreign minister.
12. Print - A notation in this box indicates an order for the document to be printed in the CONFIDENTIAL PRINT of the Foreign Office.
13. How Disposed Of - This box contains notations of copies of the document sent to other departments, missions, or embassies, usually as a result of instructions found in the "Minutes" section. The tick marks in this box indicate those actions completed and entered in the General Register.
14. Action Completed - This box contains the initials of the Sub-Registry Clerk responsible for the paper, indicating that he has checked that every direction given in the "Minutes" has been carried out.
15. Index - This box contains the initials of the clerk in the Main Index Branch who indexed the document.
16. Next Paper - When the next document in the file came in, its registry number was entered here.

17. Target - A target accompanies every text page photographed by the Public Record Office. It includes the Record Class of General Correspondence for Political Affairs--F.O. 371--followed by the number of the volume. The page numbers given in the Subject Index refer to these volume numbers.

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YEAR: 1930		REEL: 1	VOLUME: 14751		
DOCUMENT	FILE	SUBJECT		PAGE	
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32	32	Japanese imports into Australia; Import duty imposed by Kobe Customs on Catalpo China; Japanese anti-dumping laws-----		3	
2453	"	Visit of Mr. J. J. Kennedy to Japan; Japanese anti-dumping law; Japanese customs tariff; Import duty imposed by Kobe customs-----		32	
6088	"	Import of rice and paddy into Japan-----		71	
33	33	Protection of trade marks in Kwantung leased Territory; Sale of Japanese goods bearing false indications of origin-----		76	
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4033	"	Japanese cycles branded as being of British origin; Registration in Japan of misleading trade marks-----		110	
34	34	Corruption amongst members of late and present Japanese Governments; Dissolution of Japanese parliament-----		131	
960	"	Yamanashi scandals in Korea; Japanese political situations; Japanese elections-----		142	
2188	"	Exclusion of single women from Japanese Imperial garden parties; Instruction of Prince Takamatsu in Christian doctrines-----		185	
2472	"	Tenure of office of Minister of Finance by M. Inouye Junnosuke; Proceedings in Japanese Diet; Arrest of communists in Japan-----		193	
3161	"	Opportunities for Catholic faith in Japan; Proceedings of Japanese Diet; Granting some Municipal rights to Japanese women-----		207	
3644	"	Japanese law regarding burglaries and to social work; Japanese elections; Situation in Kobe Consular District-----		229	
4711	"	Labour organisation in Japan; Arrest of Korean Communists in Japan-----		247	
YEAR: 1930		REEL: 1	VOLUME: 14752		
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6151	"	Resignation of Japanese Minister of Marine; Revision of Election Law in Japan; Retirement of Japanese Ambassador at Brussels-----		25	
6449	"	Attempted assassination of Japanese Prime Minister; Japanese Privy Council; Alleged corrupt practices by Japanese Govt. officials-----		35	
6783	"	Military training and development of loyalty to army in Japan; Labour movement in Japan; Attempt on life of Japanese prime minister-----		59	
35	35	Application of Anglo-Japanese Treaty of Commerce and Navigation to certain British colonies-----		75	
36	36	Anglo-Japanese agreement for reciprocal exemption of shipping business from taxation-----		82	
99	99	Japanese immigration into Brazil-----		107	
115	115	Shale oil production at Fushun; Petroleum refining in Japan; Oil production in Formosa-----		150	
187	187	Estate of Mr. Bilbrough in Korea; Claim of Mr. Bilbrough against Japanese Government-----		174	
206	206	Japanese finances; Recent Japanese Government Conversion loan; Japanese Budget-----		206	
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3656	206 (Cont.)	Japanese budget; Relief of economic distress in Japan; Japanese financial and tariff policy; Japanese campaign to support use of home products-----		1	
5925	"	Business depression in Japan; Japanese finance; Japanese industry and shipping-----		28	
294	294	Use of charcoal for Japanese motor vehicles; Japanese army-----		45	
437	437	Administration of Formosa; Annual report on Formosa for 1929; Scheme for production of electric power in Formosa-----		104	
7179	"	Uprising of aborigines in Formosa-----		124	
461	461	Visit of Miss E. Booth of Salvation Army to Japan-----		127	
565	565	Japanese-Soviet relations; Japanese attitude toward U.S.; Proposed Japanese representation at Holy See; Naval Conference-----		135	
3637	"	Firing on Japanese fishing vessels by Russian gunboat; Newly appointed German Consul at Osaka; Japanese Foreign policy-----		151	
650	650	Japanese cotton industry and Indian tax duties; Labour conditions in Japanese Cotton Industry; Japanese earthquake restoration-----		170	
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2493	650	Relations between British and Japanese cotton industries; New Indian duties on cotton textiles; Japanese cotton industry-----	1
785	(Cont.) 785	Cruise of Japanese training squadron in 1931; Japanese naval estimates; Japanese "Grand" Naval Manoeuvres-----	92
819	819	Visit of M. Sung Soo Kim to U.K.-----	139
869	869	Japanese fishing craft in Andamans and Nicobar Waters; Poaching of Japanese vessels in territorial waters of Cocos Islands-----	142
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961	961	Indians at Kobe-----	223
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3292	961	Japanese interest in Indian affairs; Indian activities in Japan; Further manifesto by Pan-Asiatic League-----	1
7051	"	Publication of "Voice of India" in Japan-----	60
962	962	Report on Heads of Foreign Missions at Tokyo; U.S. representation in Japan; Japan's attitude on world movement to prevent war-----	67
963	963	Japanese attitude toward world pacifism-----	87
966	966	British subjects in Japan capable of acting as interpreters in Japanese-----	89
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1013	1013	Activities in Japan of Major Kowalewski-----	122
1070	1070	Acceptance of son of Japanese Vice Minister in Foreign Affairs at Cambridge University-----	124
1534	1534	Student troubles in Korea; Annual report on Korea for 1929; Administration in Korea; Tour of Consul-General White, Seoul-----	146
5560	"	Forests and forestry in Korea-----	184
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1675	(Cont.) 1675	Reconstruction work after Japanese earthquake; Earthquake in Izu peninsula-----	5
1963	1963	Kwantung Administration; Report on Kwantung Leased Territory and Japanese activities in Manchuria; Taxation in Kwantung-----	25
1974	1974	Books presented by British Government to Tokyo Imperial University Library-----	60
2622	2622	Annual report on Japan for 1929-----	86
2639	2639	Shakespeare gold medal of Tokyo University; Distribution of Shakespearean Works in Japan; Shakespeare Association in Japan-----	125
2643	2643	Taxation of insurance companies in Japan-----	138
2644	2644	Japanese personalities-----	158
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3074	3074	Visit of Prince Tokugawa to U.K.; Visit of Prince and Princess Takamatsu to Italy-----	229
4107	4107	Mining rights in State of Johore-----	252
5566	5566	Affairs of HongKong and Shanghai Bank in Japan-----	257
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6711	6711	Hydro-Electric development in Japan-----	127
6942	6942	Election of Emperor of Japan as Honorary Member of Linnean Society-----	139

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1687	"	Creation of urban district councils in Korea; Trial of Genl. Yamanashi; Local self-government in Korea-----	54
4118	"	Korean Administration; Communism in Korea-----	81
270	270	Labour disputes in the Osaka Prefecture; Japanese Labour Union Bill; Industrial disputes in Japan during 1930-----	95
280	280	Earthquake in the Izu district-----	132
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811	"	Japanese political situation; Franchise for women in Japan; Japanese Bill for the Control of the Staple Industries-----	150
2499	"	Rationalisation of Japanese industry; Political situation in Japan; Formation of new Japanese Government-----	199
4341	"	Attempted assassination of Mr. Hamaguchi-----	218
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4546	286	Labour movement in Japan; Death of Mr. Hamaguchi; Japan and disarmament; Proposed Administrative reorganisation in Japan-----	1
4888	(Cont.)	Japanese Staple Industries Control Bill; Resignation of Japanese Minister of Railways; Death of Mr. Hamaguchi-----	30
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7497	"	New Japanese Cabinet; Political situation in Japan-----	68
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4416	"	Hydro-electric power scheme in Formosa-----	107
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4885	"	Taxation of perpetual leasehold property in Japan; Recognition of special leasehold rights of German nationals-----	215
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296	(Cont.)	Application of Indian customs tariff to Japanese products-----	8
430	430	Opening of Yugoslav Legation in Tokyo; Heads of Missions in Japan-----	49
518	518	Japanese colonies in State of Amazonas; Japanese activities in Brazil; Japanese immigration into Columbia-----	60
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593	593	Closing down by Soviet Authorities of the branch of the Chosen Bank at Vladivostok Rate of exchange between Soviet Russia and Japan-----	138
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3351	"	Vladivostok Branch of Bank of Chosen; Soviet-Japanese fishery dispute; Wording of Soviet-Japanese Fishery Agreement-----	182
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1323	1323	Development of oil resources of Formosa; Soviet activities in oil trade in Kwantung Leased Territory; Agencies for gasoline in Dairen-----	11
1338	1338	Education and Administration in South Sea Islands under Japanese Mandate-----	22
1380	1380	Application by Japanese Company for Prospecting Licences in Johore-----	31
1384	1384	Japanese espionage case; Alleged sale of Japanese Naval secrets-----	40
1387	1387	Annual report on Korea for 1930-----	45
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YEAR: 1931		REEL: 2	VOLUME: 15520 (Cont.)	
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1411	1411	Japanese budget for 1931; Constitution of special Administrative and Financial Council; Japanese finances-----		94
1413	1413	Japanese foreign relations-----		135
1467	1467	Shooting of Commercial Counsellor of Soviet Embassy at Tokyo-----		161
1607	1607	Annual report on Japan for 1930-----		183
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DOCUMENT	FILE	SUBJECT		PAGE
1686	1686	Communist activities in Japan; Trial of Communists in Japan-----		1
1929	1929	Property of Mr. Bilbrough in Korea-----		34
1975	1975	Anglo-Japanese relations; Development of Japan-----		57
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4304	"	Anti-Chinese riots in Korea; Position of Korean farmers in Manchuria; Chinese hostility to Koreans in Manchuria-----		10
4556	"	Anti-Korean and Anti-Chinese incidents in Manchuria and Korea respectively; Sino-Korean incidents in Manchuria-----		36
6249	"	Anti-Chinese riots in Pingyang; "Taion" case; Tanhua-Kainei Railway; Korean farmers in Manchuria-----		95
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6250	6250	Japanese poor relief law-----		145
6986	6986	Purchase of war material from U.K. by Japan-----		158
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YEAR: 1932 REEL: 1 VOLUME: 16240			
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38	38	Cruise of Japanese vessels "Iwate" and "Asama"; Visit of Japanese naval training squadron to certain Dominion and Colonial ports-----	117
5810	"	Article on the history, aims and ideals of the Japanese Navy and the role it has played in the nation's life; Japanese naval policy-----	165
39	39	Reimposition in Japan of embargo on export of gold; Japanese finances; Gold embargo and Japanese woollen industry-----	193
2324	"	Effect of gold embargo on Japanese Artificial Silk Industry-----	239
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2469	39 (Cont.)	Economic conditions in Japan; Closing of banks in Nagoya district; Nationalization of industry in Japan-----	1
4205	"	Industrial situation in Japan; Seiyukai Five Year Plan; Silver loan for relief of Japanese losses at Shanghai-----	178
4847	"	Japanese financial legislation; Law to control foreign exchange dealings in Japan; Japanese estimates for 1932-1933-----	190
5773	"	Silver loan for relief of Japanese losses in China; Japanese financial situation; Japanese legislation on currency transactions-----	222
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8859	"	Japanese Budget for 1933-34; Acceptance of controls of foreign exchange-----	34
40	40	New Japanese Government; Attempted assassination of Japanese emperor; Japanese Cabinet; Japanese law for control of industries-----	48
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