

CrossTalk

July CROSSWORDS Language Studio's Newsletter 2007

LAVENDER

“Lavender”! Even the sound of its name invokes a sense of calm and **tranquillity**.

It has had a place in the minds and hearts of men and women since antiquity. A native of Southern Europe and North Africa, lavender's uses have been documented for over 2,500 years.

The word lavender comes from the Latin *lavandus* “to be washed,” or *lavare*, “to wash” and it has been **cherished** over the centuries for its wonderful fragrance and medicinal properties, not to mention its uses in the **culinary** arts. Indeed, a **staple** of modern Southern French cooking, “Herbs de Provence”, uses a **savory** herb blend with lavender as one of the main ingredients. For the less **utilitarian** among us, one can just simply enjoy lavender as a naturally beautiful ornamental shrub in the garden. To **gaze** at a single bush, or a field, of lavender in bloom has a therapeutic effect on most peoples' senses.

The Egyptians used lavender in their mummification rites and the ancient Romans used lavender oils for bathing (the probable origin of the name), cooking and scenting the air, as well as for its healing and antiseptic qualities, *and* its ability to **deter** insects!

Indeed, legends about lavender go all the way back to Adam and Eve who, it is said, took lavender with them when they were banished from the Garden of Eden. Lavender is often mentioned in the Bible, referred to as “spikenard”, as it was called then.

In Medieval times, people believed that a cross made of lavender hung over the door would **ward off** all kinds of disease and evil. Citizens of 17th century in London believed that a bunch of lavender tied around their wrist would protect them from the Great Plague.

Also, there is lavender and Love! The seductive power of its scent was used by Cleopatra to **entice** Julius Cesar *and* Mark Antony. Similarly, the Queen of Sheba offered spikenard (lavender) with frankincense and myrrh to King Solomon. In latter days, in Tudor times, if a maiden wanted to know the identity of her true love, she would sip a **brew** made with lavender on St. Luke's day while softly **murmuring**: “St. Luke, St. Luke, to me be kind. In my dreams, my true love I would find”!

Lavender! There are many elements of nature that, without experience of them, the human race would not be as it is today.



Glossary

(These words are in **colour** in the story)

tranquillity 静穏 **cherished** 大事に育てられた **culinary** 料理(法) **staple** 主要テーマ
savory 薫り高い **utilitarian** 効能 **gaze** 見つめる **deter** 阻止する **ward off** 撃退する
entice 誘惑する **brew** (ラベンダー)で出した飲み物 **murmuring** つぶやき(ながら)

A Word From Us



Joshua Says: So, now it's number three! Congratulations to Iain and Kyoko on the birth of their son, Kento. Ken is the third baby born to our staff this year. First, the stork brought Katie to proud dad Greg and mom Kasumi, next Natacha had her new baby son, Dominic, and now its Iain and Kyoko's turn; two boys and a girl, all in the same year! Watch out for some photos of Ken in next month's newsletter. And Iain, "have a cigar!"

Junko Says: Europe is experiencing one of the hottest summers in history this year. In fact, many people are dying from heat-exhaustion there. Until recently, I believed that unusually hot summers were something far away. But not any more! Now, towards the close of July, we are experiencing very hot weather. So, hang on everybody! Get plenty of water and nourishment to fight, and overcome, the effects of this heat and, wait patiently for Autumn to come around again.



Alice Says: Well, what do you think of the weather recently? Many people have told me how frustrated they were by the typhoon because it prevented them from doing the things they planned. Changing or canceling plans can certainly be irritating! However, "there are never problems, only opportunities!" Wise words. When you are stuck indoors because of the weather, why not follow the lead of some of our committed students who used the time to watch English movies on the internet? Perhaps you could put your new English skills to the test and join an online chat group too!



Iain Says: On Monday, July 16th at 3:10 in the afternoon my son Kento was born after 9 hours of labor. He weighed in at 7 pounds, that's 3200 grams. I was there with Kyoko when he was born. You'll have to ask me personally for all of the gory details if you want to know. One thing I will mention is that this hospital does "Kangaroo Care". After the baby is born, instead of taking him away to another room, they put him on the mothers chest for two hours. He hardly cried at all. He just breathed normally! That was very interesting.



Adrienne Says: My cat Jack, who used to be the "back-up" cat, but who became the main cat when his brother left home, is having emotional problems again. He was a very nervous, insecure cat until his brother went away. Well, the other day, one of my sons brought home a small kitten with a broken leg. The kitten loves Jack, but Jack does not return the love!



Greg Says: Many years ago in Scotland, a family had a dream to travel by ship to the USA. It took years to save enough money. A few days before their planned departure, the youngest son was bitten by a dog. The son was quarantined for 14 days because of rabies. His father was very depressed as he stood on the dock watching the boat leave England without him or his family. Five days later, the tragic news spread throughout Scotland that the mighty TITANIC had sunk. Although we may not always understand at the time, all things happen for a reason!!!!



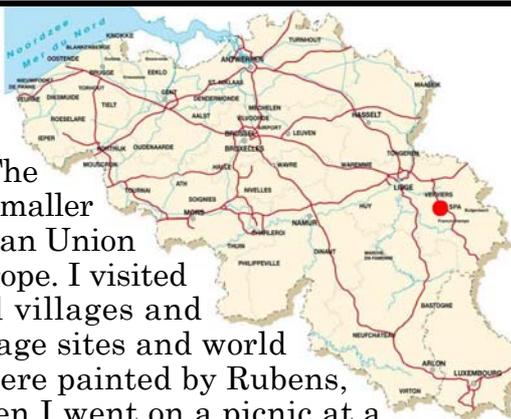
Dean Says: It must be baby season! Three people I know have just had babies, including Iain and his wife! Congratulations! It seems that as the rainy season finished, all these babies just started popping out!! So, this July could be called the baby month. So, rainy season, baby season and next it will be the hot season!



A Word From You

MY TRIP TO BELGIUM by Chiyoko (Mits. "B")

I went to Belgium to see the sights, and to get there, I first travelled through France. While in France, I dropped in at the Henry Matisse Museum which is in a small town made famous by this museum. After that, I crossed the border into Belgium. The Kingdom of Belgium is surrounded by four countries. Its area is smaller than Kyushu here in Japan, but the headquarters of the European Union is located in Brussels, Belgium's capital, so it's important in Europe. I visited Brussels, Mechelen, Gent, Antwerp, Brugge and other small villages and towns with many museums where I saw a lot of cultural heritage sites and world heritage sites. In a cathedral, I saw religious pictures. They were painted by Rubens, Rembrandt and the Van Eyck brothers, Jan and Hubert. When I went on a picnic at a sanctuary in the Zwin, I enjoyed bird watching. White storks build their nests on the rooftops of houses there. I enjoyed going down a canal on a sightseeing boat. The carillon bells made me feel calm. But when I took a horse and carriage to go sightseeing in the town, I felt I was being cruel to the horses and felt sad. Anyway, I enjoyed eating, travelling and sightseeing in Belgium.



The CHANCE Concert '07-07-01

Notice Board

Special guest, Y. Horio-san and his shamisen



Adrienne in concert



"The Alice Brown Trio" - with special thanks to Kirin Pan on guitar and Masami on keyboards.



Now wait... I know the answer to that question...



Iain, up to his old (and new) tricks again.



Three of the prettiest bells at the ball! - Yayo, Setsuko and Yukiko



Don't miss this year's Summer Roof-top B-B-Q Party
 Sunday: September 16th
 from: 5:00pm -
 Bring your favourite food and drinks,....
 and invite your friends to come along too!

Net News

NET LESSONS:

Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS to study? Try our *lessons on the internet* -- It's CROSSROADS in your home or office! You get CROSSROADS' great teachers, teaching programs, even classmates, *all on-line!* Call for details.

NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

For lots of info about lavender, go to:

http://www.uni-graz.at/~katzer/engl/Lava_ang.html

NET NOTEBOOK: Don't forget to take a look at the Internet activity notebook in our open-house. You'll find games, news and English learning sites.

Courses you can take at CROSSROADS

GENERAL COURSES:

2 x's 60mins / week
 1 x's 90mins / week
 Private 1 x / week
 Semi-Private 1 x / week

MOTHER & CHILD: group or private
KIDS: group or private



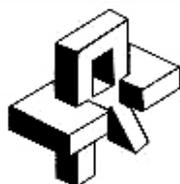
COSMOPOLITAN COURSES:

"Singing in English" with Alice
 Yoga with Dean
 Guitar with William
 "Cooking in English" with Alice & Dean
 "Magic English" with Iain
 Piano with Adrienne
 Acting with Alice

NETLESSONS:
 group or private



FRENCH with Natacha
 SPANISH with Patricio
 RUSSIAN with Natasha
 GERMAN with Marita & Matthias
 CHINESE with Noriko
 KOREAN with Kum Fa



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