

Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter, April 2010

Maundy Money

An ancient English tradition is observed every year on the Thursday before Easter: the Maundy ceremony. Commemorating the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, the monarch (at present, Queen Elizabeth II) presents special coins to deserving senior citizens (one woman and one man for every year of the monarch's age).



The Queen handing out Maundy money

Until the reign of James II (1633–1701) the monarch washed the feet of the selected poor people in memory of Jesus' washing of the feet of his disciples at the Last Supper. The ceremony dates back to at least the reign of Edward I (1239-1307), possibly as early as AD600.

The amount of money given out is one penny for every year of the monarch's age. Since 1822, special Maunday coins - 1, 2, 3 and 4 penny pieces – have been minted. Before then, ordinary coins were distributed. The monarch's head appears on one side of the coins but the design of the reverse side has remained almost unchanged since 1822. The coins are made of sterling silver (92.5% silver).



George III Maundy money (1818)

In 1971, British currency was decimalised. The old system of 240 pence to the pound was replaced by one where one pound equals 100 pence. The Maunday coins changed from being worth 1, 2, 3 and 4 old pence to their respective value in new pence – 2.4 times their original value. This is only their 'face value', however. Although they are 'legal tender', that is, they can be used to buy things just as normal coins can, it is unlikely you will find one in your change when on holiday in Britain as they are too collectible. And probably it would only be a coin collecting-cashier who would accept such coins, especially those dated before 1971 (when the old currency became obsolete).

In 2002, to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee, a special set of gold Maunday coins were minted. Fortunately, Maunday Thursday in that year did not fall on April 1st as it does this year (on this day - April Fools' day - English people play practical jokes on each other) otherwise the Queen may have been tempted to hand out coins made of Fool's Gold (the mineral, iron pyrite, which lends truth to the expression 'all that glitters is not gold')...

Article by Jonathan

Net News

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NET SITE OF THE MONTH:

Here's some info on Maundy Money: www.coinnews.net/2010/04/01/queen-hands-out-maundy-money-in-royal-service/

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.

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Yet, another great Performance Night last month! Our two groups just keep getting better and better. Congratulations to all of our “actors”, and especially to In(B)1’s Masa and Nozomi who had to carry the show on their own this term – talk about, “the show must go on!” In(A)1? Well, we don’t know how you manage it, but, you just keep getting better each term. Great job, everyone!

Junko Says: I would like to add a special thanks to Jonathan for performing on the guitar at last term’s Performance Night. All in all, the night turned out to be one of the best we have had here in our Okaido home. The new “stage” and Open House worked out better than the old format and it showed; the performances were really good this time. Even the party after was more fun than usual. Thanks to everyone who came along, performers, audience and teachers.



Jonathan Says: In England people will be running for cover this month: the frequent rain, usually short-lived has given rise to the expression ‘April Showers’. In fact, rain can come at any time of year in England. It seems particularly common during the Wimbledon fortnight when another expression - ‘Rain Stopped Play’ – is often heard to the dismay of tennis-lovers everywhere. I’m surprised to find Matsuyama is also rainy, and cold. I expected this in June but in spring? Just like England...

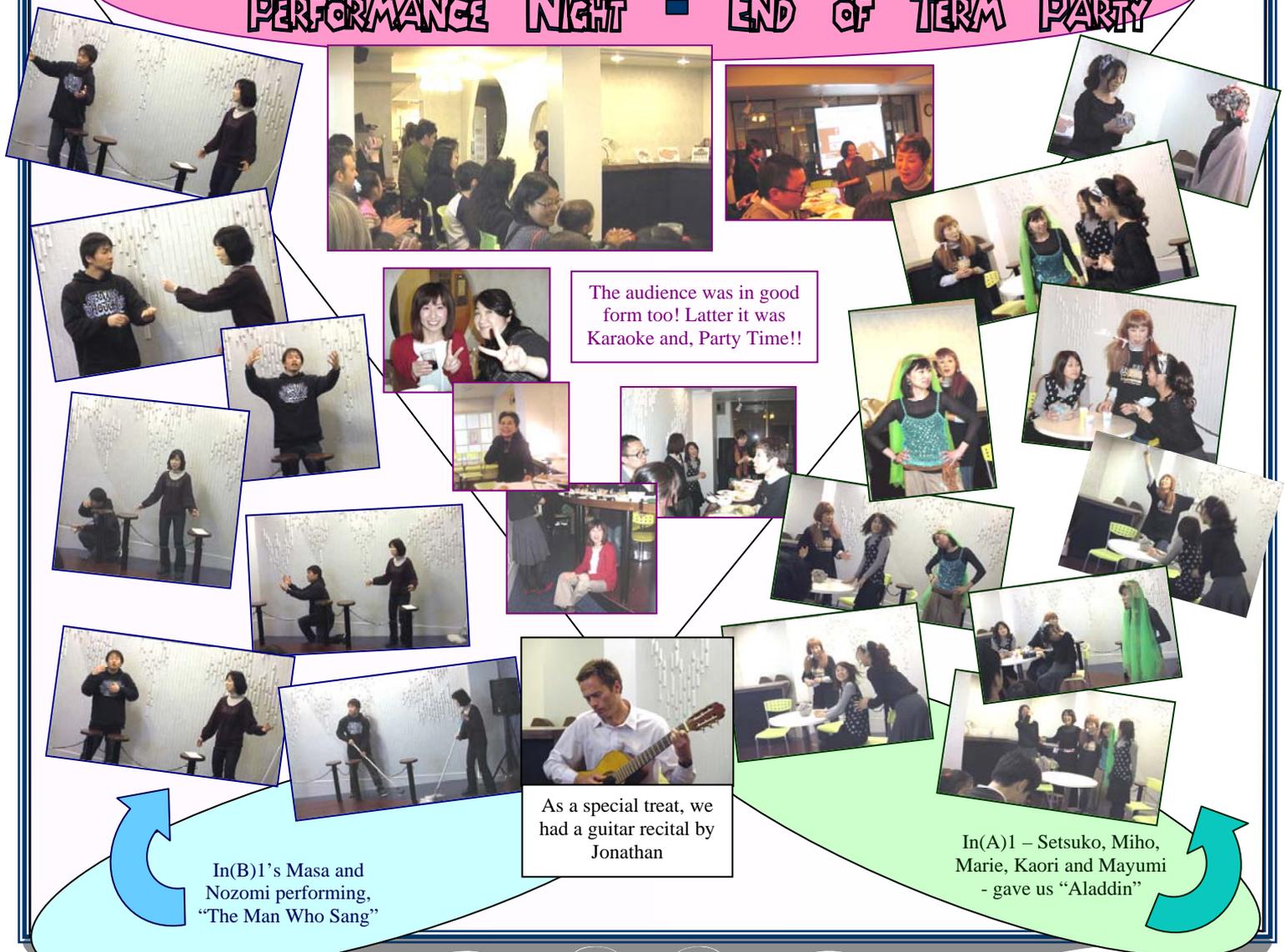
Greg Says: It is amazing how quickly the first few months zip by so fast in Japan. It seems like only yesterday it was January and now, here we are in April! The last two weeks flew by for me because I was the designated driver taking my daughter to her junior golf tournaments. Over 14 days she played 11 times in 4 prefectures. I don’t know who is more tired; her from playing or me from driving!!!



Kevin Dit: Le printemps est enfin arrivé ! Après un mois de mars froid et pluvieux, avril s'annonce radieux ! D'ailleurs, les fleurs de cerisiers ont fait leur apparition ! Etes-vous allés voir les fleurs avec votre famille ou vos amis ? J'aime beaucoup ce moment de l'année au Japon, tout le monde se réunit sous les cerisiers et l'ambiance est toujours très agréable ! "Au ciel s'en vont / les pétales des cerisiers / d'une seule envolée" disait Suyu Takano. Et oui, les fleurs de cerisiers seront bientôt tombées, et il faudra attendre une année encore, avant de pouvoir les observer à nouveau.

NOTICE BOARD

SOME SCENES FROM LAST TERM'S PERFORMANCE NIGHT - END OF TERM PARTY



The audience was in good form too! Latter it was Karaoke and, Party Time!!

As a special treat, we had a guitar recital by Jonathan

In(A)1 - Setsuko, Miho, Marie, Kaori and Mayumi - gave us "Aladdin"

In(B)1's Masa and Nozomi performing, "The Man Who Sang"

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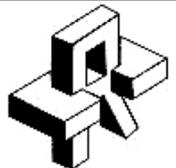
KIDS' (キッズ) クラス

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MOTHER & CHILD

(マザー&チャイルド)
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