

Reading about Japan at I-House Library

Sir David Warren reads from *The Custom House* by Francis King

Tuesday, **September 30, 2014, 7:00 pm**

The Library, International House of Japan

Reader: Sir David Warren (Chairman, the Japan Society)

Language: English (without Japanese interpretation)

Admission: 1,000 yen (IHJ Members & Library Members: free)

Seating: 45 (reservation required)



Francis King (1923-2011) was a British novelist, poet and short story writer, who published over 30 books. His literary career started while he was an undergraduate at Oxford. He first gained recognition when he received the W. Somerset Maugham Prize for his work *The Dividing Stream* (1951). As well as his creative career, he worked for the British Council. *The Custom House* (1961), *The Waves Behind the Boat* (1967), and *The Japanese Umbrella and Other Stories* (1964) which won the

Katherine Mansfield Short Story Prize, reflected his experiences as Regional Director of the British Council in Kyoto, from 1959 to 1963.

Sir David, Chairman of the Japan Society will read from *The Custom House*, and discuss it as a study of different cultures.

This session is highly recommended to those who have an interest in international cultural affairs. After the reading session all participants are invited to a small reception, with the opportunity to meet Sir David informally.



Photo: Miriam Berkley



Born in 1952. After reading English literature at Exeter College, Oxford, Sir David joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1975, and then filled various posts including Head of the Political Section in the British High Commission in Nairobi, Kenya, Commercial Counsellor in the British Embassy in Tokyo, Head of the FCO China Hong Kong Department, and Her Majesty's Ambassador to Japan from 2008 to 2012. He retired from the FCO in 2013. He is Chairman of the Japan Society of the UK, Chairman of the Council of the University of Kent, Visiting Professor at Sheffield and De Montfort Universities, a board member of The Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, Associate Fellow in the Asia-Pacific Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House. His publications include *UK/Japan Links and Foreign Policy*, *Asia-Pacific Review*, Volume 20, Issue 1, 2013. In 2012, he was made a Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George (KCMG).

CONTACT & RESERVATIONS

The Library, International House of Japan
(Mon. - Sat. 9 am - 6 pm)

tel: 03-3470-3213 e-mail: infolib@i-house.or.jp

http://www.i-house.or.jp/eng/programs/library_reading20140930/



公益財団法人 国際文化会館
International House of Japan

東京都港区六本木5-11-16

5-11-16, Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo