

Japanese emperor to reconnect with the River Thames in state visit meant to bolster ties with U.K.



1) Before Emperor Naruhito of Japan attends a banquet hosted by King Charles III, lays a wreath at Westminster Abbey, or tours one of Britain's premier biomedical research institutes, he'll kick off this week's trip to the U.K. by visiting a site that has special meaning for him: The Thames Barrier. [banquet 晩餐会 lay a wreath 花輪をささげる abbey 大寺院 premier 一流 biomedical 生物医学の]

2) While the retractable flood control gates on the River Thames don't top most lists of must-see tourist sights, the itinerary underscores the emperor's fascination with the waterway that is the throbbing heart of London. [retractable 格納できる、ひっこめられる underscore 強調する、重要性を明確にする fascination 魅了されること throbbing ドキドキする、動悸のする]

3) That interest was born 40 years ago when Naruhito studied 18th-century commerce on the river as a graduate student at the University of Oxford. But those two years, chronicled in his memoir "The Thames and I," also forged a special fondness for Britain and its people. The future emperor got a chance to live outside the palace walls, seeing the kindness of strangers who rushed to help when he dropped his purse, scattering coins across a shop floor, and experiencing traditions like the great British pub crawl. [chronicle 記録に留める memoir 回顧録 fondness 愛好、好み scatter まき散らす pub crawl (英俗)はしご酒]

4) "It would be impossible in Japan to go to a place where hardly anyone would know who I was," Naruhito wrote. "It is really important and precious to have the opportunity to be able to go privately at one's own pace where one wants."

5) Naruhito and Empress Masako, who studied at Oxford a few years after her husband, returned to the U.K. on Saturday for a weeklong stay combining the glitter and ceremony of a state visit with four days of less formal events that will allow the royal couple to revisit their personal connections to Britain. [glitter きらめき]中略

6) The trip, originally planned for 2020, was intended to be the emperor's first overseas visit after he ascended the Chrysanthemum Throne in 2019. But it was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic. He later attended Queen Elizabeth II's funeral. [ascend the Chrysanthemum Throne 皇位を継承する]

7) The state visit begins Tuesday, when Charles and Queen Camilla will formally welcome the emperor and empress before they take a ceremonial carriage ride to Buckingham Palace. Naruhito will also lay a wreath at the tomb of the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey then return to the palace for a state banquet. [the tomb of unknown soldier 無名兵士の墓 ⇒英国は正式には warrior]



8) But before the pomp and circumstance begins, Naruhito will visit The Thames Barrier, a series of retractable steel gates that protect London from flooding while allowing ships to continue navigating the river. After the state visit, he and his wife will have time to tour their old colleges at Oxford. [pomp 華やかさ circumstance ものものしさ、儀式ばったこと ※The Pomp and Circumstance 威風堂々]

9) It was at Merton College that the future emperor, who was born Hironomiya Naruhito, was known simply as Hiro because it was easier for faculty and students to remember the nickname (and because the prince liked the sound of it), he wrote in "The Thames and I." "One of his greatest joys at Merton was to go to the Middle Common Room, a meeting place for graduate students, to drink coffee and talk with other students after lunch. "These moments, with my fellow students, brief as they were, were very important for me," Naruhito wrote. 後略 【2024-06-24 | THE ASSOCIATED PRESS】

★Icebreaker for active discussion

1. The Emperor's research topic is related to water. How important is water to mankind?
2. How do you feel about being destined to become emperor? A debate about female emperors is underway. what is your take on it?
3. In your opinion, what are the good points of goodwill diplomacy among Imperial families?
4. Make sentences using the following words: premier, retractable, fascination, chronicle, scatter, and ascend..