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The fourth annual convention of the George Eliot Fellowship of Japan was held at Kinki University in Osaka on Saturday, 25 November 2000.

The morning session began with a welcome speech by Norio Murase, Dean of the Literature Department of Kinki University. He said, ‘George Eliot seems to be similar to Nukada-nookimi, a famous poet of Mayoshu, the oldest collected Japanese verses, in the seventh century, not in appearance, but in abundance of feeling.’

The first paper, ‘Clothing in Janet’s Repentance’, was presented by Masae Ukawa, a full-time lecturer at Kurashiki University of Science and the Arts. She observed the trouble and the change of people’s mind through the description of the main characters’ dresses and ornaments and concluded that the religious conflicts in the story’s background affected their choice of clothes. Fumiko Nishiyama, a graduate student from Kobe University, presented the second paper, ‘Hesitation to Progress: the Paradigm of Degeneration in Daniel Deronda’. She pointed out that people of the upper class, and the middle class that Gwendolen belonged to, were unsteady and uncertain in their mind, and that made her nervous. In the third paper, Yoko Nagai, a full-time lecturer at Keio University, explained the motif of the play, ‘Adam Bede’, the manuscript of which she read at the British Museum. Then she referred to the play Gwendolen played in the novel, Daniel Deronda. She discussed the relationship between Victorian novels and plays.

The afternoon session began with the general meeting, presided over by Yoshitsugu Uchida, a professor at Kansai Gaidai University. Nobutetsu Fukunaga, a professor at Okayama University, reported that the British members of the George Eliot Fellowship, whom met in Nuneaton in 2000, thanked the Japanese members for the bench, a present from the Japanese Branch.
After that we had a symposium on ‘How to Read and Interpret Artistry in George Eliot’s Novels, focusing on *Daniel Deronda*. It was presided over by Masako Hirai, a professor at Kobe College. First, Masayuki Teranishi, an instructor at Takamatsu National College of Technology, discussed the modernistic aspect of *Daniel Deronda*. Next, Junko Murase, a professor at Otani University, focused on Judaism and discussed its family system from the feminist point of view. And Hideo Matsuda, an assistant professor at Kyoto University, explained Eliot’s concept of the heroine’s morality, and her view of English society. Masahiro Tatsuno, a professor at Miji University, emphasized Grandcourt’s egoism that brought reality to this novel. Professor Hirai concluded as follows: After studying the discord between Deronda and Grandcourt – the former was regarded as a moralist, the latter as an egoist – we might be able to understand the qualities of Eliot’s morality and artistry in this story.

The final special lecture was on ‘The Preacher Revaluated’ given by Tetsuro Sano, the president of Kobe Shinwa Women’s University. He stated that in *Middlemarch*, George Eliot was able to grasp an individual moral conflict dynamically through the network that connected changing society and individuals. He concluded that Eliot did give her insight as a preacher, or a prophetess, to this work.

This convention closed with an address given by Ineko Kondo, an emeritus professor at Tsuda College. After that we held an informal dinner party at the cafeteria of the same university. Eighty-five people participated in that convention and forty-six stayed and enjoyed the dinner.