

# The Stanford University-J. F. Oberlin University Commemorative Lecture Series

## THIRD LECTURE



## The Meiji Restoration as Globalization: Currency and Culture

- **Speaker: MARK RAVINA**
- **Professor of History**
- **Emory University**

- **Language:** English (Q&A may be in Japanese)
- **Date and time:** November 30, 2012 (Friday), 16:10–17:40
- **Place:** Taiheikan, Room A302

**Abstract:** The Meiji Restoration is often described as a “modernizing” or “Westernizing” event. But to arrive at an accurate assessment of the extraordinary dynamism of Japan in the nineteenth century, we have to appreciate that Meiji “modernization” and “Westernization” had paradoxical aspects. Many Meiji reforms involved both modern, Western technology and the celebration of Japanese uniqueness and tradition. This lecture illustrates with visual evidence how reforms could be both “modern” and “traditional,” both “Japanese” and “Western.”



The Japanese ¥1 note (left) was designed and printed in the U.S., patterned after the “greenbacks,” such as the U.S. \$10 bill. But the early Meiji ¥1 note illustrated the famous destruction of the Mongol fleet at Hakata by the “divine wind,” or *kamikaze*, in 1274ce. The Meiji bills were both an emulation of U.S. currency and a declaration of Japan’s uniqueness as the land of the gods.



Mark Ravina (A.B., 1983, Columbia University; M.A., 1988, and Ph.D., 1991, Stanford University), specializes in Japanese history, especially eighteenth- and nineteenth-century politics. He is the author of *Land and Lordship in Early Modern Japan* (Stanford University Press, 1999; published in Japanese as *Meikun no satetsu* [NTT Shuppan, 2004]) and a biography of Saigō Takamori entitled *The Last Samurai* (John Wiley & Sons, 2004). Interested in the transnational and international dimension of state-building, he is working on a history of the Meiji Restoration for Oxford University Press to be called *Japan’s Nineteenth Century Revolution: A Transnational History of the Meiji Restoration*. His essay “State-Making in Global Context: Japan in a World of Nation-States” in *The Teleology of the Modern Nation-State*, ed. Joshua Fogel (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2005) treated some of the themes that will be developed in *Japan’s Nineteenth Century Revolution*.

このレクチャーシリーズは、桜美林大学とスタンフォード大学との協定に基づく学術交流の一環として実施されています。講演者は、スタンフォード大学が横浜のみなとみらいで運営する米加大学連盟日本研究センター（Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies）出身の著名外国人日本研究者です。