

Conferment of a Japanese Order to Dr. Monica Braw



Dr. Monica Braw



Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays

On 29 April 2011, the Government of Japan announced that Dr. Monica Braw was conferred a Japanese order, namely, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays.

Dr. Braw was given the Order for her outstanding contribution to the promotion of understanding about Japan in Sweden.

Dr. Braw is a well known specialist on Japan and has been active as an author, a journalist and a historian for many years. Drawing on her experiences first-hand as a Tokyo correspondent for both Finland's radio and Svenska Dagbladet from the late 60's to early 90's, she has written over 20 books, mostly on Japan. The subjects range from politics and social questions to history. She was awarded two Swedish literary awards for her novel, "Överlevarna", which deals with the survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Her most recent work is an extensive book on Japanese history, "Trollsländans land – Japans Historia (The country of dragonflies, the History of Japan)", published last year.

Dr. Braw has held lectures about Japan at many venues, such as Riksdag, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the Royal Academy of Science of Sweden, Japanese and Swedish universities, libraries and schools. She has been invited to work as an expert on Japan at for example, the exhibitions regarding Japanese writing at the National Museum of Ethnography as well as the roots of manga at the Museum of Far Eastern Antiquities. She has also been deeply involved with Japanese studies in Sweden and as the chair of the committee of the Swedish Board of Education evaluating Japanese, she has been responsible for setting the standard of Japanese studies in Swedish universities.

Conferment of Japanese Decorations to foreigners:

Japanese decorations are conferred upon foreigners twice a year, on April 29 and November 3, concurrently with the conferment of orders and medals to Japanese.

On 29 April 2011, 59 foreigners from 58 countries were awarded decorations.

The Order of the Rising Sun is bestowed upon individuals of merit, in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the promotion of exchange between Japan and other countries in fields such as research and education, medicine and social welfare, economy and industry, and culture and sports.

For further information on Japanese Decorations and Medals, see <http://www8.cao.go.jp/intro/kunsho/english/index.html>.