

## *Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year*

December 2017



*The potato eaters* 1885 - Final version, Nuenen. O/C 82 cm x 114 cm. Van Gogh Museum. (The first version is also held in this museum).



*Congregation Leaving the Reformed Church in Nuenen*. 1885. O/C 41.5 x 32.2 cm, Van Gogh Museum.



The same Church in April 2017. Photo by M. Iguchi (Pentax K-3iii/DA 18-270 mm F3.5-6.3).

Dear friends,  
Sending this season's greetings, I wish it has been a good year for you and your family.

This year again I spent much time in my small study but had a fortnight trip to England and Netherlands in April. Although the main purpose was to visit a professor at The Southeast Asian Studies, Leiden University, to receive advice for my Java study, I was certainly very happy to see my old friends and being taken around cultural sites including large and small museums and churches. It was also a wonderful experience that I was invited to the concert of Johann Sebastian Bach's *Johannes Passion* held at the concert hall of Nijmegen in which a son of my friend was a choir member, although following the German voice was hardly possible for me. Incidentally my itinerary in Holland was in the previous week of the Easter. Having been given a chance to attend the presentation of young polymer scientists at the Maastricht University was an unexpected bonus.

For this Christmas, I wish to present a brief note on the religious work and background of Vincent van Gogh that I had learnt by visiting a village where he practically started painting and seeing his paintings and drawings in museums in Netherlands, although the majestic Exeter Cathedral, Devon, and the solemn Temple Church, London, England, had prompted me to consider the essence of religion.

Hoping that 2018 will be a peaceful year for you and everyone,

Yours sincerely,

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