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Meetings and Conferences

Yasuko Makino

Mihoko Miki

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MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists Third Annual Conference (Leiden: September 9-12, 1992)

The third annual conference of the European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS) was held in Leiden, the Netherlands, on September 9-12, 1992. The conference took place at the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnology) which is one of the oldest ethnological museums in the world and of which the nucleus collection is that of the Japanese artifacts collected by Dr. Philip von Siebold who worked at Dejima, Nagasaki, as a physician for the Dutch Trade House.

Approximately fifty librarians, researchers, and museum curators gathered for the conference, representing ten countries all together: France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.

The conference was opened by Dr. Gordon Daniels of the University of Sheffield, chairman of the EAJRS. Dr. Daniels recognized the improvement in cooperation among the members despite drastic changes in political situations throughout Europe. He also pointed out that the EAJRS conferences have provided opportunities to establish informal contacts with people from various countries, and personal contact and human relationships were of the utmost importance. Dr. Matthis Forrer of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde, the host institution, also made a welcoming speech.

The United States reports were presented first. Mihoko Miki of the University of California, Los Angeles, was the first speaker. She reported on activities of the Subcommittee on Japanese Materials of the Committee on East Asian Libraries which concerned mainly the compilation and publication of the National Union List of Current Japanese Serials in East Asian Libraries of North America. She also reported on the plans for the Workshop for Japanese Studies Librarians to take place in March 1993 in Los Angeles. Yasuko Makino of Columbia University presented a paper titled, "Development of Japanese collections in the United States." Our reports attempted to provide the participants from various countries with the recent activities of Japanese studies librarians in the United States.

From the Eastern European group, the following papers were presented: "Ainu materials in the collection of the Institute of Oriental Studies at St. Petersburg" by Dr. Alexander Kabanoff, "The Arisugawa Collection of old Japanese books and manuscripts in St. Petersburg University" by Dr. Maria Toropygina, "Japanese art in the Pushkin and Hermitage Museums" by Prof. Yasuko Betchaku, "Japanese serials in the Institute of INION's collections" by Dr. Olga Moroshkina of the Institute of Scientific Information on Social Sciences of the Russian Academy of Sciences, and "Postwar Hungarian literature on Japan" by Zoltan Bassa.
From Western Europe, there were the following reports: "L'Ancien fonds japonais de la Bibliothèque Nationale de Paris" by Keiko Kosugi of the Bibliothèque Nationale; "Leon de Rosny and his collection in Lille" by Dr. Joseph Dubois of the Centre de Recherche sur l'Extrême-Orient, Haubourdin; "The UK Union catalogue project" by Noboru Koyama of Cambridge University; "Recording the air raids – a wave of municipal historiography" by Dr. Gordon Daniels, University of Sheffield; "Resources for Japanese women's studies available in Japan" by Hiroko Tomida of the University of Sheffield; "Japanese art collections in Italy" by Prof. Gian Carlo Calza of the University of Venice; and "Survey of current network systems and data flow processing in Japan" by Mariko Matsue of Deutsches Institute für Japanstudien.

From Japan, there were presentations on: "School education records of the oldest elementary school in modern Japan" by Prof. Hideo Sato of Nihon University; "Nichibunken's collections and computer system: development and application" by Dr. Satomi Kurosu and Suehiro Aburaya; "Construction of individual catalogue databases at Japanese university libraries utilizing the NACSIS-CAT system" by Prof. Masamitsu Negish of the National Center for Science Information System; "Compilation of documents on Japanese foreign policy" by Mr. Yukihiko Shinmi of the Diplomatic Records Office, Tokyo; "NDL's Washington microfilming project" by Jiro Hirano of the Japan Broadcasting Corporation.

Aside from the programs above, the participants received on the first day a warm reception hosted by the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde and also were given an opportunity to tour the Center for Japanese and Korean Studies, University of Leiden, on the second day. On the third day, there was a round-table discussion on European cooperation followed by dinner at the Surakarta Indonesian Restaurant.

All participants stayed at the Hotel Nieuw Minerva, a comfortable small hotel which was within walking distance of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde as well as of other prominent museums, the University, churches, and shops. Staying at the same hotel for five days provided the participants with an excellent opportunity to develop informal and warm human relationships between the people from so many different countries. As Dr. Daniels, chair of EAJRS remarked, personal contacts were of the utmost importance if we were to develop some meaningful cooperation. The Leiden conference was extremely successful in this regard and both the writers of this report returned with a feeling of great satisfaction.

(Yasuko Makino and Mihoko Miki)