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1997-1998 MULTI-VOLUME SET PROJECT REPORT

The Multi-volume Set Project of the National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources supported the acquisition of fifteen titles by eight institutions in the 1997-1998 project year. The MVS Subcommittee consisted of the following members: Rob Britt of University of Washington Law, Frederic Kotas of Cornell (Co-Chair), Lynne Kutsukake of Toronto, Mariko Tamanoi of UCLA (Co-Chair) and Stephen Vlastos of Iowa. The most significant change from prior years was that no title was considered for candidacy if one or more circulating copies were available in the United States (regardless of the cost of borrowing such items). Another change was that, for the first time, back issues of current serials were eligible for candidacy. Deadline for applications was January 31, 1998.

This year the Committee chose not to take any preliminary vote, but to reserve all judgment for a meeting once all titles ineligible for consideration had been eliminated. The meeting of the committee took place in Berkeley, California, on February 14, and the greater part of a day was given over to careful consideration, one by one, of the merits of the titles nominated for support, the arguments made for them in terms of their value to the Japanese studies community as a whole, and the appropriateness of the applicant institution as "home" to them. At the outset it was decided to remove from consideration all titles not published in their entirety by 1996. Committee members refrained from discussing or voting upon proposals submitted by their home institutions. The Subcommittee rather easily spent about 70% of available funding during the first round of deliberation, which lasted less than two hours. Discussion about allocation of the remaining 30% occupied the rest of the day. Some additional communication via e-mail followed the meeting and resulted in some adjustments. An effort was made to spread awards to as great a number of institutions as possible. All orders were sent to the Japan Publications Trading Company by applicant institutions. A slight problem occurred with one title, Kingu, which was awarded to UCLA, in that initially the original publisher, Kodansha, refused permission to produce a microform copy, but eventually they relented. All orders were promptly filled by JPTC and shipped to recipients. Most titles have since been cataloged into OCLC or RLIN; one large set of various unique titles will require additional time for completion.

I am sorry to report that despite the existence of the project for more than five years, and quite explicit instructions for the preparation of applications, the Subcommittee continues to receive applications that fail to adequately follow those instructions. Some applications did not include full bibliographic information for titles requested (including publishers' brochures, catalog citations, etc.), letters of support from relevant library officials, or evidence of having searched the national databases. And while it is relatively easy to provide arguments for national need, more attention should be paid to arguments for institutional priority. Most troubling were requests made for titles outside of the project's clearly stated guidelines: titles of fairly general importance or interest to academic Japanese collections, titles costing less than the minimum Y100,000, titles not yet fully published. I think we all need to remind ourselves of the original purposes of the project--also expressed in the guidelines--and not view it as a way to supplement acquisitions budgets or gain additional title or volume count. Since we are speaking here of cooperation, I should also add that while "consortia" is something of a buzzword today, and certainly cooperative ventures deserve full attention, simply submitting requests together with other institutions in the same general geographical area does not constitute a consortial application. The Subcommittee needs to know something of existing agreements, and how NCC

support will contribute to cooperation among the member institutions.

Finally, there were questions as to what constitutes a “multi-volume set”: one request was made for various volumes of a given title with no apparent unity as a set, and another for materials that were listed collectively under a series-like heading in a dealer’s catalog, possibly for merchandising purposes, yet which individual parts would not likely be linked within a library catalog shaped according to AACRII. In the end, the Subcommittee elected to fund a discrete portion of the former title, and to fund one of the latter “titles,” referring the question of definition of “multi-volume set” back to the NCC.

(Frederic Kotas, Cornell University, Multi-volume Set Subcommittee Co-Chair)

NCC support for this year's project went to the titles and institutions below:

TITLES SUPPORTED BY THE NCC MULTI-VOLUME SET PROJECT, 1998

Eisai shinshi 穎才新誌. Fuji Shuppan 不二出版, 1991-1993. 21 v.

¥460,000* (¥345,000)**

University of Illinois

Fujin sekai 婦人世界. Rinsen Shoten 臨川書店, 1994-1995. 69 reels

¥1,140,000 (¥855,000)

Cornell University

Gendai shakai mondai kenkyu 現代社会問題研究. Ryukei Shosha 龍溪書舎, 1992. 25 v.

¥365,000 (¥273,750)

Stanford University

Kingu キング. Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan 国立国会図書館. 1,404 sheets

¥320,112 (¥240,084)

University of California, Los Angeles

Kobun betsureku 公文別録. Yumani Shobo ゆまに書房, 1995-1996. 106 reels

¥2,544,000 (¥1,908,000)

University of Washington

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan shozo kindai Nihon reimeiki bungaku shusei. Kaikaki, Jiyu minkenki hen 国立国会図書館所蔵近代日本黎明期文学集成. 開化期・自由民権期編.

Nada Shobo ナダ書房, 1989. 83 reels ¥996,000 (¥747,000)

Stanford University

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan shozo Meijiiki kanko tosho maikuroban shusei. Denki bumon.

Denki 国立国会図書館所蔵明治期刊行図書マイクロ版集成. 伝記部門. 伝記. Maruzen 丸善, 1991. 180 reels ¥3,240,000 (¥2,430,000)

Columbia University

Kyoiku gakujutsukai. Meiji hen. 教育学術界. 明治篇. Ozorasha 大空社, 1989-1991. 49 v.

¥770,000 (¥577,500)

University of Illinois

Minzoku jinko seisaku kenkyu shiryō 民俗人口政策研究資料. Bunsei Shoin 文生書院, 1981-1982. ¥120,000 (¥90,000)

University of California, Los Angeles

Oraimono shusei II. Joshiyo oraihen 往来物集成II. 女子用往来編. Yushodo 雄松堂, 1993.

32 reels ¥432,000 (¥324,000)

University of Kansas

Reigi ruiten 礼儀類典. Yushodo 雄松堂, 1990. 64 reels ¥680,000 (¥510,000)

Cornell University

Seikado Bunko shozo kojisho shusei 静嘉堂文庫所蔵古辞書集成. Yushodo 雄松堂, 1986.

178 reels ¥1,840,000 (¥1,380,000)

Cornell University

Senzen 戦前 Before 1945 Best 78. Shochiku 松竹, 1993-1996. 78 cassettes

¥296,400 (¥222,300)

University of Washington

Senzenki shakai jigyo kihon bunkenshu. Dai 3-ki 戦前期社会事業基本文献集. 第三期. Nihon
Tosho Senta 日本図書センター, 1996. 15 v. ¥150,000 (¥112,500)
University of Southern California

Tokyo-shi Shakaikyoku kiho jiho 東京市社会局季報時報. Kashiwa Shobo 柏書房, 1994.
10 v. ¥135,922 (¥101,942)
Stanford University