Problems in Cataloging Japanese Materials using AACR2

Reiko Yoshimura

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1991/iss93/5

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
PROBLEMS IN CATALOGING JAPANESE MATERIALS USING AACR2*

Reiko Yoshimura  Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library

How most appropriately to catalog and classify non-western publications in North American libraries has been at issue for many years. However, because of the expansion of publishing in the non-western world and the demand for materials to support international studies, the number of non-western publications acquired by North American academic libraries has been growing rapidly in recent years. As a result, questions about the level of detail and the precision of that detail in cataloging and classifying such materials has become more pressing. To be sure, cataloging of non-western publications has been greatly benefitted by the emergence of the online shared cataloging systems which can handle some non-western vernacular scripts and thus provide better and more precise means of bibliographic access. However, a number of questions persist in how best to perform descriptive cataloging of non-western materials using rules that are based on experience in cataloging western publications. This situation is complicated by the fact that descriptive cataloging problems vary with the diversity of publishing practices in each country. Therefore, in order to make progress towards solving some of the problems, while applying more broadly applicable cataloging rules, it is clear that careful studies of the characteristics of publications in non-western countries is necessary.¹

What follows is a review of problems in descriptive cataloging of Japanese publications.

The purpose of this paper, then, is to discuss, by analyzing several examples from Japanese monographs, some of the problems which a cataloger faces. Specifically, in North American cataloging practice using the Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules, second edition (AACR2), the title page is designated as the most important source of information. In the case of Japanese publications, however, the title page often lacks sufficient information for full descriptive cataloging. Frequently, some necessary information is located in the colophon area because the colophon is the accepted chief source of information among Japanese publishers.²

The use of the colophon in Japanese publications started in the seventeenth century. Its first use was to indicate where the book could be purchased, since most of early commercial book publishers were also the distributors of their own books. Later, as specialized book distributors emerged, colophons became an important source to

¹This paper was prepared when the author was a Japanese cataloger at the Ohio State University Libraries, 1986-1989.


identify copyright holders. Colophons were first required by a law of 1722. The government’s intention was to control the contents of the publication by clearly identifying those responsible, not to protect copyright holders. The legal requirement to include a colophon was discontinued in 1949. However, the custom has continued to the present. This differs from western book publishing where historically the function of the colophon was gradually replaced by the title page.

Indeed, the title page in Japanese publications has never taken on a role as important as that of the colophon. In earlier publications, multivolume books often received a title page only in the first volume. Matthi Forrer discusses the role of title page in Japanese book publishing history:

"The title-page never came to be regarded as an essential—though preliminary—part of any book can be induced from the fact that, even in the nineteenth century, it is absent in quite a number of books . . . This lack of anything like tradition in the title page may explain the difficulties in cataloguing even the most recent Japanese publications with the information given on the title-page only."7

Japanese library specialists are aware of the importance of the colophon as a source of information in Japanese publications for full descriptive cataloging. Shojiro Maruyama discusses this point:

"The main bibliographic information about Japanese books is not concentrated on the title page as in western books; sometimes the greater part of information will be found in the colophon."8

In *Nihon Mokuroku Kisoku* [Japanese cataloging rules], the colophon is listed alongside the title page as a chief source of information for title proper and statement of responsibility for monograph descriptive cataloging.9 Similarly, Michio Kihara's *Shiryō Soshikihō* [Organization of information] contains separate chapters for descriptive cataloging of Japanese vernacular and western-language monographs. The

---


4*Shuppan Jiten*, p. 50.


7Forrer, p. 39-40.


former chapter lists the colophon as a chief source together with the title page, spine, and cover, while the latter includes only the title page as a chief source.\footnote{Michio Kihara et al., \textit{Shiryo Soshikiho}, dai 2-han (Tokyo: Daiichi Hoki, 1988), pp. 110, 182.}

Examples\footnote{Examples begin on page 22.} 1 and 2 contain a title page comparison between western and Japanese monographs. The amount of information contained on the Japanese title page varies since some Japanese publishers have been adopting the western publishing style. However, the title page of Example 2 is typical, containing (a) name of the author, (b) title of the book, (c) series title, and (d) name of the publisher. This is normally the maximum amount of information supplied on the title pages of modern Japanese monographs. This comparison shows that while Example 1 (western) contains almost all of the information necessary for descriptive cataloging, Example 2 (Japanese) lacks two key elements: (e) date and (f) place of publication, both of which are located in the colophon. It is very rare for date and place of publication to be found on title pages of Japanese monographs.

In addition to the standard elements listed above, colophons of Japanese monographs almost always contain names of representatives of both (g) the publisher and (h) the printer with their full addresses, and (i) copyright information. Colophons of many modern Japanese monographs also supply such information on authors as (j) birth and death dates, brief bibliographies, and academic background as well as (k) Japanese phonetic reading of their names which is a quite useful reference in determining the romanized form of the name headings.\footnote{Kaneko, p. 132.}

Examples 3 to 12 are of title pages and colophons from a number of modern Japanese monographs. The first group (Examples 3 to 6) illustrates cases in which the colophon contains more information than the title page. This does not have an important effect on cataloging practice using AACR2, since the cataloger can simply use bracketed information, required by the rules, from the colophon to supply data. For example, the information could be supplied in the notes area without brackets. However, choices of cataloging style are obviously affected.

The second group (Examples 7 to 12) contains cases where the information in the colophon differs from that presented on the title page. In this situation, there often are problems in deciding which information should be used. Sometimes information can be verified in the work itself while, in other cases, no information is available anywhere. In the latter case, a cataloger is required by AACR2 to use the information from the title page. If, however, knowing more about the characteristics of such publications, the cataloger believes the colophon information to be more correct, AACR2 still requires this information to be verified.

**Group 1:** More information in the colophon than on the title page

Examples 3 and 4 represent the type of title page which lacks a statement of responsibility if more than one author is involved or its author or editor is a corporate body, although the westernization of Japanese publishing practices has been making this practice less frequent. Example 3 is an extreme case in which only the title
proper appears on the title page. In this particular example, the book is about the
history of an organization the name of which is included in the title (Nikkeiren San-
junenshi [Thirty-year history of Nikkeiren]); authorship by that institution may be
implied in the title and is certainly spelled out in the colophon. In such a case, one
might say that the title page exists only for decorative purposes.

Example 5 illustrates a special case in which the title page indicates a distributor,
Shōwa Tosho Shuppan, rather than the actual publisher. In the colophon the pub­
lisher of this book is identified as Sagamihara-shi Kyōdo Konwakai, which organiza­
tion does not have a commercial publishing function. The distributor was perhaps
functioning enough as a publisher to stand alone in the place on the title page.
However, a cataloger must use Sagamihara-shi Kyōdo Konwakai as a publisher be­
because it is so identified in the colophon.

Example 6 is another example of the title page lacking information except for a
title proper. What makes this case different from Example 3 is that the information
provided on the title page is about the original work from which the content of this
book was selected (in this case, photographs). Full information about the actual
book (i.e., editor, publisher) which might be expected to appear on the title page is
given only in the colophon.

Group 2: Title page information different from the colophon

The second group of examples are cases in which information from the title page
and colophon conflict.

In example 7 an editor on the title page, Hitotokikai Yūshi, is listed as a publishing
body in the colophon and an editing credit is given to a different corporate body,
"Hito to Toki to" Henshūbu [Editor of "Hito to Toki to"]. The editor statement on the
title page literally means "Volunteers" from Hitotokikai. This book consists of arti­
cles which first appeared in a newspaper column called "Hitotoki". It seems that
Hitotokikai is a group of people who contributed the articles to the column and
"Hito to Toki to" Henshūbu selected and edited these articles into a monograph.
Therefore, Hitotokikai or Hitotokikai Yūshi should have been an "author," not an
"editor," on the title page. In this case both Hitotokikai and "Hito to Toki to" Hen­
shūbu share the responsibility, the former as an author and the latter as an editor.

The title page of Example 8 lists three individuals in the statement of responsibility:
Supervisor (Kanshū): Kabira Chōshin; Illustrator (Sashie): Yanagi Kōkan; Author
(Genbun shippitsu [originally written by]): Sakuda Shigeru. The designation of su­
ervisory responsibility is not unusual among Japanese publications and even
though the statement often occupies the first position on the title page, it is, in most
cases, no more than an honorific figure. In this example, presuming that the super­
visor, Kabira, is listed as the first credited person both on the title page and in the
colophon, the publisher's intention must be to give more honor to the supervisor
than to the others, leaving ambiguous the function of Sakuda, being an author on
the title page and an editor in the colophon. Under AACR2 the main entry for this
book would be the author, Sakuda, who is listed in the third position on the title
page, for he is identified there as the author (genbun shippitsu) of this book. In
western publishing one rarely encounters the concept of "supervision" as seen in
Japanese practice; therefore, the function of "supervisors" is not identified in
AACR2.
Examples 9 to 12 are of conflicting edition and edition-like statements on title pages and colophons.

In Example 9, the title page reads Kaiteiban [revised edition] while the colophon reads Sateiban [second revised edition]. According to the edition history in the colophon, the book was first published in 1967 and revised in 1972; the second revised edition came out in 1977. Therefore, the correct edition statement of this 1977 publication should be Sateiban, not Kaiteiban. One can suspect, in this case, that the publisher did not correct the title page edition statement when the second revised edition was issued.

In Example 10 the title page shows Kaitei shinpan [revised new edition] at the head of the title while the colophon imprint area says Shohan [first edition], in addition to Kaitei shinpan repeated at the head of the title as on the title page. Fortunately, the situation is explained in the work itself—it was first published as a series of journal articles. Afterwards, the author revised them, added more contents, and published them as a monograph. It was later published as a monograph by a different publisher in the bunkoban format [pocket size edition], the format of this example. Although it cannot be positively proven, it seems likely that the "Kaitei" [revised] was applied when the author revised the work for the first time as a monograph, and that "Shinpan" [new edition] was added when it was reformatted as a pocket size edition. Because AACR2 defines "edition (Books . . . )" as: "All copies produced from essentially the same type image (whether by direct contact or by photographic or other methods) and issued by the same entity," the edition statement, "first edition," in the colophon is correct, even though a previously published related work exists.

Surprisingly, this situation is not unusual in cataloging Japanese publications. Many titles are ornamented by such "at head of title" phrases as Zoho [enlarged], Shinpan [new edition], or Kaitei [revised], while the colophon indicates Shohan [first edition]. However, many of those, as in example 10, are actually new publications which are substantially enlarged or newly formatted from the existing related work; some of them are even combinations of more than one work previously published separately. They can hardly be defined as simply "revised editions" in the current western concept of edition. It seems that in many cases, this kind of "edition-like statement" on the title page is used for the purpose of impressing the audience that the work is better than the previously published one, not to indicate the revision history of the book which is often stated in the colophon. Therefore, one may say that the "edition-like statement" is almost a part of the title proper or a "head of title" phrase instead of the formal edition statement. This often creates a related problem in determining a title proper, in that, if the phrase is truly an edition statement, it should not be included in the title proper; but if this is not so, the author or the publisher might have intended to include the phrase as a part of the title proper. Therefore, in such situations, to produce the best access for the use of the catalog, both titles, with and without the phrase (one as a title proper and the other as an added title entry) need to be traced. In current western cataloging practices, it must

---

be noted, this kind of "edition-like statement" would never be considered as a part of the title proper.\textsuperscript{14}

A cataloger dealing with this kind of situation needs to examine the items carefully to determine what the publisher meant by the edition statement on the title page and/or the colophon, by reading the preface or postscripts where one can often learn about the revision history of the book. Sometimes the cataloger must consult reference tools such as the National Union Catalog or bibliographic data bases to locate a bibliographic record for a related work in order to determine the relationship. However, in some cases no information is available, as in Example 11. The title page in this example, as in the examples discussed above, reads \textit{Zōho [enlarged]}, while the colophon says \textit{Shohan [first edition]}; however, one can find no proof about which statement is correct. Learning from other examples, it might be a correct choice to accept the colophon edition statement even though the current rules do not allow it. Does a cataloger have the freedom to make this assumption?

Identifying edition statements is one of the most important issues in cataloging practice. A cataloger must deal carefully with this matter, especially in such situations as discussed above. In the case of Japanese publications, more thorough studies on the Japanese interpretation of editions and revisions is necessary.

In Example 12, the series statement on the title page and in the colophon is described differently: the former in Japanese \textit{hiragana} phonetics \textit{こっぺ・まめ(もん} and the latter in Chinese characters \textit{古通豆本}. Until a few years ago, this did not matter since the romanized form of this statement was identical for either vernacular form, \textit{Kotsū mamehon}. However, since it is becoming more standard in North America to employ vernacular characters in online shared cataloging records for East Asian materials, this has become quite an important issue. The forms of headings are determined by how they appear in the original scripts as well as the romanized form. In this example, the choice should be made between the Japanese phonetic form and the Chinese character form. Applying AACR2, one would probably choose the form in phonetics on the title page. However, a cataloger cannot be certain of how the publisher intended to describe this series. On the cover the series statement appears in Chinese characters as it does in the colophon. From the standpoint of the content, Chinese characters are more expressive than the phonetics. However, it is noteworthy that many Japanese publishers often determine whether to adopt Chinese characters or the phonetics largely based on considerations of design.

In cataloging western publications, one never faces this kind of problem since it deals with only one alphabet. However, for cataloging Japanese materials, it is very important that the rules clarify which script should be chosen as an authorized access point when the statement is recorded in more than one form on the item. This issue definitely should be considered when the cataloging rules are revised.

\textsuperscript{14}Saito Masaei, ("Unwanted Duplicates," \textit{CEAL Bulletin}, No. 72 (Oct. 1983), pp. 21-23) states that the titles starting with such "at head of title" phrase as edition statement sometimes are listed in the publisher's catalog.
SUMMARY

Colophons of Japanese publications have been traditionally the most important source of bibliographic information. While some Japanese publishers have been adding more information to the title pages, this more conventional practice is still commonly employed in a large number of Japanese publications. Those who are cataloging Japanese materials quite often need to acquire information from the colophon in addition to the title page in order to complete full descriptive cataloging. Sometimes the information on the title page and in the colophon conflicts, in which case further investigation is necessary to determine which information describes the situation more correctly even though AACR2 requires the title page to be the first choice. However, as we observed above, in some cases when the information in those two places conflicts, the problems are related to the matter of interpretation of such bibliographical issues as definition of authorship, editorship, or description of certain name headings, which is much more than simply proving which information is correct or incorrect. This is closely related to the characteristic nature of Japanese publications and their difference from western publications. When using cataloging rules formulated for western publications, often one finds that the rules do not really fit in these situations.15

During the past decade, cataloging East Asian materials has benefitted from the tremendous advances in computer technology. Now bibliographic records of East Asian materials are available online in their vernacular scripts, in addition to the romanized form in academic libraries in North America. Moreover, one may say that we are going towards more precision in terms of the bibliographic information we provide in catalog records. This also means that cataloging rules need to be more universally applicable, not only for "Anglo-American" materials but also for non-western publications. For example, the cataloging rules need to be modified to include more discussion about the use of other sources of information, such as the colophon, and what information can be used as the basis of descriptive cataloging when conflicts exist or when conclusive evidence is absent. To be able to formulate such rules, a thorough study on the publishing practices and characteristics of non-western publications would be essential.

The Bookman's Glossary
SIXTH EDITION
REVISED AND ENLARGED
EDITED BY
JEAN PETERS
R.R. BOWKER COMPANY
NEW YORK & LONDON • 1985

Title page

Example 2

Colophon

(a) — 向山修一著
(b) — 神仏習合思想
(c) — サーラ語出
(d) — 平楽寺書店

(b) — 神仏習合思想
(e) — 1967年1月30日発行
1986年3月30日第5版
定価 2,400円

(a) — 宮
(g) — 七
(h) — 郡
(d) — 本

(c) — S. Murayama, 1957. Printed in Japan.

(i) — 本文の現実 本文の現実

( j ) — 本书の現実 本文の現実

(k) — 本文の現実 本文の現実
OKINAWA THE LAST BATTLE

沖縄戦記録写真集

(The Original Work)

United State Army in World War II:
The War in the Pacific

OKINAWA: THE LAST BATTLE

by

Roy E. Appleman, James M. Burns,
Russell A. Cagle, and John Stevens.

Under the auspices of the
Historical Division
Department of the Army
U.S. Government

Published in 1948
by the Historical Division
Department of the Army.
早稲田大学語学教育研究所編

外国学生用

日本語教科書

初級（改訂版）

Colophon

編・著者 早稲田大学語学教育研究所
WAQEDA UNIVERSITY

東京都新宿区西早稲田1-6-1 〒160
電話 東京 (03) 203-4141 内線 3386

定価 2,500円

Example 10

Colophon

Revised new edition

First edition

Title page