



10-1-2009

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Noguchi, Sachie (2009) "Tenri Workshop Year 3: A Report," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 2009 : No. 149 , Article 9.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol2009/iss149/9>

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Tenri Workshop Year 3: A Report

Sachie Noguchi
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The Workshop: Year 3 of the Tenri Antiquarian Materials Workshop for Overseas Japanese Studies Librarians (Tenri Workshop) took place from June 15th through June 19th, 2009. In addition, there was an open symposium on June 20th on Antiquarian Material Digital Archives for Knowledge Sharing. The workshop and symposium were organized and executed (主催) by the Tenri Workshop Committee, consisting of Prof. H. Yamanaka and Y. Mihama (Tenri University, Tenri Central Library, Japan), I. Tytler and H. Todd (Japan Library Group, UK), S. Noguchi (NCC, USA), and S. Kuwabara (formerly of Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, Germany, EAJRS). The workshop was also co-organized (共催) by Tenri University, with assistance (助成) from the Japan Foundation and the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, and supervised (主管) by Tenri Central Library. Major sponsors (後援) included the National Institute of Japanese Literature, the National Institute of Informatics (NII), European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists (EAJRS), and North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC). Additional co-sponsors (協賛) were Toshokan Ryutsu Center, the Japan Publications Trading, Maruzen, Yagi Book Store, and BooksYushodo Group, in collaboration (協力) with the Nara Convention Bureau.

Project objectives: This was Year 3 and the last year of a three-year, three-step training program. Through the step-up method, the workshop aimed to establish a cohort of librarians expertly trained in the best practices for managing, cataloging and organizing antiquarian manuscript and printed materials. They will serve as core persons responsible for providing guidance and training on such materials to colleagues in their respective countries/regions.

Participants: There were nineteen participants who were screened and selected by NCC and EAJRS. For this year, there were eleven European attendees (unfortunately, one person could not participate this year due to an accident in the family): four from UK, two from France, and one each from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Norway. There were seven librarians from the United States. Participants for the three-year program were:

Véronique Beranger, Bibliothèque nationale de France, France (2009 absent)
Antony Boussemart, EFEO (Ecole française d'Extrême-Orient), France
Akira Hirano, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures, UK
Noboru Koyama, Cambridge University, UK
Setsuko Kuwabara, formerly with Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin, Germany
Naomi Yabe Magnussen, University of Oslo, Norway
Kuniko Yamada McVey, Harvard University, USA
Laura Moretti, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy
Haruko Nakamura, Yale University, USA
Sachie Noguchi, Columbia University, USA
Hisako Rogerson, Library of Congress, USA
Masako Hasegawa Sockeel, Musée National des arts asiatiques - Guimet, France
Keiko Suzuki, Yale University, USA
Lynette K. Teruya, University of Hawaii-Manoa, USA
Hamish Todd, British Library, UK
Izumi Tytler, University of Oxford, UK
Arjan van der Werf, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium (2008 absent)
Paul Wijsman, Leiden University, Netherland
Reiko Yoshimura, Freer and Sackler Gallery Library

Program: 2009 was Year 3 of the three-year series and the training was focused on the management and cataloging of antiquarian materials of various subjects/formats including:

- Printed and manuscript material in non-book format
- Management, handling and organization of documents
- Advanced cataloging
- Preservation and imaging data

During the five days, participants were again immersed in well-integrated lectures and hands-on training from nine o'clock in the morning till five in the evening. In addition, the special exhibition room, where pre-modern publications and concrete examples of the types of materials covered in the lectures were on display, was accessible to the Workshop participants during these five days. Unless indicated otherwise, the instructors were from Tenri University and/or the Tenri Central Library.

Day 1 (June 15th): Following the opening ceremony, in which Mr. T. Hashimoto, the President of Tenri University and the Director, Mr. K. Moroi, gave opening remarks, the staff of the Tenri Central Library and participants listened to a special lecture. The lecture, entitled “Illustrations in Printed Books During the Kinsei Period (近世版本における挿絵),” by Prof. Gen Takagi of Chiba University. He is a prominent scholar of pre-modern literature and narrative fiction (読本). The special lecture was followed by another lecture, “Estimation of Imprint of the Early Modern Printed Books (版本出版事項の推定について),” by Mr. M. Ushimi. In the afternoon, there were two more lectures: “Information Sources for Cataloging (目録作成の参考となる情報源)” by Mr. M. Onishi and “Pre-modern Print Publications (近世の活字出版)” by Mr. M. Kishimoto.

In the evening there was a reception at the 38th Lodging House where all participants were staying. It was attended by Mr. H. Hara (Director) and Mr. G. Kobayashi of Europe, Middle East and Africa Div., Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept., of the Japan Foundation, President T. Hashimoto, and other Tenri-related personnel, as well as other guests. Mr. Fukaya, an Executive Board member of Tenri University, gave the opening remarks.

Day 2 (June 16th): The morning sessions featured a lecture titled “Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 6 : Descriptions Specific to Notes (和古書目録作成の基礎 6 : 注記の記述について)” by Prof. I. Okajima. The lecture was followed by a hands-on exercise, “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 9: Drafting the Cataloging Sheet for Printed Materials (by individual trainee) (和古書目録作成 (9), 印刷資料の原稿作成・個人).” Each participant practiced cataloging printed book(s) with assistance from the cataloging staff of the Central Library. In the afternoon session, “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 10: Drafting the Cataloging Sheet for Printed Materials (finishing up and data input by group) (和古書目録作成 (10), 印刷資料の原稿作成・グループ別・仕上げ・データ入力),” the participants were divided into several groups. Each group collaboratively practiced cataloging and input the data into the machine readable format using NACSIS WEBCAT. The printed MARC records were submitted to the library staff for their review.

Right after the lectures, participants had an opportunity to visit the well-known Gagaku Music Society of Tenri University in their club room. Participants were introduced to Gagaku costumes and Gagaku instruments by a club member, and then saw a Gagaku performance by club members. It turned out to be an enjoyable early evening with traditional music and dance.

In the evening, at the lodging house, members of the Tenri Workshop Committee and the Subcommittee on Japanese Rare Books of the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials met for a discussion about cooperating on the survey proposed by Prof. Suzuki of the National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL). The subject of the survey will be libraries which hold Japanese antiquarian books and will be compiled as a directory. It was decided that the proposal would be discussed among all participants during the meeting on Thursday (June 21st) evening.

Day 3 (June 17th): The morning started with the lecture “Rare Book Catalogs of Tenri Central Library (天理図書館の稀書目録について)” by Mr. K. Kaneko (former Director of the Special Headquarter of the Tenri

Central Library). It was followed by the lecture “Sharing of Reference Information and Image Data as Bibliographic Description (参考情報の共有化と書誌記述としてのイメージデータ)” by Prof. H. Yamana. In the afternoon, an excursion to the Museum Yamato Bunkakan was scheduled for this year’s field trip. The Museum Yamato Bunkakan sits atop a highland overlooking the Sugawara Pond, and is surrounded by a natural garden called the Bunkaen. There, participants listened to a lecture titled “The Basic Knowledge and Handling of Ukiyoe (浮世絵の基礎知識と取り扱いについて),” by Mr. S. Asano, Director of the Museum. Then, they were guided by the curator, Mr. Furukawa, as they viewed the exhibition entitled “Landscape Paintings of the East.” Participants enjoyed not only the valuable lecture and an interesting exhibition, but also the spectacular view from the museum and the walk around the garden with a variety of hydrangeas in their high season.

In the evening, there was a Tenri Workshop Committee meeting at the lodging house for an exchange of opinions between the committee members, from both the participants’ and Tenri’s side, on issues such as the report to the Japan Foundation, the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, and possibilities for support for post-Tenri workshop, including distribution of the workshop materials.

Day 4 (June 18th): The morning started with the practice session, “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 11, Drafting the Cataloging Sheet for Printed Materials - Explanations on Reviewed Drafts and Data Revision (和古書目録作成 (11), 印刷資料の原稿作成-返却と解説、データ修正).” Based on the printed MARC records, which were submitted by participants on Day 2 and marked for corrections by the cataloging staff, participants learned from the staff why some corrections were made and then made corrections to data on the computer. The second part of the morning was the lecture, “Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 7: Continued Cataloging of Manuscripts (和古書目録作成の基礎 7: 書写資料の採録について)” by Prof. Okajima. Following the lecture in the morning, there was a hands-on exercise in the afternoon based on the explanatory session “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 12, Drafting Cataloging Sheet for Manuscripts - by Individual and Groups, Finishing Up and Data Input (和古書目録作成 (12), 書写資料の原稿作成 - 個人・グループ別・仕上げ・データ入力).” After practicing cataloging manuscripts individually, participants cataloged manuscripts in collaboration with a partner and with assistance from the cataloging staff. The drafted sheets were input using MARC format and the printed records were submitted to the library staff for their review.

In the evening, participants (collectively called the Overseas Japanese Antiquarian Materials Study Group [OJAMSG 在外日本古典籍研究会] since Year 2) got together to discuss cooperating for the NIJL survey and directory, as had been proposed on Tuesday night. There was a scintillating discussion and it was decided that the members of the Subcommittee would summarize the OJAMSG discussion and submit it to Prof. Suzuki of the NIJL. After the discussion, the Workshop Committee members, to their surprise, were given gifts from other participants in appreciation for the Committee’s work.

Day 5 (June 19th): The morning session started with “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 13, Drafting Cataloging Sheet for Manuscripts - Explanation and Revision of the Cataloged Data (和古書目録作成 (13), 書写資料の原稿作成 - 作成データの解説と修正).” Based on the corrections marked by the staff on the data printouts, participants revised and updated their data in the computers. This session was followed by the useful lecture “Preservation of Materials: Making Simple Preservation Boxes (資料の保存: 簡易容器を作る),” by Mr. J. Uchiyama. After the lecture and examining a number of in-house made preservation boxes, each participant was challenged to create a precisely measured preservation box for an item provided by the staff. In the afternoon, Ms. Okajima delivered a talk “The Issues Related to Cataloging Data (目録データ作成に関わる問題点のまとめ).” Being that this was the last year, there was a review session entitled “An Evaluation: Summarizing the Three Years (3年間を総括して)” in which all parties involved in the workshop had a candid discussion about the program. Everyone felt a sort of sadness, realizing there would be no more workshops next year.

Before the closing ceremony, there was a tour of the stacks in the Central Library. Unfortunately, participants were only allowed to peek at the rare book stacks through the heavy glass door, in fear of possibly damaging the materials due to the moisture generated from having too many people in the room

at once. The workshop successfully concluded with a closing ceremony. During the closing ceremony, on behalf of the participants, the chair of the Workshop Committee, Ms. I. Tytler handed bags of gifts to the Director of the Library as an expression of sincere gratitude from the workshop participants. The gifts consisted of a number of items representing participants' institutions, towns, or countries.

June 20th (Saturday)

In the morning of June 20th, most of the participants had free time and visited the Tenri Arcade (a sort of shopping mall for Tenrikyo believers and Tenri citizens) and enjoyed various stores selling Tenrikyo-related religious equipments, musical instruments and clothing, souvenirs, local traditional foods, etc.

The Symposium: In the afternoon, the participants attended the Tenri University International Symposium entitled "Digital Archives of Japanese Antiquarian Books for Knowledge Sharing: Towards the International Exchange of Knowledge and Information: Preparing the Basis for the Metadata of Japanese Antiquarian Books as Academic Information (知識共有のための古典籍デジタルアーカイブ：学術情報としての和古書メタデータの基盤整備に向けて)," which was held at the Furusato Hall as the last stage of the workshop. After the opening remarks by Prof. Ohashi, Vice President of Tenri University, Prof. T. Ishikawa of Historiographical Institute, University of Tokyo delivered the keynote speech "Digital Archives for Study of Historical Knowledge (歴史知識学のためのデジタルアーカイブ)." Next, Mr. T. Oba of the National Diet Library Kansai gave a presentation "Digital Archives of the National Diet Library: Current Situation and Issues (国立国会図書館におけるデジタルアーカイブ：現状と課題)." These lectures were followed by a panel discussion moderated by Prof. Yamanaka. Prof. A. Miyazawa (NII) and Ms. Okajima joined Prof. Ishikawa and Mr. Oba as panelists. The topic of the Year 3 Symposium was perhaps the most attractive theme to the workshop participants and they attended the Symposium with great interest.

After the symposium, there was a dinner party for the Workshop participants and the Tenri Central Library staff who helped the former with their cataloging hand-on exercises. There had been no chance for Workshop participants and staff to communicate with each other personally before this party and thus, this was an excellent opportunity to get to know each other better.

NCC's Collaborations towards the Tenri Workshop:

- Wrote a support letter for the fund proposal submitted to the Japan Foundation by the UK Japan Library Group/Tenri Workshop Preparatory Committee.
- Acted as the bursar for funds from the Japan Foundation earmarked for US participants

Over all, it was again a stimulating and indispensable experience in an ideal environment for the participants. They learned a great deal during the five days this year, as well as in the previous two years. When the participants arrived in Tenri in 2007, most of them had only limited experience, not only in cataloging, but also in the management of Japanese antiquarian materials. After two years of training, the participants greatly enhanced their knowledge and experience, and they managed to start cataloging without much anxiety. This year again, the approach of first cataloging solo, then cataloging in groups/with partners was implemented. Yet, experienced Tenri catalogers pointed out that one of the problems participants had in cataloging was that they did not spend enough time researching the items before filling in the cataloging sheets. Nevertheless, the time spent at the workshop and symposium proved to be a truly rewarding three years for everyone.

The participants are greatly indebted to the Tenri-related institutions and their staff. Tenrikyo provided us with wonderful accommodations and delicious meals, while the University and the Central Library offered the venue, a wonderful and devoted group of instructors and staff, and valuable instructional materials. Most of all, the entire staff of the Central Library has been extremely generous with their support and hospitality, and the participants are deeply appreciative. In addition to the Tenri group, participants are also grateful to all parties that supported this workshop, in particular to the Japan Foundation, which provided partial funding for transportation.

The participants could not help feeling some sadness in realizing that there would be no more Tenri Workshop next year. The workshop participants, however, should be able to continue their good work on

Japanese antiquarian materials since they had the training and are also connected with people who are familiar with the material through the network they established in the past three years. In fact, Ms. Hasegawa of Musée National des arts asiatiques - Guimet presented an interesting paper on the Japanese rare books collection of the National Museum of Asian art-Guimet during the EAJRS (European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists) annual conference held in Norwich, United Kingdom from September 16 to 19, 2009. This is a result of having benefited from the Tenri Workshop. It would be wonderful if, in the future, even more Japanese librarians overseas could have the opportunity to learn the important skills necessary to work with Japanese antiquarian materials.