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TENRI WORKSHOP: A REPORT TO NCC BOARD IN AUGUST 2007

Sachie Noguchi
NCC LPDC Co-Chair/Tenri Workshop Committee member

The Workshop: The Tenri Antiquarian Materials Workshop for Overseas Japanese Studies Librarians (Tenri Workshop) took place from June 18th through June 22nd, 2007. This event was 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 (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 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); with additional co-sponsors (協賛): the Yushodo Group, Toshokan Ryutsu Center, Maruzen, and Junkudo Bookstore, in collaboration (協力) with the Nara Convention Bureau.

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

Participants: Nineteen participants were screened and selected by NCC and EAJRS. There were twelve European participants: four from UK, three from France, and one each from Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Norway. There were seven librarians from North America:

Kuniko Yamada McVey, Harvard University
Haruko Nakamura, Yale University
Sachie Noguchi, Columbia University
Hisako Rogerson, Library of Congress
Keiko Suzuki, Yale University
Lynette K. Teruya, University of Hawaii-Manoa
Reiko Yoshimura, Freer and Sackler Gallery Library

Program: 2007 is Year 1 of the three-year series and the training was focused on the early modern printed books (近世版本). During the five days, participants were immersed in well-integrated lectures and hands-on training from nine o'clock in the morning till five in the evening. Unless indicated otherwise, the instructors were from Tenri University and/or the Tenri Central Library.

Day 1 (June 18th): Following the opening ceremony, which was attended by the President of Tenri University and the Director and staff of the Tenri Central Library, participants listened to the following two lectures in the morning: "General Remarks of Japanese Antiquarian Materials (日本古典籍の概要)" by Mr. K. Kaneko (former Director of the Special Headquarter of the Tenri Central Library) and "Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 1(和古書目録作成の基礎 1)" by Prof. H. Yamanaka, who was the pivotal person in organizing and executing this workshop. The afternoon session featured a lecture titled "The History and Types of Printing of Japanese Antiquarian Books (和古書の印刷の歴史と種類)" by Mr. M. Kishimoto. Following the lecture, participants viewed a special exhibition about the history and different types of printing of Japanese antiquarian books in the special exhibits room. Participants were shown concrete examples of the types of materials covered in the lectures as Mr. Sawai explained each item. Later in the afternoon, a tour of the preservation department was conducted. Again, the participants had an opportunity to see concrete examples of the different types of work done by the staff.

Day 2 (June 19th): The morning sessions featured an excellent lecture titled “Publishing in the Early Modern Period (近世の出版)” by Prof. (Emeritus) M. Nakano (Kyushu University), followed by “Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 2 (和古書目録作成の基礎 2),” a lecture given by M. I. Okajima. She followed that up in the afternoon with “The History and Types of Bindings (装丁の歴史とその種類)” and “Handling of Japanese Antiquarian Books and Recording Their Physical Descriptions (和古書の取り扱いと形態の記録)” in preparation for the cataloging exercises that followed.

Day 3 (June 20th): In the morning, there were two lectures: “Kanki in the Early Modern Printed Books (近世版本の刊記)” by Mr. M. Ushimi and “Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 3 (和古書目録作成の基礎 3)” by Ms. Okajima. There was a hands-on exercise based on the explanatory session “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 1, Explanation of the Cataloging Sheet and Drafting the Sheet (和古書目録作成 (1), 目録作成シートの解説と原稿作成).” Each participant practiced cataloging three books with assistance from the cataloging staff of the Central Library in the afternoon. The drafted sheets were submitted to the library staff for their review.

Day 4 (June 21st): Based on handwritten worksheets that had been submitted by participants the previous day and marked for corrections by the cataloging staff, participants practiced putting data into the computers following instructions from the explanatory session “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 2, Data Input Based on the Corrected Draft Sheets (和古書目録作成 (2), 作成原稿の返却とデータ入力).” European participants input data using NACSIS WEBCAT while North American participants used the MARC 21 format. In the afternoon, there was an excursion to Horyuji Temple, where participants had a chance to see the special exhibition that included Japanese antiquarian works.

Day 5 (June 22nd): In the morning, participants revised and updated their data in the computers based on the corrections marked by the staff on the data printouts. Then, Prof. Yamanaka introduced “Resources in Reference to Cataloging (目録作成の参考となる情報源).” In the afternoon, Ms. Okajima, together with Prof. Yamanaka, talked about “The Issues Related to Cataloging Data (目録データ作成に関わる問題点).” After a question and answer session, there was a review session entitled “An Evaluation of Year 1 and Working Toward Year 2,” in which all parties involved in the workshop had a scintillating discussion about the program, the problems to be improved, and the requests for Year 2. The Workshop successfully concluded with a closing ceremony.

The Symposium: On the morning of June 23rd, the participants had an opportunity to visit Tenrikyo-related facilities such as the Church Headquarters and the Tenri Sankokan Museum. In the afternoon, the participants attended the Tenri University International Symposium entitled “Book Paths: to Japan, from Japan - International Intellectual Exchange through Books,” which took place in the Furusato Hall as the last stage of the Workshop.

Dr. S. Takeuchi (Professor Emeritus of Library and Information Science University) delivered the key note speech “Book Paths, to Japan.” That was followed by the session entitled “Book Paths, from Japan” in which Ms. R. Yoshimura, representing the North American participants, gave a talk on “Path to North America and the Current Status.” Mr. N. Koyama (Cambridge University), a European counterpart, also talked about the case for Europe. The third session was a panel discussion which was moderated by Prof. Yamanaka. Panelists (Ms. Okajima and Prof. A. Miyazawa (NII) joined the above three speakers for this session) expressed their views about international exchange through books and their significance, the role of Japanese Studies, and issues of cataloging.

At this symposium, Ms. Yoshimura reported the results of the survey conducted by the Subcommittee on Japanese Rare Books of the CEAL Committee on Japanese Materials, of which she is a member. She also talked about the short histories of Japanese rare and special collections in selected libraries in North America. For the latter, the participants from North America assisted Ms. Yoshimura by submitting the

short histories of their respective rare and special collections. The participants were grateful to Ms. Yoshimura for her preparation and excellent presentation.

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.
- Ms. Toshie Marra (NCC's then Chair, CEAL CJM Subcommittee on Japan Rare Books)'s advice during the preparation period
- Fund Proposal to the NEAC
- Review of the documents: announcement and the application form for North America
- Call for applications on Eastlib (Feb 5, reminder Feb 21, 2007),
- LPDC Selection Subcommittee members
Hideyuki Morimoto (CEAL CJM Subcommittee on Japanese Rare Books)
Eiko Sakaguchi (Subcommittee chair, LPDC)
Yasuko Makino (LPDC)
Izumi Tytler (Observer/Advisor, Tenri Workshop Preparatory Committee)
- Acting as the bursar for funds from the Japan Foundation earmarked for US participants

Over all, it was a stimulating and eye-opening experience for the participants. They learned a great deal during the five days, although the number of books each person was able to catalog was limited due to time constraints, and everyone was left wanting time to do more. The time spent at the workshop and symposium proved to be a truly rewarding five-plus days for everyone. The participants are greatly indebted to the Tenri-related institutions and their staff; Tenrikyo provided us with wonderful accommodations in a peaceful environment, 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 grateful to them. In addition to the Tenri group, participants are also very appreciative of all parties that supported this workshop, in particular, the Japan Foundation which provided partial funding for transportation. The participants are hopeful that Year 2 will be even more fruitful and wish for the extension of all the support to continue into the next year.

On June 27th, Tytler, Todd, and Noguchi, representing the Tenri Workshop Committee, visited the Yushodo Group in Tokyo to express their gratitude to the Group's support of the event. Tytler and Noguchi also visited the Japan Foundation's Tokyo Headquarters to briefly report on the success of the Workshop.