Canadian Japanese Studies Librarians Library Colloquium

Tsuneharu Gonnami

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CANADIAN JAPANESE STUDIES LIBRARIANS LIBRARY COLLOQUIUM

A Report on the "Librarians' Colloquium: The Current State of Japan-Related Collections in Canadian Libraries" initiated by the Japan Foundation in Toronto and held at the Conference Room of their offices on March 25, 2000 (9:30am - 7:30pm).

This was the first meeting ever held of Japanese Studies librarians in Canada. The meeting was organized by the Toronto Office of the Japan Foundation (JF). The meeting began with opening remarks by Mr. Naoji Matsubara, Director of JF, and Mrs. Mariko Liliefeldt, Librarian of JF, acted as chair of the meeting. Tsuneharu Gonnami, Japanese Librarian of the Asian Library of the University of British Columbia, was asked to report the meeting results to the library-related guests at the reception.

The following seven librarians and one library assistant in charge of Japanese language materials from all across Canada participated in this mini-conference on Japanese Collections, and after a brief introduction, each of the participants reported on the present condition of their Japanese library resources in the morning session:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Monographs (vols.)</th>
<th>Current Serials (titles)</th>
<th>Prof. Staff</th>
<th>CJK System</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>T. Suzuki (1)</td>
<td>U of Victoria</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>RLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. Gonnami</td>
<td>U of British Columbia</td>
<td>130,000</td>
<td>*1,650(2)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>RLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. Takanobu</td>
<td>Universite de Montreal (3)</td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Ozaki (4)</td>
<td>National Lib. of Canada</td>
<td>1,500 (5)</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. Howard</td>
<td>Royal Ontario Museum</td>
<td>10,000</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>RLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Kutsukake</td>
<td>U of Toronto</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>RLIN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M. Liliefeldt</td>
<td>Japan Fnd. Toronto</td>
<td>9,000 (6)</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>OCLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Lee (7)</td>
<td>York University</td>
<td>3,000</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>1 (7)</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes: 1) Refers to “Librarian in Charge of Japanese language Materials,” not specifically “Japanese Studies Librarian.”
2) Includes 1,300 titles of Japanese Government Serials.
3) “Centre d'etudes de l'Asie de l'Est”
5) Collects “Japanese Canadiana” publications only.
6) Includes "Audiovisual Materials.”
Three of the librarians presented reports on a library and two workshops in which they participated previously. These were as follows:

1) Ms. Lynne Kutsukake, of the University of Toronto, spoke about the Fourth Training Program for Japanese Studies Librarians jointly organized by the National Diet Library and the Japan Foundation, which was held in Tokyo between Jan. 17 - Feb. 4, 2000.

2) Mrs. Mariko Liliefeldt of the Japan Foundation Library in Toronto reported on the North-American Coordinating Council (NCC) on Japanese Library Resources - Next Decade Planning Meeting held in San Diego on March 6-7, 2000.


In the afternoon session, Ms. Linda Lee of York University Library described their Asian Materials Collection, which was mainly acquired as a gift.

The presentations were followed by an open discussion of topics and issues related to Japan-related collections and library services in Canada. Some of the topics raised were:

1) The impact of NCC's proposal for a Canadian Multi-Volume Set Fund, which the majority of participants supported,

2) Training and hiring of the next generation of Japanese Studies librarians in Canada,

3) Electronic resources: Interest, reference questions, and usefulness of listserves - EASTLIB, Japanese Librarians' Listserve (Japan), and Amazon,

4) The Japan Foundation's Annual Library Support Program and the important role of the Japan Foundation to Canadian libraries,

The conference participants unanimously expressed support for the continuation of the Japan Foundation - National Diet Library Training Program for the Japanese Studies Librarians, which will be reviewed at the end of its 5th year in 2001. This international workshop plays an important role in the education of qualified Japanese Studies librarians not only in Canada, but throughout the world. In this first meeting, we reached the conclusion that new Japanese librarians in the field of Japanese studies in Canada should be encouraged to participate in this training program and should also be able to benefit from all the new information resources available from Japan. We are also glad that the main purpose of this meeting, which was to get acquainted with each other and to gain a better understanding of the present state of Japan-related collections in each of our
institutions, was successfully accomplished. Since this colloquium was no doubt an important milestone for Japanese collections in Canada, we sincerely hope that it will lead to creation of new ideas and the further development of library programs which will enhance Japanese library resources and Japan-related information services in Canada.

At the end of "Librarians’ Colloquium: The Current State of Japan-Related Collections in Canadian Libraries", Mr. T. Gonnami, on behalf of all the participants, summarized the important points of the day’s meeting, as described above, and concluded by thanking to the Japan Foundation for their initiation, planning and support of this first meeting in the year 2000. He also conveyed the hope on the part of all the participants that this kind of meeting may continue to be held in the coming years.

After the meeting there was a reception for the participants as well as invited guests and closing remarks were made by the JF Director Naoji Matsubara and Chair Mariko Liliefeldt.

Lastly but not least, all the participants in the "Librarians’ Colloquium" would like to express their sincere appreciation to everyone who helped in preparing and supporting this successful library meeting.

(Reported by Tsuneharu Gonnami, U. of British Columbia)