2-1-2014

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Tenri Antiquarian Materials Workshop for Overseas Japanese Studies Librarians (Tenri Workshop) Phase 2: A Report

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The Workshop: The Tenri Antiquarian Materials Workshop for Overseas Japanese Studies Librarians (Tenri Workshop) Phase 2 took place from June 11th through 20th, 2013, at the Tenri Central Library located in Tenri City in Japan. It was a sequel to a series of workshops of the same name held each year in 2007 through 2009. The workshop was organized and executed (主催) by the Tenri Workshop Committee, comprising Christian Dunkel (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin), Setsuko Kuwabara (formerly Japanisch-Deutsches Zentrum Berlin), Yasukazu Mihama (Tenri Central Library), Sachie Noguchi (Columbia University), Hamish Todd (British Library), Izumi Tytler (Oxford University; Chair), Hideo Yamanaka (Tenri University), and Reiko Yoshimura (Freer Gallery of Art/Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Library, Smithsonian Institution); it was co-organized (共催) by Tenri University, with assistance (助成) from the Japan Foundation, the Great Britain-Sasakawa Foundation, and the Library Advancement Foundation; and it was 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), in collaboration (協力) with the Nara Convention Bureau.

Project objectives: Since the previous series of Tenri Workshops was held, there have been significant changes in terms of technology and methodology in various aspects of the management of Japanese antiquarian materials, as well as in library personnel, as experienced colleagues retire and new ones enter the field, causing a growing demand for additional Tenri Workshops in the field, both in Europe and North America. A May 2012 survey on mainly Eastlib and EAJRS mailing lists revealed that a substantial need for the workshop did exist; thus, Tenri Workshop Phase 2, a new workshop with mostly new participants, came to be organized. As with the previous workshops, the Tenri Workshop Phase 2 is also aimed at establishing a cohort of librarians expertly trained in the best practices for managing, cataloging and organizing Japanese manuscripts and antiquarian printed materials, who will serve as core persons responsible for providing guidance and training on such materials to colleagues in their respective countries and regions. This time, however, the workshop was intended to be a one-time ten-day long intensive program, unlike the previous workshop, which lasted three years with a five-day long program each year.

Participants: Twenty librarians and specialists, who were screened and selected by the nine members of the Selection Subcommittee of the Tenri Workshop Committee, participated in the Tenri Workshop Phase 2. Four of them were from Europe (three from UK and one from Germany), thirteen from North America (eleven from the United
States and two from Canada), and three from Oceania (two from Australia and one from New Zealand), namely:

Tokiko Bazzell, University of Hawaii at Manoa, USA  
Christian Dunkel, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany  
Chie Emslie, University of Auckland, New Zealand  
Shirin Eshghi, University of British Columbia, Canada  
Michelle Hall, University of Melbourne, Australia  
Ayako Hatta, Monash University, Australia  
Kazuko Hioki, University of Kentucky, USA  
Michiko Ito, University of Kansas, USA  
Dawn Lawson, New York University, USA  
Toshie Marra, University of California, Berkeley, USA  
Mari Nakahara, Library of Congress, USA  
Setsuko Noguchi, Princeton University, USA  
Yasuyo Ohtsuka, British Library, UK  
Yuriko Oono, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA  
Fabiano Takashi Rocha, University of Toronto, Canada  
Mari Suzuki, University of Michigan, USA  
Saeko Suzuki, University of Washington, USA  
Azusa Tanaka, Washington University in St. Louis, USA  
Hamish Todd, British Library, UK  
Izumi Tytler, University of Oxford, UK

Program: The workshop program was well-balanced, consisting of lectures, hands-on training, and tours to selected museums on and off campus, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. In addition, a special exhibition on the theme of history of printing in Japan, with fine and rare holdings of pre-modern Japanese printed books and manuscripts, as well as wood-blocks from the Tenri Central Library, was mounted in the exhibition room, which was accessible to the participants during the workshop period. Unless indicated otherwise, the instructors mentioned below were from Tenri University and/or Tenri Central Library.

Day 1 (June 11th): The workshop began with an opening ceremony in the auditorium. Ms. Izumi Tytler, Chair of the Tenri Workshop Committee, Mr. Masahiko Iburi, President of the Tenri University and Mr. Keiichiro Moroi, Director of the Tenri Central Library, gave opening remarks. After a session for general guidance led by Prof. Hideo Yamanaka, Prof. Ikuko Okajima gave the first lecture: “Japanese Antiquarian Materials—An Overview and Their Characteristics” 和古書とは—その概観と特徴—. Afternoon sessions consisted of an additional lecture by Mr. Masami Kishimoto, “History and Types of Japanese Printed Antiquarian Materials” 和古書印刷資料の歴史と種類, and a tour to Tenri Central Library, including the exhibition room and the closed book stacks.
In the evening, a reception with Rev. Yoshihiko Yasuno, Chairman of the Board of Directors, Tenri University, faculty and Library staff members was held at the 38th Lodging House, where all participants were staying. The Library Director, Mr. Moroi, Ms. Tomoko Nakamura of the Europe, Middle East and African Section, Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange Dept. of the Japan Foundation, and workshop participant Toshie Marra gave greeting remarks.

Day 2 (June 12th): The morning session consisted of two lectures, “Current Status of Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Materials and the Need for a Union Catalog” and “Recording Bibliographic Information (1): Titles and Authors” by Prof. Yamanaka and “Recording Bibliographic Information (1): Titles and Authors” by Prof. Okajima. In the afternoon Prof. Okajima lectured on “Binding Styles of Japanese Antiquarian Materials—Their Variety,” which was followed by a session on handling of Japanese antiquarian materials and their containers. For example, the participants learned how to view and roll a hand scroll and a hanging scroll in the proper manner. The latter session also covered the basics of recording physical descriptions of materials.

Day 3 (June 13th): In the morning, Mr. Masakazu Ushimi lectured on “Colophons in Printed Books from the Kinsei Period” 近世版本的刊記, which was followed by another lecture by Prof. Okajima on “Recording Bibliographic Information (2): Imprint Information” and “Recording Bibliographic Information (2): Imprint Information.” The afternoon was reserved for the participants to begin practicing cataloging Japanese antiquarian materials—this was the first of a series of hands-on exercise sessions in cataloging. The participants were introduced to a data sheet devised by Tenri Central Library and practiced filling out the form, utilizing a variety of reference sources, including printed materials and electronic resources.

Day 4 (June 14th): After Prof. Okajima’s lecture, “Recording Bibliographic Information (3): Descriptive Fields Specifically for Japanese Antiquarian Materials” and the participants continued cataloging. While the morning session focused on the description of a single-volume printed book, the afternoon session focused on that of a multi-volume publication. During the hands-on sessions, the participants were divided into ten pairs, with each pair given different material to work on. As needed, guidance was provided by Tenri Central Library staff who were constantly walking around the classroom. Once the data sheet was filled out, the participants were engaged with inputting the data into NACSIS-CAT. As they completed the data entry and submitted the printed-out records, they were given a model record prepared by Tenri staff; in this way the participants were able to learn how cataloging might be done in an academic library setting in Japan.

Day 5 (June 15th): The morning session was held in a computer classroom, where Prof. Takashi Koga and Mr. Mitsuyuki Onishi respectively introduced “Information Sources Useful for Cataloging” 資源目録作成の参考となる情報源, with special focus on resources freely available on the Web, which participants could try individually. In the afternoon,
the participants had an opportunity to visit the Tenri University Sankokan Museum and the Tenrikyo Church Headquarters.

Day 6 (June 16th): In the morning, the participants visited the museum Yamato Bunkakan in Nara City, where Director Shugo Asano gave a special lecture on various aspects of Ukiyoe prints. In the afternoon, the participants had a chance to visit the Heijo-kyo Capital Area and the Todaiji Museum. As the year 2010 marked the passage of 1300 years since the establishment of the Heijo-kyo Capital, the Suzakumon Gate and the First Daigokuden or the Former Imperial Audience Hall were restored for the occasion.

Day 7 (June 17th): In the morning, Mr. Ushimi gave a sequel lecture, “Colophons in Printed Books from the Kinsei Period” 続・近世版本の刊記, which was followed by Prof. Okajima’s “Recording Bibliographic Information (4): Notes” 書誌情報の採録 (4): 注記事項. In the afternoon, the Tenri cataloger who had reviewed the records input by the workshop participants shared her comments and advice on how to improve the quality of the cataloging records. Afterwards the participants continued hands-on cataloging; this time they practiced cataloging folded formats, such as maps.

Day 8 (June 18th): In the morning, the participants had more hands-on cataloging of single- and multi-volume printed books. The afternoon sessions addressed some aspect of preservation. First Prof. Okajima delivered a lecture on “Preservation and Repairs of Japanese Bound Books: Knowledge for a Holding Institution” 和本の保存・修理について—所蔵機関としての知識—. Then, Mr. Jun Uchiyama led a hands-on session on “Repairs and Preservation: Books in Fukurotoji Style” 資料修理と保存・袋綴じ. Mr. Uchiyama explained steps to take for repairing fukurotoji-bound books, and skillfully demonstrated how to repair worn and worm-eaten folios by the urauchi method of pasting strong lightweight paper on the back of folded sheets. The participants learned how to make koyori string by twisting paper, and to bind folded papers into a fukurotoji-style book.

Day 9 (June 19th): The morning session began with Prof. Okajima’s lecture “About Recording Hand-written Manuscripts (1)” 書写資料の採録について (1), which was followed by a hands-on session in cataloging manuscripts. In the afternoon, Mr. Uchiyama continued the hands-on session in fukurotoji stitching and began the next project, “Repairs and Preservation: Making a Simple Container” 資料修理と保存・簡易帙作成実習. Following Mr. Uchiyama’s instructions, each participant constructed an enclosure to fit an assigned item perfectly. After the session, the participants were given a set of sample Japanese papers to take home.

Day 10 (June 20th): In the morning, Prof. Okajima delivered the second part of his lecture, “About Recording Hand-written Manuscripts (2)” 書写資料の採録について (2), and the participants again practiced cataloging manuscripts. In the afternoon, Prof. Yamanaka gave a talk on “Providing Image Data for Japanese Antiquarian Materials and
Its Significance イメージデータの提供と意義, in which he proposed adding image data of relevant sources in bibliographic records for Japanese antiquarian materials in online union catalogs, and he discussed the value of the practice in a global setting. The Tenri cataloger then presented more comments and advice, this time focusing on manuscript cataloging. Finally, a review session concluded the ten-day workshop. Each participant shared candid opinions on the program and comments on any other matters—one participant even shared a Haiku poem. It was clear that everyone enjoyed the workshop and the stay in Tenri very much.

The workshop formally ended with a closing ceremony in the auditorium, in which Mr. Christian Dunkel, of the Tenri Workshop Committee, Prof. Tadayoshi Ohashi, Vice President of Tenri University, and Mr. Keiichiro Moroi, Director of Tenri Central Library, gave closing remarks. After the ceremony, the participants had an opportunity to visit the well-known Gagaku Music Society of Tenri University. In their club room, Prof. Koji Sato, Head and Coach of the Society, introduced Gagaku costumes and musical instruments, and club members performed a couple of pieces. It was indeed a special performance which will remain in the participants’ hearts for a long time as a beautiful memory of a rainy day in June.