

## 1. *The Founding of the NCC*

This brief history of NCC's founding and early years was compiled by Victoria Lyon Bestor from archival records, published sources, and interviews with key players.

The field of Japanese studies in the United States is largely a postwar phenomenon fueled by an increased interest in Japan following the second world war and by the G.I. Bill, which funded college degrees for many returning from the Pacific, some of whom turned their military Japanese language training into a lifelong specialty. The field was further supported by the boom in area studies that followed the beginning of the Cold War and the major infusion of government funding to support the study of foreign languages in our "national defense." By 1950, independent Japanese studies programs had been set up at six United States universities, Yale, University of Washington, Michigan, Harvard, Columbia and University of California, Berkeley, (listed in order of establishment) and the field continued to grow modestly throughout the 1960s.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Japan's remarkable economic comeback from the near total destruction of the war spurred further growth in Japanese studies as Japan's export-led "Economic Miracle" became the subject of study in academia and conflict among major sectors of the United States manufacturing industries, most notably the auto industry.

By the early 1970s, Japanese corporate philanthropy began to move abroad and became a major donor and a much sought after prospect for US colleges large and small and Canadian academic institutions.<sup>1</sup> Debates over the motivations behind Japanese corporate funding continued until the Japanese economic bubble burst in the early 1990s, by which time programs in Japanese studies had sprung up at colleges and universities in all regions of the country. Increasingly, the need for Japanese language library and information resources was expressed to long time funders in the field, especially the Japan-US Friendship Commission (JUSFC), the Japan Foundation, and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, founded in 1991.

As the Japan Foundation's survey of Japanese studies in the United States in the 1990s notes, in the 25 years between 1970 and 1995 the number of academic institutions with some Japanese studies had tripled. More striking was the fact that "Indeed, the number of institutions with a Japan specialist in 1995 [was] larger than the total number of Japan specialists in 1970!"<sup>2</sup> During those same years the density and depth of Japanese studies programs in American institutions had also increased steadily. For example, in 1970 the number of institutions with 12 or more Japan specialists was six; by 1995 there were 28 institutions with 12 or more Japan specialists, and corresponding increases were seen at all other levels of staffing.<sup>3</sup> As this enormous growth was taking place, a major crisis was emerging in efforts to support the library and information needs of the broadening and deepening field of Japanese studies.

During the late 1980s, to assess the best ways of meeting the changing resource needs of the field; the Japan Foundation and the JUSFC together and separately undertook a number of studies and held conferences.<sup>4</sup> Already it was apparent to funders and users alike that an intermediary

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<sup>1</sup> See London, Nancy R., 1991, *Japanese Corporate Philanthropy*, London, Oxford University Press; and Bestor, Victoria Lyon, 2002. "Toward a Cultural Biography of Civil Society in Japan," in *Family and Social Policy in Japan: Anthropological Approaches*, ed. Roger Goodman, Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, and pp. 29-53.

<sup>2</sup> *Japanese Studies in the United States: The 1990s* (Japanese studies Series XXVI), the Japan Foundation, 1996, pg. 49, emphasis in the original.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, pg. 50

<sup>4</sup> Among these were the "Japan-U.S. Conference on Library and Information Science in Higher Education" held in October 1988 in Racine, Wisconsin co-funded by the JUSFC and the Johnson's Wax Foundation, "The state of Japanese Collections in United States Research Libraries, 1990" by Diane E. Perushak, prepared for the JUSFC, and various presentations made at meetings such as the

organization was needed to: 1) work with faculty and librarians in the field; 2) work directly with funders; 3) help coordinate ongoing efforts at improving access to Japanese materials for faculty and students in Japanese studies throughout the country; 4) develop strategies for resource sharing; 5) and establish means for cooperative collection development on a national level.

The creation of such a body was discussed at the October 1990 meeting of the Japan Foundation American Advisory Committee (JF-AAC). At the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the JF-AAC on March 2, 1991 the idea was further championed by then-AAC Chair Marius Jansen and then-Institutional Support Subcommittee Chair Carol Gluck. That meeting called for the convening of an ad-hoc group to recommend strategies to Tokyo [the Japan Foundation], to AAC, and to the JUSFC about the formation of a “standing national committee [that would be] a joint library committee, serving the Japan Foundation, the Global Partnership Fund, and the JUSFC, at least in oversight if not in the technical grant distribution. This would result in a change in our present library support program in the direction of enhancement, interaction and cooperation among libraries, grantors and donators, and cooperating organizations in Japan.”<sup>5</sup>

To that end, a conference was held in June 1991 in Washington D.C. at which further recommendations were developed regarding the creation of a national standing committee which, when it was formally founded later that year, was officially named the “National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources” (since known as NCC).<sup>6</sup> The report of the June 1991 conference described the nature of the future committee as follows: “It [the NCC] would have to relate to CEAL but do more than CEAL; it must work exclusively on Japanese materials. It must be multi-sponsored and have funding to be organized permanently in order to have clout. It must include librarians from all tiers, as well as LOC (Library of Congress)” and “end users must be on it.”<sup>7</sup> The question of committee membership was also discussed and it was agreed that there would be a conflict of interest if the funding agencies and the foundations served as secretariat and that the body had to be both independent and jointly funded by the Japan Foundation and the Commission. In conclusion, the report of the June 1991 conference recommended that a proposal for the creation of a national standing committee be prepared for submission to both the Commission and the Japan Foundation. The submission date for that proposal was August 1, 1991.

In November 1991 the Japan Foundation and the JUSFC together convened the Conference on National Planning for Japanese Libraries, since known as the Hoover Meeting because the Hoover Institution in Palo Alto, California hosted the meeting. At the Hoover meeting, it was announced that the Japan Foundation and the JUSFC had jointly funded the “National Coordinating Committee on Japanese Library Resources, (the NCC)” and that Dr. Amy Vladeck Heinrich of Columbia University was appointed as Chair.<sup>8</sup>

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Subcommittee on Japanese Materials of the Committee on East Asian Libraries including that made in April 1991 with presentations by Isao Tsujimoto on behalf of the Japan Foundation and Eric Gangloff for the JUSFC.

<sup>5</sup> Summary Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the American Advisory Council of the Japan Foundation, March 2, 1991, p. 10.

<sup>6</sup> The list of attendees at the conference was later published in the June 1991 *CEAL Bulletin* No. 93 (later called *the Journal of East Asian Libraries, JEAL*), pp. 33-36, (recheck page numbers for citation). Led by Marius Jansen, AAC Chair; Maureen Donovan, CEAL President; and Yukio Fujino of the National University of Information Science in Japan check this affiliation; attendees were (in alphabetical order), Suzanne Gay, Carol Gluck, Dorothy Gregor, Hideo Kaneko, Mihoko Miki, Diane Perushek, Kenneth Pyle, Tamiyo Togasaki, Warren Tsuneishi, Duane Webster, and Andrew Wang. Observers included John Mallot, Phyllis Spies, Michael Paschal, Isao Tsujimoto, Haruo Washi, Eric Gangloff, Robert Marra, Takashi Ishida, and Jun Wada. The stated goals of the meeting were 1) To produce a steady long-term flow of Japanese materials, 2) To develop a national plan to fairly share materials, and 3) To facilitate means for sharing through a combination of all technical means.

<sup>7</sup> Summary Report of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the American Advisory Committee of the Japan Foundation, March 2, 1991, p. 10.

<sup>8</sup> Minutes of the Conference on National Planning for Japanese Libraries, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, November 7-9, 1991, minutes compiled by Donald H. Shively, UC Berkeley, January 31, 1992, page 3.

The Hoover Meeting was focused on the needs of academic libraries and brought together 27 librarians from 23 U.S. libraries along with 3 representatives from Japan and 3 faculty members. At that meeting Dr. Ramon Myers of the Hoover Institution also presented a document titled *A Tentative Plan for a National Organization of Japanese Libraries in the United States*, which would consist of six members representing three regions each with a representative from a large and a small library.<sup>9</sup> That proposal was adopted and resulted in the creation of a six-person “National Planning Team for Academic Japanese Libraries (NPT)” to steer and oversee the initiatives that were agreed upon at the Hoover meeting. In addition, nine NPT task forces were created to make recommendations in the three areas identified by the June 1991 meeting in Washington DC: collection development, access, and librarian training.

The minutes of the Hoover Meeting made a point of clarifying that the National Planning Team and the task forces under it were different from the new NCC. “A word of explanation to prevent confusion: The conference at the Hoover Institution was concerned almost entirely with university libraries.” The minutes further noted that the standing committee (the future NCC) “has a much broader charge; it will be concerned with all kinds of libraries, not only academic libraries, but public libraries, small libraries of books on Japan largely in Western languages, and a range of other library matters.”<sup>10</sup>

In response to discussion of Dr. Myers’ proposal further clarification was made on the differences between the NPT and NCC. JUSFC Executive Director Eric Gangloff explained that the NCC “will be concerned about the needs of all libraries, not only academic libraries with their collections of materials in Japanese, but also smaller libraries, public libraries, libraries beginning to collect materials on Japan in English, information retrieval services, and other organizations. It is to be expected that the committee will include among its members not only Japanese librarians but scholars and other specialists on Japan, administrators, specialists in library services and others. The Committee [NCC] will serve as a coordinating committee for the needs of all libraries, and provide advice to the Commission and the Japan Foundation on how to respond to those needs. In contrast, the group at the present meeting [the National Planning Team] is concerned with the problems of academic collections of materials on Japan, primarily in Japanese. The mission of this group, made up largely of Japan librarians, is to identify comprehensively the needs of Japanese academic collections, and then to prioritize the technical parameters for proposals it puts forward as advice to the Japan-US Friendship Commission. If its proposals and advice are accepted by the National Standing Committee (the NCC) it [the National Planning Team] might conceivably function as a sub-committee of the National Committee [the NCC]. If this group was to continue to function by forming a committee, as proposed in Dr. Myer’s document, it is necessary to give this group a name. The name agreed upon was a ‘National Planning Team for Academic Japanese Libraries.’ ”<sup>11</sup>

Most of the Hoover Meeting was devoted to discussions of the major issues faced by academic libraries. In the final session the membership of the National Planning Team was proposed. Hideo Kaneko (Yale University) was chosen as Chair of the team and the members by region and size of collection were: for the West Coast, Yuki Ishimatsu (UC Berkeley), and Sharon Domier (Oregon); Midwest, Yasuko Matsudo (Michigan) and Sachiko Morrell (Washington University, St. Louis); East Coast, Hideo Kaneko (Yale) and Kristina Troost (Duke). It was agreed that the length of time the National Planning Team would exist was yet to be determined in part because it was in effect a subcommittee on academic libraries of the yet-to-be appointed National

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid, pg 39

<sup>10</sup> Ibid, pg. 2.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid, pg. 40.

Standing Committee (the NCC). It was further speculated that, since “the National Standing Committee will probably be a review and advisory committee for the Japan Foundation and the Commission, it will probably need to form subcommittees or designate individuals to provide expertise and carry out projects for it. The activities of academic libraries are only one of several areas in which it will be concerned. It might, therefore, pick some of the initiatives that we have started [at Hoover].”<sup>12</sup>

At the conclusion of the Hoover meeting Michael Pascal of the Japan Foundation was asked about the anticipated composition of the NCC. As had previously been noted, Amy Heinrich of Columbia had been chosen as the NCC’s first Chair. That selection had been made based on recommendations received from the field in response to a letter sent by the Japan Foundation earlier in the year. In addition Mr. Pascal said, “The present plan is for a committee of 12 to 15 members, including users, scholars, Japan librarians, liaison librarians from Japan, and technical people.”<sup>13</sup> Dr. Gangloff further pointed out “that the National Standing Committee will be concerned with other library matters in addition to the academic libraries. For example, the Japan Foundation might want the Committee to advise it on the library programs it funds, on the needs for public (non-academic) libraries, liaison with the community of librarians in Japan, etc.”<sup>14</sup>

The formal announcement of the NCC’s formation and Amy Heinrich’s appointment as Chair was sent to the field on December 6, 1991 by Eiichi Hamanishi, Director of the Japan Foundation’s New York Office. That memo announced that the NCC’s first meeting would take place in February 1992, and asked everyone to understand “that this committee will be autonomous and independent, and shall not be influenced or controlled in its activities by any funding agency.”<sup>15</sup> And “we hope the committee will both enhance coordination and cooperation among Japanese collections on a national basis, and suggest the improvements for library support programs of the funding agencies.”<sup>16</sup>

The final report of the NCC’s first fiscal year (1991-92) noted “the membership agreed to take on various projects to fulfill the mission of the organization. Several of these suggested by the Task Forces of the National Planning Team (NPT); some were initiatives by funding organizations; and one was a librarian’s independent response to a perceived need.”<sup>17</sup> Major projects undertaken in the first year were the Multi-Volume Sets Project, the Retrospective Conversion Project and the Foreign Periodical Program. The Japan Foundation Library Program Subcommittee and the Database Task Force were established during this time. In addition, NCC provided assistance with the *Japan Foundation Directory* Update Surveys, *A Guide to Library of Congress Subject Headings in Japanese Studies* Revision Project, and two committees on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) task forces: one on interlibrary loan and the other on the recruitment and training of librarians.

*(This initial section outlines the early history of the NCC. Given that the NCC was created by a group of funders working with faculty and librarians, maintaining the NCC’s close relationship with funders is a critical part of its role and was detailed in the previous entry. Subsequent*

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<sup>12</sup> Ibid, pg. 48.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid, pg. 49.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid, pg. 49.

<sup>15</sup> Letter dated December 6, 1991 To: Curators and Librarians of Japanese Language Collections, From Eiichi Hamanishi, Director of the Japan Foundation New York Office, pg. 1.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid, pg. 2.

<sup>17</sup> In addition to NCC Chair Amy Heinrich the other original members were Stephen J. Anderson (Wisconsin, Madison, social science faculty), Jack Cain, (UTLAS International), Maureen Donovan (CEAL), Hideo Kaneko (Yale), Sharon Minichiello (NEAC), J. Thomas Rimer (JF-AAC), Tamiyo Togasaki (Japan Liaison), Warren Tsuneishi (LC), Duane Webster (ARL), Samuel H. Yamashita, (Pomona, humanities faculty), and Eiji Yutani (UCSD)

*chapters of the NCC's history will be published in due course. Other historical data can be found in the NCC digital archives at <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~ncc/archive.html>).*