

Tenri Workshop: A Report to NCC Board in August 2008

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The Workshop: Year 2 of the Tenri Antiquarian Materials Workshop for Overseas Japanese Studies Librarians (Tenri Workshop) took place from June 16th through June 21st, 2008. 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 (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); with additional co-sponsors (協賛): Junkudo, Toshokan Ryutsu Center, the Japan Publications Trading, Maruzen, Yagi Book Store, Books Yushodo, and Yushodo Kyoto, in collaboration (協力) with the Nara Convention Bureau.

Project objectives: This was Year 2 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. 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 participants (unfortunately one person could not participate this year due to illness): four from UK, three from France, and one each from Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and Norway. There were seven librarians from the United States:

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: 2008 is Year 2 of the three-year series and the training was focused on the early modern printed books and manuscripts (近世版本・写本). 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. Unless indicated otherwise, the instructors were from Tenri University and/or the Tenri Central Library.

Day 1 (June 16th): Following the opening ceremony, which was attended by the Vice President of Tenri University and the Director and staff of the Tenri Central Library, participants listened to the special lecture entitled “Publishing and Distribution of Printed Books During the Kinsei Period (近世版本の出版と流通)” by Prof. Chiyoji Nagatomo of Bukkyo University, who is a scholar of pre-modern literature. Following the special lecture in the morning, there was a lecture “Kanki in the Early Modern Printed Books, part 2 (続・近世版本の刊記について)” by Mr. M. Ushimi (Tenri Central Library). In the afternoon, there were two lectures: “Japanese Manuscripts” by Mr. K. Kaneko (former Director of the Special Headquarter of the Tenri Central Library) and “Varieties of Prints and Print Books (印・刷・拓及び版本の種類)” by Mr. M. Kishimoto. Following the lecture, participants viewed a special exhibition in the special exhibits room about the history and different types of printing of Japanese antiquarian books which reflected the contents of the lecture. Participants were shown concrete examples of the types of materials covered in the lectures. In the evening there was a reception attended by Mr. G. Kobayashi from the Japan Foundation and Tenri-related personnel at the 38th Lodging House where all participants were staying.

Day 2 (June 17th): The morning sessions featured a lecture titled “Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 4 : Descriptions Specific to Japanese and Chinese Antiquarian Books (和古書目録作成の基礎 4 : 和漢古書特有の記述について)” by Prof. I. Okajima. The lecture was followed by a hands-on exercise, “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 4 : Drafting the Cataloging Sheet for Printed Materials (和古書目録作成 (4), 印刷資料の原稿作成).” Each participant practiced cataloging printed book(s) with assistance from the cataloging staff of the Central Library. “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 5 : Drafting the Cataloging Sheet for Printed Materials (和古書目録作成 (5), 印刷資料の原稿作成)” followed in the afternoon; the participants were divided into a number of groups and 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.

In the evening at the lodging house, participants got together and had a discussion about the future of the Workshop. They unanimously expressed their desire to continue the training in some format.

Day 3 (June 20th): It was a fun day. In the morning, there was a lecture on “Repair and Preservation of Materials (資料修理と保存)” by Mr. J. Uchiyama, followed by hands-on practice of Japanese traditional binding method starting with twisting paper into a string (紙繕) to the actual stitching of *fukurotoji* (袋綴). This exercise was carried out with the assistance of Mr. Uchiyama’s preservation room staff. Participants really had a fun time. In the afternoon, there was an excursion to The Conservation Center for Cultural Properties located in the Nara National Museum. There, participants had a chance to see the facilities and machine equipment such as DIIPS, and the actual practices of preservation and repair of valuable cultural properties. On the way back to Tenri, participants visited the remains of Heijokyo (平城京址).

Day 4 (June 19th): The morning started with the practice session, “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 6, Drafting the Cataloging Sheet for Printed Materials (和古書目録作成 (6), 印刷資料の原稿作成).” 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 by Prof. Okajima on “Foundations of Cataloging Japanese Antiquarian Books 5: Cataloging of Manuscripts (和古書目録作成の基礎 5: 書写資料の採録について).” 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 7, Drafting Cataloging Sheet for Manuscripts (和古書目録作成 (7), 書写資料の原稿作成).” Grouped participants practiced cataloging 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, there was a Tenri Workshop Committee meeting at the lodging house and there was an exchange of opinions on various issues between the committee members, from both the participants’ and Tenri’s side.

Day 5 (June 20th): The morning session started with “Cataloging of Japanese Antiquarian Books 8, Drafting Cataloging Sheet for Manuscripts (和古書目録作成 (8), 書写資料の原稿作成).” 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 by Mr. M. Onishi on “Resources in Reference to Cataloging 2 : Net Information (目録作成の参考となる情報源 (2) ネット情報).” Participants were allowed to download useful pages to their stick disc provided by the Workshop. 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のまとめ).” As the last, there was a review session entitled “An Evaluation of Year 2 and Working Toward Year 3 (今年度の問題と次年度に向けて)” in which all parties involved in the workshop had a candid discussion about the program, the problems to be improved, and the requests for Year 3. The Workshop successfully concluded with a closing ceremony.

In the evening, participants got together again and discussed and planned future activities. The participants set themselves up as the Overseas Japanese Antiquarian Materials Study Group (OJAMSG 在外日本古典籍研究会) and agreed to set up its own homepage hosted by the Japan Library Group, UK, and to create a directory of the participants’ institutions, outlining holdings of antiquarian (printed books, manuscripts, prints) materials and how bibliographic data about them can be accessed. It was also agreed upon to create a sort of cataloging description list on the eighteen themes such as *daisen* (題箋) and *kanki* and *okuzuke* (刊記・奥付), extracting phrases with these terms from the cataloging records for the Chikuhakuen (竹柏園) Collection, which are in the OPAC of the Tenri Central Library. To administer this new project, the Steering Committee was formed and L. Teruya and K. Suzuki became members.

The Symposium: In the morning of June 21st, most of the participants had free time and visited Tenri Arcade (a sort of shopping mall for Tenrikyo believers and Tenri citizens) and enjoyed various stores selling Tenrikyo related religious equipments, music instruments and clothing, souvenirs, local traditional foods, etc. In the afternoon, the participants attended the Tenri University International Symposium entitled “Towards the International Exchange of Bibliographic Information of Japanese Antiquarian Books (和古書書誌情報の国際的共有を目指して)” which took place in the Furusato Hall as the last stage of the Workshop. Prof. H. Nagata of University of Tsukuba delivered the keynote speech “Towards the International Exchange of Bibliographic Information.” That was followed by the panel discussion which was moderated by Prof. Yamanaka. The panelists were Prof. A. Miyazawa (NII), Ms. H. Rogerson, Mr. K. Ito (Toshokan Ryutsu Center) and Ms. Okajima. Preceding the panel discussion, Ms. Rogerson, representing the Workshop participants, gave a talk on “Rare Book Cataloging in Library of Congress,” which was a well-informed description of the status of the Library Congress and the cataloging environment in the United States. The participants were grateful to Ms. Rogerson 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.
- Acting as the bursar for funds from the Japan Foundation earmarked for US participants

Over all, it was again a stimulating and valuable experience for the participants. They learned a great deal during the five days. One of the differences pointed out by the Tenri Library staff was that the participants greatly enhanced their knowledge and experience comparing with Year 1 when most of the participants did not know what to do to start cataloging with antiquarian books. This year, a new approach, cataloging in groups/with partners instead of individually, was implemented; this provided the opportunity to learn from partners. Again, 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 with 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 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 looking forward to Year 3 (June 15-19, 2009), which will again provide still more valuable time.

After the Tenri Workshop, Noguchi went to Tokyo representing the Tenri Workshop Committee, and visited Japan Publication Trading Co., Ltd. on June 25 and the Yushodo Group on June 27 to express the Committee’s gratitude for their support of the event.