

**Japan Art Catalog (JAC) Western Art Project  
at Columbia University  
Report to the NCC Board, August 2008**

- I. Project Summary:** Columbia University receives exhibition catalogs on Western art, which are cataloged in the Starr East Asian Library Technical Services Division for housing in the Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Library.
- II. Cataloging:** The C. V. Starr East Asian Library Technical Service Division, Hideyuki Morimoto, Japanese Cataloger, cataloged another 204 titles 206 volumes for this fiscal year in July.
- III. Duplicates:** 71 duplicate exhibition catalogs were found and sent in July to:
- Sharon Domier  
c/o Technical Services, Frost Library  
Amherst College,  
Amherst, MA 01002
- IV A JAC Japan-US Meeting in Tokyo :** In the afternoon of June 24 R. Yoshimura from Freer Gallery, V. Bester and T. Bazzell from NCC, and Noguchi met with NACT staff relating to the JAC Project. Before the meeting we paid a courtesy call to the NACT Director, Mr. Hayashida and expressed our gratitude to him for his support of the JAC Project. Since the governance of the Project has been transferred from the ACE Japan to the NACT, we exchanged thoughts on current and historical issues. Columbia was asked whether or not it can provide usage statistics including ILL. After Noguchi's return to Columbia the request was forwarded to the Library Systems Office via Avery Library; no response has been received as to this date.

(Submitted by Sachie Noguchi, JAC-W coordinator at Columbia 08/06/08)

## JAC Project Meeting Minutes

Date: June 24, 2008  
Place: New Art Center, Tokyo

Participants: Tokiko Bazzell (NCC)  
Victoria Bestor (NCC)  
Takeshi Mizutani (National Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo)  
Sachie Noguchi (Columbia University)  
Osamu Fukunaga, Chief Curator (National Art Center, Tokyo)  
Mariko Shiratori (National Art Center, Tokyo)  
Reiko Yoshimura (Freer Gallery of Art)

Mariko reported NACT expect the shipment cost will increase 125% due to a sharp rise of the oil prices so they will need to seek outside funding for the JAC shipment. In order to attract donors:

- (a) NACT might look for JAC recipients in Asia.
- (b) Would like to receive positive comments from users – Reiko might be able to recruit users who would write short comments. (postscript: Reiko sent a user's positive comment letter)
- (c) Would like to have ILL statistics.

1. Sachie gave an update on Columbia's activities.

- Has been cataloging 200 titles per year.
- Will collect ILL statistics from the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library.

2. Reiko gave an update on Freer's activities.

- A contract cataloger processed 238 titles (\$21 per title). Funding has been provided by the anonymous donation from a library user.
- Will submit the most recent ILL statistics.

3. JAC II: Vickey said 73 titles of Japanese art catalogs published in the US had been shipped and Mariko acknowledged receiving them. Mariko said that NACT receives 8,640 volumes (3,000 non-Japanese titles) of Japan Foundation funded exhibition catalogs on Japanese. She asked that such titles be omitted from the future JAC II donations since the Japan Foundation is committed to donating catalogs of exhibitions funded by the Japan Foundation in the future.

4. It was mentioned that the recent elimination of sea mail by the US Postal Service has increased JAC II shipping costs. NCC used Yamato's service for the last two shipments. NCC continues to investigate cost effective shipping venues to Japan.

5. Mariko mentioned that NACT might look for another JAC recipient in Europe. One library was recommended.

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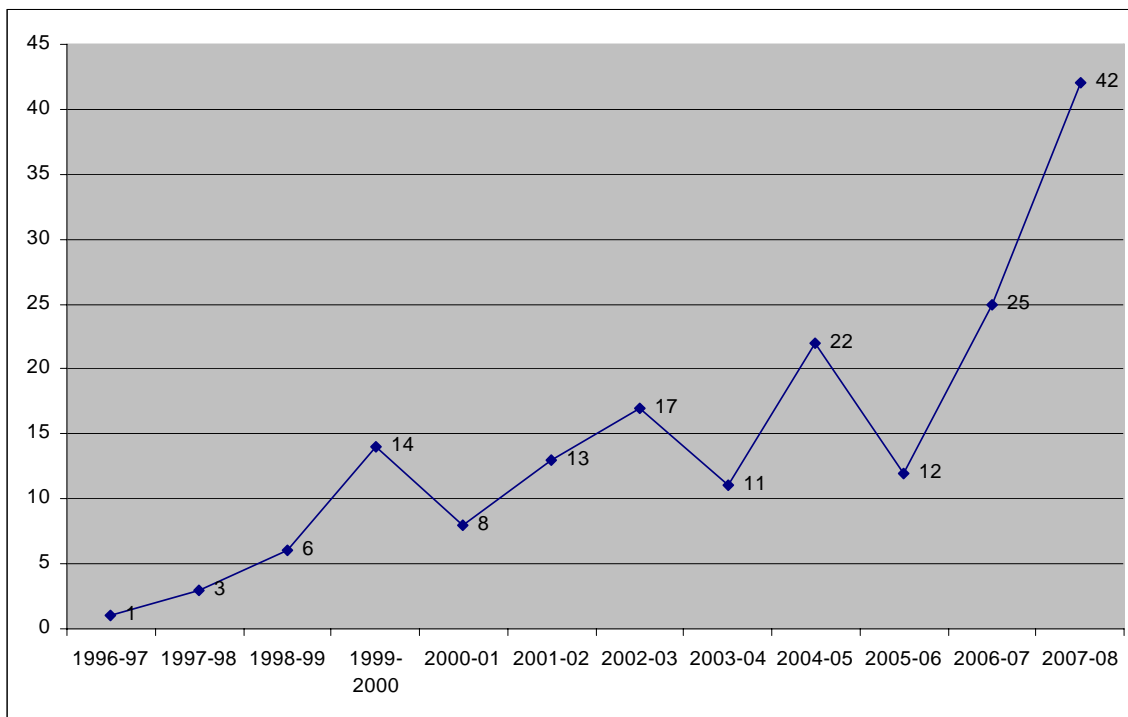
## JAC PROJECT-ASIA: STATUS REPORT

August 2008

Reiko Yoshimura  
Freer Gallery of Art Library

- I. **Received:** Total number of catalogs checked in: 4810
- II. **Cataloged:** Total number of titles cataloged: 4364 titles
- III. **Loaned:** Total number of ILL requests received/supplied: 174 (As of July 2008)

1996-2008 ILL Statistics by Chart



#### IV. New Shipments:

(1) In May 2007, received 721 volumes, among which 204 titles were duplicates to the library's JAC holdings. Therefore, we distributed those to Columbia University and Amherst College (via Columbia). At the end, the library added **517 volumes**.

(2) Received 720 volumes in April 2008. We have not sorted to remove duplicates.

#### V. Other Activities:

(1) On June 24 Mariko Shiratori of NACT organized the first meeting for US JAC participants at NACT, Tokyo.

#### JAC Project Meeting Minutes

Date: June 24, 2008  
Place: The National Art Center, Tokyo

Participants: Tokiko Bazzell (NCC)  
Victoria Bestor (NCC)  
Takeshi Mizutani (Independent Administrative Institution National Museum of Art )  
Sachie Noguchi (Columbia University)  
Osamu Fukunaga, Chief Curator / Deputy Director (The National Art Center, Tokyo)  
Mariko Shiratori (The National Art Center, Tokyo)  
Reiko Yoshimura (Freer Gallery of Art)

(Shoichi Hirai, Head of Library and Information Services, The National Art Center, Tokyo, was absent due to illness.)

1. Mariko reported NACT expect the shipment cost will increase 125% due to a sharp rise of the oil price so they will need to seek outside funding for the JAC shipment. In order to attract donors:
  - (a) NACT might look for JAC recipients in Asia.
  - (b) Would like to receive positive comments from users – Reiko might be able to recruit users who would write short comments. (postscript: Reiko sent a user's positive comment letter)
  - (c) Would like use ILL statistics as supporting evidence.
2. Sachie gave an update on Columbia's activities.
  - Columbia has been cataloging 200 titles per year.
  - Will collect ILL statistics from the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library.
3. Reiko gave an update on Freer's activities.
  - A contract cataloger has been processing 238 titles (\$21 per title) per year since 2006.

Funding has been provided by the anonymous donation from a library user.  
-- Will submit the most recent ILL statistics.

4. JAC II: Vickey reported 73 titles of Japanese art catalogs published in the US had been shipped and Mariko acknowledged receiving them. Mariko reported that NACT received 8640 volumes from Japan Foundation (as a result of downsizing their collection) which included exhibition and collection catalogs, monographs, annual reports and bulletins. Among them, included are Japan Foundation funded exhibition catalogs and NACT plans to add these titles to the JAC II. Therefore, Mariko requested NCC that JP funded exhibition catalogs be omitted from the future JAC II donations since the Japan Foundation is committed to continue donating them in the future.

### Reiko

5. It was mentioned that the recent elimination of sea mail by the US Postal Service has increased JAC II shipping costs. NCC used Yamato's service for the last two shipments. NCC continues to investigate cost effective shipping venues to Japan.

6. Mariko mentioned that NACT might look for another JAC recipient in Europe. One library was recommended.

### (2) Letter from a User (Received 07/30/2008):

"As someone who has depended on the research facilities of the Freer/Sackler Galleries library for more than forty years, I would like to express my appreciation for the benefits provided by the Japan Art Catalogue Project. Since the Galleries, with their outstanding Asian art collections, constitute the Smithsonian Institution's National Asian Art Museum and are located on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the library is recognized as an international center for research on Asian art and culture. Consequently, I believe the Galleries' library, which is open to the public, is an ideal repository for the Japan Art Catalogue Project.

I would also like to emphasize the fact that the impressive breadth of the artistic traditions represented in the Japanese exhibition catalogues constitutes an ideal symbol of the admirable cultural awareness of the Japanese people. Furthermore, it would be difficult to think of more eloquent ambassadors of Japan's indigenous culture. I should also emphasize the high quality of the texts and the illustrations, which characterize the catalogues—which, indeed, characterize all Japanese cultural publications—further enhance the aesthetic pleasure of reading them.

Since my own research is devoted to Chinese cultural history, I am especially grateful for the topics selected for special exhibitions in Japan—topics that invariably offer new insights into the significance of Chinese antiquities dating from the Late Neolithic period to the present day. On many occasions I have been impressed by the clarity with which those antiquities are presented in Japanese catalogues, as well as by the incisive analysis of their cultural context.

I am deeply indebted to the people responsible for the development of the Japan Art Catalogue Project and urge them to continue this important international cultural program."

# Japan Art Catalog (JAC) Art Project at The National Art Center, Tokyo August 2008

## III. Project Summary

- The National Art Center, Tokyo is responsible for collecting exhibition-related publications produced in Japan and sending them to 4 depository libraries, including two depositories in the United States, which are the Freer Gallery of Art Library and Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library, Columbia University.
- The Art Library of The National Art Center receives exhibition catalogs on Japanese art held overseas, separately shelved in the Library as the JAC II project collection.

## IV. Materials Shipped to the JAC Depositories in the U.S.

In the fiscal year of Heisei 19, The National Art Center sent:

- 720 publications to the Freer Gallery Library
- 515 publications to the Starr East Asian Library

## V. Materials Received from U.S. institutions for the JAC II collection

- From NCC: 75
- From Freer Gallery of Art: 53

## VI. Next Shipment

The shipments of the fiscal year of Heisei 20 for both Freer and Columbia are expected to be about the same volume as the preceding years, and they are scheduled to be sent out in the end of January 2009.

## VII. Statistics of interest

It has been over a year and half since the Center opened in January 2007, and the celebratory mood of the opening has become much quieter. Yet, the Art Library still counts an average of 6116 readers monthly (246 daily) in 2008.

## VI. Other

- A Japan-U.S. JAC personnel meeting held at the NACT on June 24, 2008.
- We are in process of cataloging a total of over 7000 duplicate materials that we received from the Japan Foundation's Arts Dept. in February and April. Among them are a few hundred of foreign exhibition related publications on Japanese art, which are added to the JAC II collection.

Submitted by Mariko Shiratori, JAC coordinator at The National Art Center, Tokyo