

**Japan Art Catalog Exchange of US Catalogs (JAC II)
Coordinated by the NCC for Sending
to The National Art Center Tokyo (NACT)
August 2007**

Project Background: The JAC project exists in three parts: the JAC Asian Collection at the Freer Gallery of Art in Washington DC, the JAC Western Collection at Columbia University cataloged in the Starr East Asian Library Technical Services Division for housing in the Avery Architecture and Fine Arts Library, and the newly restarted JAC II exchange of catalogs and other exhibition materials from exhibitions of Japanese art held in the US.

The JAC II project was suspended in 1998 at the request of ACE Japan the former coordinator of the JAC project in Japan due to space and staffing shortages. In 2005 management of the JAC Project in Japan was assumed by the Library of the National Art Center Tokyo (NACT) and coordinated by Mariko Shiratori. The first renewed shipment of 62 items is taking place in 2007 to follow the opening of NACT's enormous new facilities in Roppongi, Tokyo.

Problems Encountered in Restarting JAC II: In 2005 the NCC began planning how best to go about assembling catalogs and other exhibition materials from US museums for JAC II. We began by hiring a JAC II assistant to review the list of donors from the last JAC II shipment in 1997 and to update of those records. That portion of the project was completed but because of illness the first assistant hired had to resign. In 2006 Nozomi Naoi was hired to follow up on that list and to communicate with the major listservs in the US (eastlib, H-Japan, Japan Art History Forum, etc). Despite numerous email contacts we still were not getting many donations and together with other NCC staff Nozomi began making individual contacts with collectors and art museum personnel. After having assembled the materials for the 2007 shipment but before being able to list and mail that shipment Nozomi was forced to resign in July 2007 because of the need to convert her visa to student status. As of August 2007 a new JAC Project Assistant, Sharon Yamamoto was hired and has undertaken the completion of the first renewed JAC II shipment scheduled to depart in early September 2007.

Changes in Mailing Regulations: Because of security reasons and the decline in surface mailing the US Post Office has abolished Sea mail, the previous method used for shipping JAC II books. We are now planning to ship the 2007 shipment via Postal M-Bags but understand that the logistics and costs of shipping books via M-Bags will be greater than in the past. Other means of shipment will be explored for future shipments.

Other Factors: In her JAC Western report Sachie Noguchi noted that C. V. Starr Library Director, Amy Heinrich has also spoken with Dr. Richard Wood, President of the Japan Society in New York and secured "Awakenings: Zen Figure painting in Medieval Japan" and future exhibition catalogs published by the Society to be donated to the NACT.

Vickey Bestor has also spoken to Joe Earle the incoming director of the Japan Society Gallery and gotten his agreement to donate catalogs. At least for this first shipment Columbia plans to mail catalogs to NACT and those books will be accounted for in the JAC II 2007 shipment records being compiled by Sharon Yamamoto. Columbia and the NCC need to work closely together to make sure future records are fully coordinated on any catalogs sent separately from the annual JAC II shipments are recorded in the annual lists.

Submitted by Victoria Bestor, NCC Executive Director