

North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources
Meeting of August 31- September 1, 2007
Harvard University
Report from the Library of Congress
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Since our last meeting on January 12-13, 2007 at the University of Washington, Seattle, several projects reported at that meeting were successfully completed. The updates of these projects together with other significant activities are reported below.

Two Symposia and One Exhibition:

1. The Japanese Team and the Asian Division Friends Society (ADFS) presented jointly a Symposium on “*Japanese Cultural Treasures at the Library of Congress*” on March 27, 2007. The one-day symposium showcased the various Japanese rare and special materials in the Library. Four expert speakers were invited to speak on various topics related to the collections and its history. They were Dr. Elizabeth Oyler of the University of Illinois, Prof. Sandy Kita of Chatham College, Professor Atsushi Aiba of Nichibunken, and Professor Kunio Nonomura of the Japan Map Center.

The Symposium attracted some 70 participants from many of the universities such as Illinois, Pittsburgh, George Washington, Maryland, and Johns Hopkins. In addition, we also had participants from Japan such as the Japan Map Center, Nichibunken, National Diet Library, Edo Tokyo Museum, etc. Staff members from the Embassy of Japan, the National Library of Medicine, and several Japanese companies in the Washington, DC area also attended.

One of the speakers, Dr. Elizabeth Oyler, who spoke on the Japanese rare books, plans to publish her well-researched paper in the *Journal of East Asian Librarianship*.

2. In collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, the Asian Division and ADFS also organized a half-day symposium on “*Highlights of Japan-U.S. Relationship: History, Cultural Exchange, and Future Development*” on April 6, 2007. The Symposium coincided with the celebration of the 2007 National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC. The featured speakers were Professor Naoyuki Agawa (Keio University), Dr. Michael Auslin (Yale University, currently at The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research), and Professor Midori Goto (violinist, philanthropist, Thornton School of Music, The University of Southern California). Ambassador Ryozo Kato, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington, and Secretary Norman Mineta opened the symposium with warm welcoming remarks.

Historical and notable books from the Library's collections that are relevant to the symposium topic were displayed concurrently in the Asian Reading Room. The symposium was recorded and the webcast is available for viewing by searching "Highlights of Japan-U.S. Relationship" at LC's webcast page <http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/>.

3. The exhibition "On the Cutting Edge: Contemporary Japanese Prints" was held in the Northwest Gallery of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress from March 29 through June 30, 2007. The 212 prints on display were selected from the 50th College Women's Association of Japan Print Show and were donated to the Library by the artists or by their galleries. The exhibition can be viewed online at www.loc.gov/exhibits/CWAJ/. The details of the contemporary Japanese prints and their importance are featured in the April 2007 issues of the *Library of Congress Information Bulletin* (Vol. 66, No. 4, pages 67-72 plus the front cover).

New acquisitions

1. The Library of Congress has acquired two major titles 1) *Tsurunoya Kobori Tomoto Bunko*, and 2) *Chūgoku Tairiku Jūmanbun no ichi Chizu Shūsei 1-3 (Manshū 1-3)* that were candidates for NCC Multi-Volume Sets (MVS) Project Grants in 2005-06 and 2006-07 but not able to be funded through MVS.
2. The Library also acquired a microfilm set of *Tsurunoya Kobori Tomoto Bunko [Tsurunoya Kobori Tomoto Library]*. Tokyo: Yūshōdō Shuppan, 1996. (MVS 2005-06).
3. Jointly funded by the Asian Division and the Geography & Map Division, the Library acquired *Chugoku Tairiku Jumanbun no ichi Chizu Shusei 1-3: Manshu 1-3 [Maps/Atlas of Chinese Continent, scale 1/100,000, 1-3: Manchuria 1-3]*. Tokyo: Kagaku Shoin, Kasumigaseki Shuppan, 2003-06. (MVS 2006-07).

Digitization:

The Library plans to digitized the 41 volumes of the rare dictionary 康熙字典 *Kōki jiten [Kangxi dictionary]* and to make it accessible online. The LC's holding is a reproduction of Japanese rare edition of the Chinese dictionary published in 1780. This material is thus invaluable, especially since the Library's set is complete and well preserved.

Personnel Matters:

Mr. Eiichi Ito attended a month-long course on Classical Japanese Cursive Writings and Scripts held at Yale University in July.

Dr. Mari Sakamoto, Associate Collections Manager, the Museum of American Architectural Foundation and an accomplished archivist/librarian in the field of architectural design and history, has been appointed for the position of Japanese Reference Librarian. She will begin her new post on October 1, 2007. Dr. Sakamoto's previous employments include Assistant Professor, Tokyo Metropolitan University; Visiting Scholar, Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and preservation, Columbia University; Intern, the Museum of Modern Art; Program Coordinator, The Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture, Columbia University; Archival Specialist, the New York Public Library, etc. Dr. Sakamoto has published some 50 papers and organized 8 exhibitions.

Asian Pacific American Collection Planned:

The Asian Division is in the process of planning for an organized effort to build an Asian Pacific American collection. A national conference for establishing such a collection will be held on October 4-5, 2007. The conference will be attended by leaders in Asian American studies programs, APA collections, and communities. A national search for an APA library specialist (GS-12) has been approved and will soon be announced.