

Preservation and Conservation of Japanese Archival Documents in the Vatican Library

The Marega Collection as a Case Study

Vatican Library
National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan
Co-hosted by
Ōita Prefectural Board of Education
Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo

October 5th-6th, 2016

The Japanese documents collected by Mario Marega (1902-1978) in the first half of the 20th century, recently discovered at the Vatican Library, provide tracks for meaningful exchanges with Japanese institutions in the fields of historical research as well as training in palaeography, and archival and conservation techniques.

Within the frame of the international project to make available the entire collection through conservation, digitisation, and cataloguing, conservators at the Vatican Library have been working with their Japanese counterparts on many specific cases of preservation and conservation techniques. Based on this experience of close co-operation, over two days the workshop will introduce selected participants to Japanese archival materials, and to the theory and practice of their conservation.

Attendance restricted to forty (October 5th) and sixteen (October 6th) participants respectively. Deadline for applications: August 15th. For details, please refer to the Vatican Library webpage.

This initiative has been made possible with the generous help of the Toyota Foundation.

In collaboration with
Toyota Foundation
Italian School of East Asian Studies

With the patronage of
Università Pontificia Salesiana
Embassy of Japan to the Holy See
Istituto Giapponese di Cultura (The Japan Foundation)



PROGRAM

October 5th, Wednesday

Lectures

Scuola di Biblioteconomia Vaticana
Via della Conciliazione 1, Roma

Languages: Italian and Japanese (written English translations available)

- 8:30** **Welcoming address**
- 9:00** **Ángela Núñez Gaitán** (Vatican Library)
Surveying Methodology of Japanese Historical Documents in the Marega Project
- 9:45** **Mutsumi Aoki** (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
Preservation of Historical Documents in Japan: its Theory and Practice
- 11:15** **Katsuhiko Masuda** (Formerly Showa Women's University)
On *washi*: the Paper of Documents and the Paper used for Conservation
- 12:00** **Naohiro Ota** (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
Formats and typology of Japanese Historical Documents
- 14:00** **Masako Kanayama** (Gangoji Institute for Research of Cultural Property)
Current Techniques for Conservation of Archival Materials in Japan and Traditional Methods
- 14:45** **Maria Rosaria Castelletti, Silvia Foschetti, Marta Grimaccia** (Vatican Library)
Western Conservators Experiences with Japanese Archival Materials: The Marega Project
- 16:15** **Maki Takashina** (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
Introducing the Newest Salvage and Conservation Techniques Used after the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami
- 17:00** **Alessandro Sidoti** (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze)
Plan Disaster for Floods at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale in Florence

October 6th, Thursday

Practical Training and Demonstrations

Vatican Library, Conservation studio
Cortile del Belvedere, Città del Vaticano

Languages: Japanese (Italian and English interpretation)

- 8:30-17:00** **Water mending**
Reattaching folios of *jō* type documents (demonstration only)
Reattaching manuscript strips on *jō* type documents (demonstration only)
Lining
Opening *jō* type documents using Rayon
Twisted paper strings (*koyori*)
Conservation treatments on the binding: mending double folios, reinserting *koyori* (demonstration only)
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