

British Library colloquium in resources for Japanese studies

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The third British Library Colloquium, September 14-16, 1988.

This colloquium was the third (the first, Colloquium on Resources in Chinese Studies, August 1987; the second, the First International Conference of Japanese Information, September 1987) in the series the British Library has been organizing to bring together librarians, scholars, and information scientists to share their knowledge, experience, and ideas on the resources base for Oriental studies. It was sponsored by the British Library with support from the Japan Foundation, the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) of the University of London, the British Council, and the Japan Library Group.

SOAS was the venue, and the colloquium immediately preceded the Conference of the European Association for Japanese Studies, held at the University of Durham, 19-22 September 1988. In contrast to the last year's conference, which focused on science, technology, and business information, this colloquium covered broader topics on Japanese studies including the book industry and automation. It was unique in dealing specifically with resources on Japanese studies.

The Colloquium was officially opened by the Japanese Ambassador, Mr. K. Chiba, and introduced by Lord Quinton, chairman of the British Library Board. The program on the first day was an overview of resources for Japanese studies in Brit-

ain and abroad. Thirteen papers were presented during four sessions, with a special lecture by Dr. U. Wattenberg (German Society for Information and Documentation, Tokyo) on "Maps and Map Collections in Japan."

The second day covered the topics of printing, publishing, and the art of the Japanese book. There were eleven presentations in four sessions; Mr. S. Sorimachi (president of the Kobunso Antiquarian Bookseller) gave part one (about manuscripts) of his lecture on "The Place of Japanese Antiquarian Books in the World." The special lecture was given by Prof. M. Yayoshi (vice-president, Libraries Communication Centre, Tokyo) on "Relations between Publishers and Men of Letters in the Edo Period."

The subjects of the third day were on automation and cooperation. Ten papers were given in three sessions. Mr. Sorimachi gave part two (about printed books) of his lecture as the special lecture of the day.

The colloquium was attended by one hundred and fifteen participants in all from eleven European countries, the United States, Australia, and Japan. The participants from the United States were: Mr. K. Kahler of the University of Iowa, Mr. K. Niki of Columbia University, Dr. R. Ravicz of the University of California, Ms. M. Shimomura of

Princeton, Ms. L. Virgin of the University of Chicago, and S. Noguchi.

During the colloquium, the Multi-Script Workstation (MSW) for RLIN CJK was demonstrated. An exhibition on the theme of "Byways in Japanese Illustration" was on display in the King's Gallery. Participants also had the opportunity to preview, during the second evening reception, major pieces in the Hyde collection of important Japanese manuscripts and illustrated books before they were auctioned by Christie's in New York on 7 October.

The final session on the third day included a

discussion on the desirability and feasibility of forming a European Association of Japanologist Librarians. Various opinions were exchanged and the further discussion and decision will take place in Berlin, October 1989.

The endeavor of Yu Ying Brown, who is the head of the Japanese Section, Oriental Collection of the British Library, and was the organizer and convener, was very much appreciated by all participants. Copies of the presented papers were distributed at the Colloquium and will later be published as a volume by the British Library. ■ ■

Consumers as producers

Librarians as publishers

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A report on the International Group of Publishing Libraries.

Although comparatively few in number, libraries with publishing programs occupy a significant, if special, niche in the publishing community. Mainly research facilities, these libraries may be privately funded, such as the Huntington Library; they may be affiliated with a university; or they may be national institutions, such as the Library of Congress or the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague. Their publications range from major research tools to postcards.

The International Group of Publishing Libraries grew out of a 1983 seminar of library publishing held at the British Library. Representatives from about thirty institutions in the U.S., U.K., and Western Europe gathered to share ideas and expertise hard won from their experiences as publishers. The IGPL, which remains an informal group rather than a formal organization, meets biennially to share experiences and explore the possibilities of

active collaboration among research libraries operating publishing programs.

Library publishing has a long if not widely known history. David Way (the British Library) indicates that the Bodleian Library, Oxford, issued its first catalog in 1605, and the first volume of the British Museum's *Catalogue of Additions to the Manuscripts* (to which volumes are still being added) came out in 1843. Way further states that "Today several libraries operate publishing programs on a scale extensive enough to qualify them as medium-sized publishers: for example, the National Library of Australia and the British Library each issues well over fifty titles a year."¹

In this country, the Library of Congress and the

¹David Way, "Publishing in Libraries." *Scholarly Publishing* 20, no. 1 (October 1988), 35.