

## Japanese Collections in British Libraries

### 英国の図書館における日本コレクション

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#### 要 旨

日本コレクションの小さなものは18世紀以来、英国の少数の図書館に存在していた。例えばケンペルが元禄時代に日本で収集したものは、1753年大英博物館の創立以来所蔵され、今日でも見ることができる。しかし、これとシーボルト文庫を例外として、本格的な収集は明治維新以後のことであり、英国の外交官アーネスト・サトウの文庫を大英博物館が購入したのがその始まりである。しかし、その後の収集は主として政府刊行物であった。1905年 Sir Robert Douglas 東洋部長の退職以来、1955年までは日本語の読める人がなく、収集も殆どなかったといってよい。

1955年になってこのギャップを埋めるために、大正・昭和期刊本の組織的選択・収集が大英博物館によって着手されて今日に至っている。今日では約40,000冊に達し、その江戸期以前の蔵書は他に匹敵するものがない。

大英図書館（大英博物館の改組による）のほかに、英国内で有力な日本コレクションは次のとおりである。(i) オクスフォード大学・ボドレイ図書館東洋部はキリシタン版と、三浦安針文庫を誇るが、組織的収集は1950年代に始まり、文化史と日本学を特色とする。(ii) オクスフォード大学東洋研究所図書館は1961年の設立で、東洋学部の教育用として発足した。今日では研究図書館の性格を強くし、言語、文学を中心とする。また、東洋美術図書館の運営をも引受けるようになった。(iii) オクスフォード大学聖アントニー・カレッジ東洋センター図書館は1954年創立で、まだ小さいが、現代史を特色としている。(iv) ケンブリッジ大学図書館は人文科学、とくに20世紀以前を中心として、国内最大のコレクションをもっている。その発端はもう一人の英国外交官 W.G. Aston の蔵書の購入である(1911)。収集方針は古文書、原文資料を中心とし、これに必要な参考図書もすべて集める。(v) ロンドン大学東洋アフリカ学院も大きな日本コレクションをもつ。創立は1917年であったが、活動は1950年以降であり、文学、宗教、歴史、経済を主とする。(vi) 最後にシェフィールド大学は日本の北九州に似た産業地帯にあり、その日本学研究センター(1963)の図書館は社会科学、歴史、現代史および産業・経済の研究に奉仕している。

以上の各図書館における目録法、選書と分類法はそれぞれ独自であって統一がない。購入は日本の(古)書店の協力によるところが大きい。1960年代の中ごろはほぼ同数の図書館員と研究者より成る日本図書館グ

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ループが結成され、諸種の共通問題が討議されてきたが、その一つの業績としての日本雑誌の総合チェックリストは、第3版が本年末刊行の予定である。収集協定も実行され、重要な本は上記4大学がその収集特色に応じて少くとも1冊は引受けることとしている。この費用は「国際交流基金」の日本研究助成金によって支払われている。

Small collections of Japanese books have existed in certain British libraries since the 18th century. The books acquired in Japan by the German traveller Engelbert Kaempfer during the Genroku period, for instance, came to the British Museum when it was founded in 1753, and are still to be seen on the shelves of the British Library today. Almost certainly, these were the first books in Japanese to leave Japan and to be seen in Europe. At that period it is doubtful whether the Bakufu would have given official permission for these books to be exported from Japan.

A few books in Japanese also found their way to the library of Oxford University at an early date. It was impossible, however, to begin any systematic collecting of Japanese books until the Meiji period, except for the efforts of a few remarkable men like Philipp Franz von Siebold, who brought back to Europe a surprisingly large collection of books acquired towards the end of the Tokugawa period. From his son, Alexander von Siebold, many of these books and manuscripts came to the British Museum in 1868, one year after the Meiji Restoration. They included many editions of the Tokugawa period, but no examples of Japanese printing dating from the 'movable type period' of Keichō, Genna and Kan'ei, nor any books produced by the great Buddhist monasteries during the late-Heian, Kamakura and Muromachi periods. Such books did not come to the British Museum until 1884 and 1885, when Sir Ernest Satow the English diplomat sold his large and valuable collections of early printing to the British Museum. There were some Chinese and Korean editions among them, but the great majority were early editions printed in Japan during the first 30 years of the Edo period and even some rare editions of the Muromachi period. Sir Ernest Satow was a book collector of great taste and discrimina-

tion, who had the benefit of expert advice from Japanese booksellers and collectors. He was collecting at a time when rare books were not too difficult to find, nor too expensive to buy.

In the years before 1900, large quantities of ordinary publications of the Meiji period were also acquired by the British Museum, as well as important collections of illustrated books and art books of all kinds presented by another collector, William Anderson. The Meiji publications contain very few works of literature, but a number of official publications of Japanese government departments and collections of laws and statutes, together with many translations of Western books in the social science and philosophy.

Taken together, these books laid the foundation for a valuable Japanese library at the British Museum, but unfortunately the collection did not continue to grow. From the retirement of Sir Robert Douglas, Keeper of Oriental Books and Manuscripts, in about 1905 until the year 1955, there was no Japanese linguist at the British Museum, and so no books were acquired except for a few donations.

It was necessary in 1955 to select and order from Japan large quantities of important reference books and standard works published in the Taishō and Shōwa periods, in an attempt to make up for the neglect of the past 50 years. Now, 20 years later, the British Museum Library (now a part of the British Library) has a collection of about 40,000 volumes, including both old and new books. Its holdings of works published in the Edo period or earlier are larger and of greater importance than those of any other library in Britain. At the same time, the British Library has collections of recent (post-war) publications roughly equal in quantity and quality to those of the School of

Oriental and African Studies and of Cambridge University.

Besides the British Library, there are important collections of Japanese books in four main locations: in Oxford, in Cambridge, in Sheffield and in London University's School of Oriental and African Studies. The libraries of Japanese books at each of these places will now be described in some detail.

To take Oxford first, Japanese books are held in three separate libraries, all of which are concerned only with the humanities.

### 1. The Oriental Department of the Bodleian Library

Some inter-library lending of books is permitted. In the Western part of the Bodleian Library are several important books published by the Jesuit Mission Press at the end of the Muromachi and beginning of the Edo period. They include *Sanctos no go-sagyo*, *Vocabulario da Lingoa de Iapam* (*Nippo jisho*), and *Arte da Lingoa.....* (*Nihon dai bunten*). Another treasure of the Bodleian Library is the log-book (日記) of the English seaman Will Adams, who became known as Miura Anjin. As for works in Japanese, there were no important foundation collections like those in London or at Cambridge. Systematic collection of Japanese books began only in the 1950s, long after Sir Ernest Satow had presented some books on Buddhism to the library in the early 20th century. The policy of the Oriental Department of the Bodleian is to collect books and periodicals relating to the cultural history of Japan from early times to the present day. The emphasis is on Japanology, with some attempt to build up a collection of works on Japanese local history. Responsibility for books on Japanese art is left to the library of the Ashmolean Museum, now administered by the Oriental Institute.

A simple guide to the subject contents of the library is as follows:

Literature	25%	Philosophy	10%
History	25%	Language	6%
Sinology	15%	Folklore	3%
Religion	10%	Others	6%

As in most other libraries in Britain, books in Japanese and books in Western languages relating to Japan are separated in the library, each in the charge of a separate department.

In the Oriental Reading Room, card catalogues are provided (in author order) for works in Japanese and for books in western languages on Japanese language and literature. There is no system of classification, but an index of titles is provided for works written in Japanese. In all, the library contains 100 manuscripts, about 5,000 printed works in 10,000 volumes, and about 1,300 volumes of periodicals.

### 2. The Oriental Institute Library, Oxford

Any books in this library may be borrowed, with the exception of reference books and unbound periodicals. Books are lent within Britain and to foreign countries.

This library was established only in 1961 and is therefore still of limited size. It was originally intended as a teaching library, closely related to the Oxford Faculty of Oriental Studies, but its scope has since widened so that it serves the needs of research as well as the teaching of students of oriental languages. This research function was strengthened when the library became responsible for administering the Library of Eastern Art attached to the Ashmolean Museum. Its collection of art books is now quite strong. Other strong points are in the fields of Japanese language, modern literature, Confucianism and Sinology.

A simple guide to subject contents is as follows:

Literature	35%	Religion	6%
Language	20%	Philosophy	6%
Sinology	20%	Others	3%
History	10%		

In all, the Library contains about 2,500 printed works in 3,500 volumes, and about 300 volumes of periodicals. Books on Japanese art in the Eastern Art Library number about 1,500 volumes, half of these being in Japanese.

This library maintains a card catalogue of authors and titles, and a shelf-list in classified order. The collection is classified by the Harvard-Yenching system.

### 3. Far East Centre Library, St. Antony's College, Oxford

This library was founded in 1954. It is still a very small library, but its collections are increasing. It differs from other libraries containing Japanese books in that the main emphasis is on the special interests of St. Antony's College—modern history, politics and political history. Its holdings amount to about 500 volumes and 400 unbound periodical parts. There is a card catalogue arranged under authors and also one classified by subject, using the Library of Congress system.

Next we will take the Japanese collections of

### 4. Cambridge University Library.

Although this is a very large and important collection, it is confined to Japanese books in the humanities—in language, literature, history, religion, philosophy, archaeology and art. Not even the social sciences are represented. This means that the library's collections in the humanities—mainly before the 20th century—are among the largest in the whole country.

Historically, the Japanese collection originated in the large library of W.G. Aston, another English diplomat and author of a history of Japanese literature in English, who sold his books to Cambridge in 1911. These consisted almost entirely of editions of the 18th and 19th centuries, with a few of earlier date, many of them being works of literature. Some of these books came to Aston from the collections of Sir Earnest Satow and von Siebold—both of whom had played a great part in establishing the British Museum collection. The Aston Library at Cambridge has not yet been catalogued in full.

The most rapid growth of the Japanese collection at Cambridge occurred after the Second World War, with the help of direct Government grants. A nation-wide expansion in Asian studies was taking place at that time, which increased the demand for books. The collection at Cambridge, 30 years later, now

amounts to nearly 40,000 volumes of printed books, and the Library subscribes to about 200 current periodicals in Japanese. The collection is catalogued on cards, arranged under both titles and authors, with analytical entries for works in *zenshū* and *sōsho*. This card catalogue supplements a printed catalogue compiled by the present Librarian of Cambridge University, Mr. E. B. Ceadel, and published in 1955.

Books on the shelves are classified according to a system unique to Cambridge, which was devised by one of the professorial staff and modified by the Librarian. The great part of the collection is kept on open shelves in classified order, where the books are freely available to members of the University. Only the old and rare books and those concerned with art are kept in closed sections of the stack.

The acquisitions policy of the Library is to lay stress on source materials (*komonjo*, *gembun shiryō*) rather than studies (*kenkyūsho*) or interpretative works (*kaisetsu-sho*). All available works of reference are acquired. Acquisition methods, as with all other libraries, include direct purchase, exchange and donation. New books for the collection are selected either by members of the academic staff, or by research students, or by Japanese specialists on the Library staff. In addition to its main subject interests of literature and history, the Library also collects books in the field of Japanese Sinology.

Passing now to the Library of the University of London,

### 5. School of Oriental & African Studies,

we come to one of the largest collections of Japanese books in Britain. It was founded as recently as 1917 and by the time of the Second World War had acquired a few hundred volumes in Japanese, including some *zenshū* of Meiji literary figures. But it was not until 1949–1950 that an attempt was made to build up a large library of modern Japanese works. At that time the School of Oriental & African Studies received a generous Government grant

to buy books in Japan, and most of the important standard works then available in the humanities, together with reference books, *zenshū* and *sōsho*, were acquired by academic staff of the University and catalogued by a librarian specialising in Japanese. The collection has steadily grown over the years since 1950, always receiving a reasonably generous budget each year, and always having the services of a Japanese specialist on the staff. As a result, the collection now amounts to over 35,000 volumes, mostly in the humanities and with a very fine supporting collection of Japanese books and microfilms relating to China. This library is especially strong in subjects such as literature, religion, history and economics. It is taking currently more than 200 periodicals in Japanese. The annual budget for Japanese books and serials now stands at about £11,000 per year. The School has some valuable manuscripts in Japanese, but the collection of early printed books is not particularly large or important. A printed catalogue of antiquarian books and manuscripts in this Library has recently been published. For modern books, a card catalogue exists, and also a published catalogue and two supplements for the whole library, in which books in Japanese are included. Books are catalogued by author, title and subject.

The last of Britain's four chief libraries of Japanese book is

## 6. Sheffield University,

an industrial city in the north of England specializing in steel production. Because of its industrial importance, similar to Kitakyūshū, Sheffield University in 1963 set up a Centre of Japanese Studies, with its own library. The Centre was originally planned chiefly as a research unit specializing in the social sciences, modern history, and industrial and economic studies. This is still true, but in addition much emphasis is now placed on undergraduate programmes, with students studying the Japanese language together with economics, economic history, geography, his-

tory, political theory and sociology. The library has developed to serve these interests primarily, but has not neglected to acquire materials on language, literature, and intellectual history.

The Sheffield Centre now has about 8,000 volumes of books and periodicals in Japanese, together with about 2,500 books in western languages relating to Japan. These are kept in the main University Library. It also has about 190 microfilms. On a subject basis, the works in Japanese may be divided as follows:

Economics	35%
History	20%
Politics	20%
Other social sciences	10%
General works	5%
Language & Literature	5%

In the field of economics, the greatest number of books are on labour and industrial production. In politics, there is a fairly large collection on left-wing movements. History is almost all post-Meiji.

All works in Japanese are recorded in a separate sheaf-type catalogue, containing author, title and subject entries. Both the author and title of the book are entered in *rōmaji* and in *kana-majiri*. Classification is by the modified Dewey Decimal system, 16th edition. Books in the collection may be lent to other libraries through the normal inter-library loan channels, which are highly developed in Britain.

The Japanese collection at Sheffield performs a valuable function as it is the only library in Britain which specializes so heavily in the social sciences. This field is almost entirely neglected by the libraries in Oxford and Cambridge.

## 7. Cataloguing

It will be obvious from what has been said that the various libraries containing Japanese books differ widely in the types of catalogue which they maintain. In most libraries, modern books are catalogued on cards, arranged by author, title and usually by subject. But Sheffield's catalogue is in sheaf form, and the

old catalogues published by the British Museum in 1898 and 1904 were in book form. The catalogue of modern books issued by Cambridge University Library in 1955 was also in book form. There is no standard code of rules of cataloguing practice common to all libraries, and none of them uses *Nihon mokuroku kisoku*. Most tend to use a modified form of the rules used and followed by their own University or by the former British Museum Library. However, this diversity of cataloguing practice does not seem to lead to any real inconvenience.

Nor is there any uniformity in the systems of classification used. Only the British Library uses the Nippon Decimal Classification (in a simplified and modified form) for arranging books by subject on the shelves.

Most libraries incorporate *Kanji* and *Kanamajiri* into their catalogue entries, but one large library (SOAS) does not. It relies only upon a romanised author and title heading, followed by a English description of the contents of the book. The British Library gives a description of this kind as well as the original title and author's name in Japanese script. In general, readers appear to find the catalogues quite easy to use.

## 8. Book selection and acquisition

All the libraries mentioned up to now acquire books direct from Japan and not through any agents or booksellers in Britain or the United States. Consequently, the cost of the books is the same as that paid by librarians or personal book buyers in Japan. Japanese books are not cheap, but at least foreign buyers pay only the Yen price, plus postage.

The Japanese booksellers most heavily used by British libraries are: Gannandō, Japan Publications Trading Company (Nihon Shuppan Hambai K. K.) and Isseidō. All of these companies supply newly published books and generally operate an efficient service. For antiquarian and second-hand books, British libraries use Isseidō, Shibunkaku, Yūshōdō, Yamamoto Shoten and Kōbunsō, among others. At the present time, however, more money is

spent by all libraries on new publications than on older books. This is due to three main reasons: 1) rising prices of Japanese books; 2) lack of corresponding increase in British library budgets; and 3) lack of interest in antiquarian material, except in the British Library. The fact that Gannandō publishes a quarterly list of important new publications, selected because of their suitability for academic libraries, is a strong motive for libraries to make their selection from Gannandō's lists. Attempts have been made in the past to use *Nōhon shūhō* (National Diet Library) as a book selection tool, but so many unnecessary and unsuitable titles are listed that the work of scanning and selection would take too long.

## 9. The Japan Library Group

For a number of reasons there has been a natural tendency for libraries in Britain with Japanese collections to co-operate with each other in a close relationship. First, the number of such libraries is very small. Second, England is a small country and librarians from different parts of the country can easily meet together. Third, the total demand for books and periodicals in Japanese is still on a small scale. Fourth, the sums of money for buying books in Japanese in each institution are limited. Fifth, it is thought desirable for users of these libraries—mainly university teachers and researchers—to maintain close liaison with the libraries which obtain books for them.

For all these reasons, it was decided in the mid-1960s to set up a *Japan Library Group*, with members from the staffs of Japanese libraries and also from the academic staff of universities teaching Japanese, in approximately equal numbers. The Group meets twice every year and discusses questions of book acquisition, co-operation in library projects, bibliographical problems, the listing of periodical holdings, and to seek the guidance of university Professors and Lecturers in the needs of readers. The total membership is about 25 or 30, drawn from Oxford, Cambridge,

Sheffield, London University and the British Library.

Some useful results have already been achieved by the Group. One of the most effective is the *Union Checklist of Japanese Periodicals in British Libraries*. A third edition is about to be issued at the end of this year. This has the aim of listing all serials in the Japanese language held by libraries in Britain, even those which take only a few selected periodicals. The Checklist gives details of volumes and parts held by each library, arranged in alphabetical order of titles, with an index of issuing bodies.

Another activity of the Japan Library Group is co-operative acquisition of new publications. The object is to avoid duplication and to ensure that as many as possible of the important new books published in Japan are acquired by at least one library. The method is for the librarians of four institutions—Oxford University, Sheffield University, London University and the British Library—to select from

the same list all the books which are essential to their libraries, within the limits of that library's budget. Next those same four librarians meet together, once a quarter, discuss the books on the list which have not yet been ordered or selected by any library, and allocate the most important books to *one* of the four libraries. This is done according to the subjects in which each library is most directly interested: for instance, books on the Japanese language are allocated to London University, books on art and also on religion and philosophy to Oxford, books on the social sciences to Sheffield, and books on classical literature, the Edo period and pre-Meiji history to the British Library. A combined order is then sent in to the bookseller, and the cost of these books is met by the Japan Foundation, using a fund granted for the support of Japanese studies in Britain. As a result, British libraries, acting in co-operation, are able to cover the greater part of the current scholarly book production of Japan.