

# FREER | SACKLER

THE SMITHSONIAN'S MUSEUMS OF ASIAN ART

# Creating an Online Catalogue and Research Site for the Gerhard Pulverer Collection of Japanese Illustrated Books at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

国立スミソニアン協会  
フリーア美術館、アーサー・M・サックラー美術館 に於ける  
ゲルハルト・プルヴェラー日本絵本コレクションの  
オンラインカタログと研究サイトの作成について

Ann Yonemura, Senior Associate Curator of Japanese Art  
EAJRS Paris 19 September 2013

## GERHARD PULVERER: COLLECTING JAPANESE ILLUSTRATED BOOKS



On a visit to Kyoto in 1969 for a scientific conference, Dr. Gerhard Pulverer and his wife, Rosemarie, discovered

the art and antique shops on Shinmonzen Street and visited the print dealer Nakamura. They returned to Germany with their first five prints, marking the beginning of a distinguished collection of Japanese art. Dr. Pulverer, a medical doctor and microbiologist educated in Vienna, was a leading biomedical research scientist. He was appointed director of the Institute of Hygiene at the University of Cologne, the position he held until his retirement in 1999.

Beginning in the 1970s, the Pulverers focused on collecting Japanese illustrated books. They were encouraged by English art expert Jack Hillier, the American scholar Roger Keyes, and Matthi Forrer, a professor at the University of Leiden, all experts on Japanese prints and books. The Pulverers often hosted scholars of Japanese art at their home, where research and discussion was accompanied by fine Mosel wines and German cuisine. Years later the Pulverers acquired a substantial part of the Japanese book collection assembled by Berlin art dealer Felix Tikotin (1895–1986). Dr. Pulverer's wish to have his renowned collection acquired by a museum where it would be conserved, researched, and exhibited was realized when the books arrived at their new permanent home, the Freer Gallery of Art. With Getty Foundation support, the museum is now developing an online catalogue that will eventually make all 2,100 volumes available to an international audience.

## Gerhard Pulverer Collection

935 titles

2080 volumes

ca. 1600—1970s, most woodblock printed

Good to excellent condition and preservation

Some rare or unique volumes; some rare complete sets

Most acquired in Europe; many have recorded provenance from earlier collections.

Researched by scholars from Japan, Europe, U.S.

Purchased by the Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution in 2007

Research, exhibition, and management of the collection 2007-present  
at the Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution

2007-8 Curatorial and conservation survey, entry of basic data into TMS (The Museum System) collection database

2009 Online catalogue planning grant from the Getty Foundation under the Online Scholarly Catalogue Initiative

2010 Planning and investigation of methods for rapid image capture and catalogue features. Collaboration with Professor Ryo Akama, Ritsumeikan University, Dr. Ryoko Matsuba, consultation with Professor Jun Suzuki, Professor Matthi Forrer, Dr. Roger Keyes, Dr. Ellis Tinios, and other scholars researching Japanese books

2011-12 Rapid capture photography of all volumes, using methods developed by Professor Akama and used for the first time at the Freer Gallery. Research and full cataloguing of 100 volumes by Hokusai. Upload of images to museum database and Smithsonian Digital Asset Management system.

2012-13 Collaboration with Indianapolis Museum of Art Digital Lab to design and build the research website.

2013 Public exhibition at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery of 120 volumes in the exhibition Hand-Held: Gerhard Pulverer's Japanese Illustrated Books













Hosoda Eishi (1756-1829)  
Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1849)  
*Nishikizukuri onna*  
*sanjūrokkasen*





*Ehon butai ōgi*

Katsukawa Shunshō (1726-92)

Ippitsusai Bunchō (1764-1801)

*Kikkōjō*  
Ashiyuki





*(Naniwa meisho) Tenpōzan shōkei*  
Yashima Gakutei (1786?-1868)



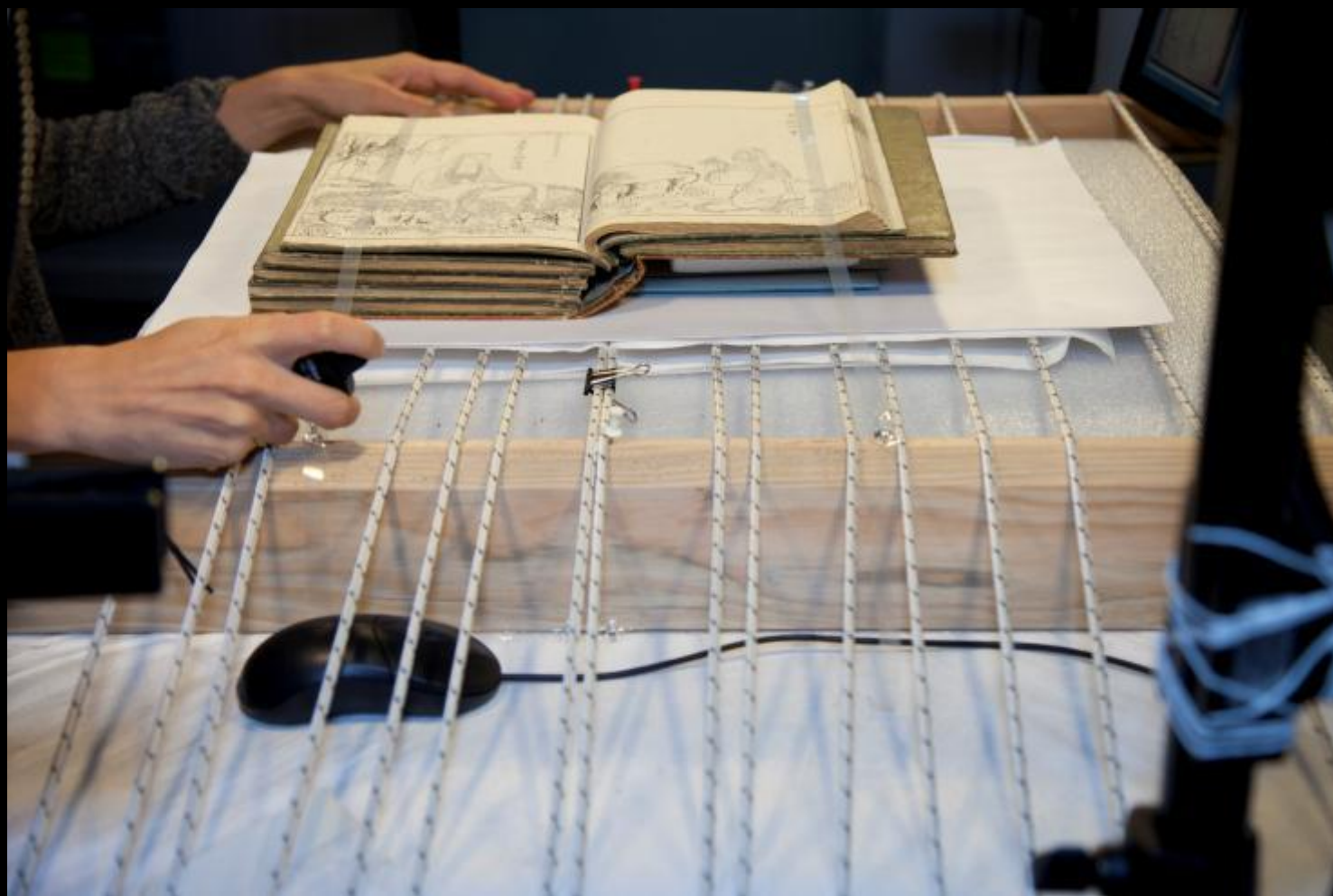


Professor Ryo Akama, conservator Emily Jacobson,  
and Ann Yonemura test a bookstand



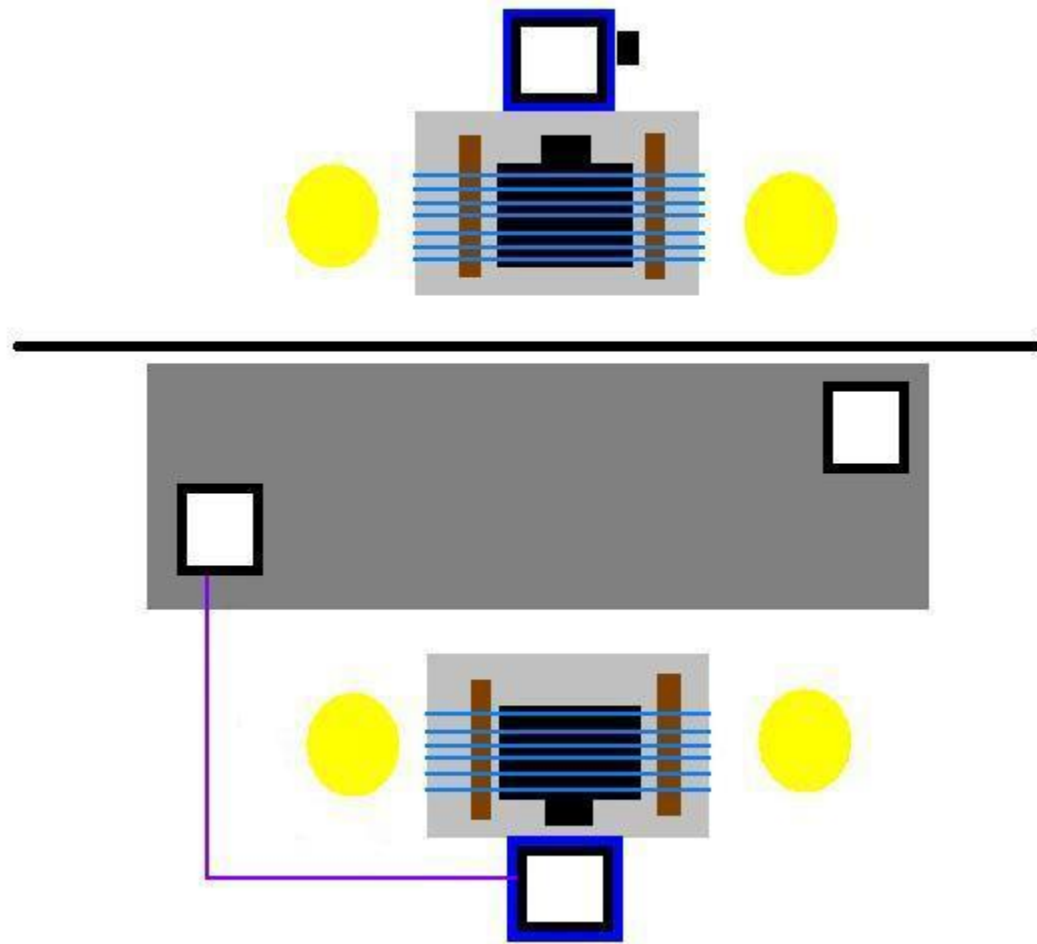
Professor Akama demonstrates his invention, an elastic bungee cord support system. Freer Gallery of Art 2010











## Rapid Image Capture Project for the Pulverer Collection

Produced 78,000 high-resolution images in a total of sixteen weeks over two summers, 2011 and 2012.

Professor Ryo Akama's invention of a new system for supporting ehon for photography was tested, approved by conservation staff, and used on large scale for the first time.

Fixed position camera and lighting was used rather than flash. This allowed photography to proceed more rapidly. Museum professional photographers verified quality.

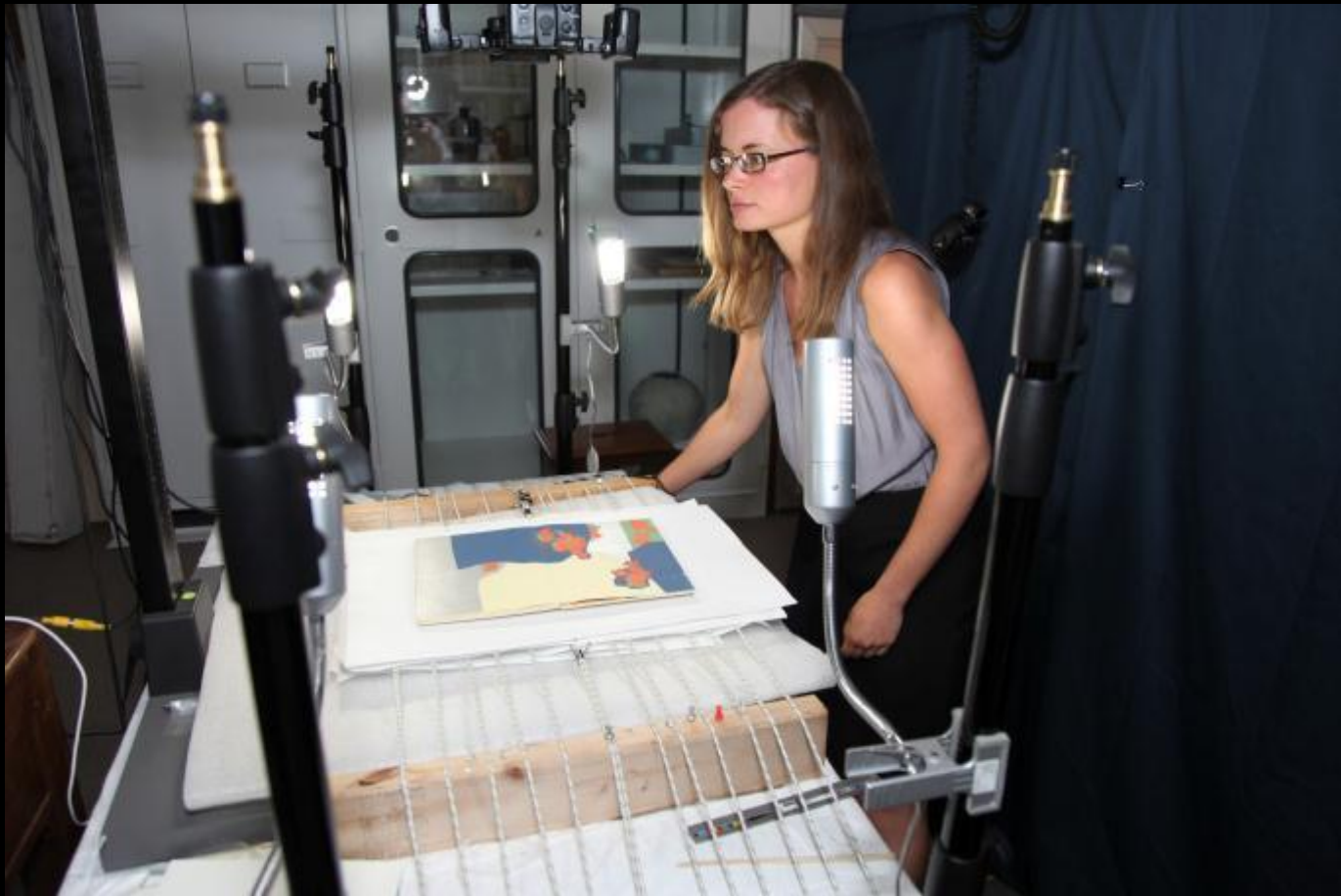
Two workstations were set up for photography, verification, and numbering in the same room where books were stored, rather than moving books from a storage area to a photography studio.

Graduate art history students were trained by Professor Akama and supervised by a conservator for safe handling. Dr. Matsuba conducted research on the collection and advised in special cases.

Files were downloaded and sent to the museum's photography lab for post-processing.



Vanessa Tothill photographs a multi-volume book in a European binding



Rebecca Merritt photographs a book with special printing. Lighting is modified to capture embossing or metallic printing





Suzie Kim verifies exposure, completeness, and numbers images immediately after photography

← → ↻ www.getty.edu/foundation/initiatives/current/osci/osci\_report.html

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## Our Priorities

- Current Initiatives
  - Connecting Art Histories
  - Online Scholarly Catalogue Initiative
    - Interim Report**
      - Grants Awarded
  - Pacific Standard Time: L.A./L.A.
  - Pacific Standard Time Presents: Modern Architecture
  - Panel Paintings
  - Mosaikon
  - GLI at CGU
  - Multicultural Undergraduate Interns
  - Graduate Interns
  - Professional Development
  - Residential Grants
- Past Initiatives

## Interim Report



What are the key challenges museums face with moving collection catalogues online? What can they learn from institutions already engaged in this process? And how should they approach this shift towards digital publishing?

"The future of museums may be rooted in the buildings they occupy, but they will also need to address audiences across the world. Institutions that respond to the opportunities of the Internet will be the ones that have the authority in the future. Our challenge is to encourage curators to work for the world online as much as they do in the galleries."—Sir Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate

*Moving Museum Catalogues Online* is an interim report for the Getty Foundation's *Online Scholarly Catalogue Initiative* that provides answers to these questions. The report is based on the experience of the participating museums—the Art Institute of Chicago; the Arthur M. Sackler and Freer Gallery of Art; the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; the National Gallery of Art, Washington, D. C.; the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art; the Seattle Art Museum; Tate Gallery; the Walker Art Center; and the J. Paul Getty Museum. Report highlights include:

- Lessons Learned

Learn More

- Grant Funded Projects
- Presentations from the 2011 Museums and the Web Conference

Start | Online ... | 201304... | Search Desktop | Search with Google | 6:05 AM





# The World of the Japanese Illustrated Book

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## SEARCH

## BROWSE BY SUBJECT

Classical Japanese Literature

Lorem Ipsum

Lorem Ipsum Dolor

Lorem Ipsum Dolor Sumiz

Chinese Fiction

Lorem Ipsum Dolor

Manga

Lorem Ipsum

Supernatural Subjects

Poets

Lorem Ipsum

Lorem

Superna

Poets

Lorem I

Lorem I

## BROWSE BY TIME

## BROWSE BY LOCATION

Lorem Ipsu

# Ehon Sumidagawa ryōgan ichiran, vol. 1 絵本隅田川 兩岸一覽



pp. 3-4



pp. 1-2



cover



pp. 9-10



pp. 7-8



pp. 5-6



pp. 15-16



pp. 13-14



pp. 11-12



back cover



pp. 17-18

## Description Contents Commentary

Accession no.	FSC-GR-780.230.1
Title	絵本隅田川 兩岸一覽 <i>Ehon Sumidagawa ryōgan ichiran</i>
Date	undated [ca. 1805D6]
Artist	葛飾北斎 Katsushika Hokusai (1760D1849)
Author	成安 Nariyasu (preface)
Calligrapher	
Editor	
Block carver	
Publisher	
City	
Description	3 volumes, <i>jō/chū/ge</i> ; in modern case
Binding	<i>fukurotoji</i>
Technique; medium	woodblock printed; ink and color on paper; paper covers
Inscriptions	
Seals	collector's seal: Pulverer on vol. 1, p. 1 and p. 18; vol. 2, p. 1 and p. 14; vol. 3, p. 1 and p. 14
Signatures	
Format	<i>ehon</i>
Dimensions	26.5 x 18.3 cm
Book type	<i>ehon</i> , <i>kyōkaban</i>
Provenance	Gerhard Pulverer; Freer Gallery of Art
Credit line	Purchase-The Gerhard Pulverer Collection, Museum funds, Friends of the Freer and Sackler Galleries and the Harold P. Stern Memorial fund in appreciation of Jeffrey P. Cunard and his exemplary service to the Galleries as chair of the Board of Trustee (2003-2007)



# Study Room

- Login
- Notes
- Saved Searches
- Favorites

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- Save Notes**  
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- Save Searches**  
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- Save & Compare Favorites**  
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# Reference

## Glossary

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Integer fringilla mi in diam porttitor vestibulum. Donec ultrices purus sed nulla dignissim suscipit tempor eros ultricies. Nam nunc ipsum, consectetur vel dignissim in, gravida quis turpis.

## Maps

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MAP OF JAPAN



MAP OF KYOTO



MAP OF EDO (TOKYO)



MAP OF OSAKA



## Timeline

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## Bibliography

### Author Bios

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MATTHI FORRER

ELLIS TINIOS

GABRIEL WEISBERG

SUSAN NAPIER

DONALD RICHIE

### Photo credits

### Acknowledgements



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