

ケンブリッジ大学における和古書 — デジタル化と保存の観点から Japanese rare books at Cambridge: digital efforts & conservation concerns

クリスティン・ウィリアムズ
Kristin Williams khw27@cam.ac.uk

ケンブリッジ大学図書館 日本部主任
Head of Japanese Section,
Cambridge University Library



Cambridge University Library

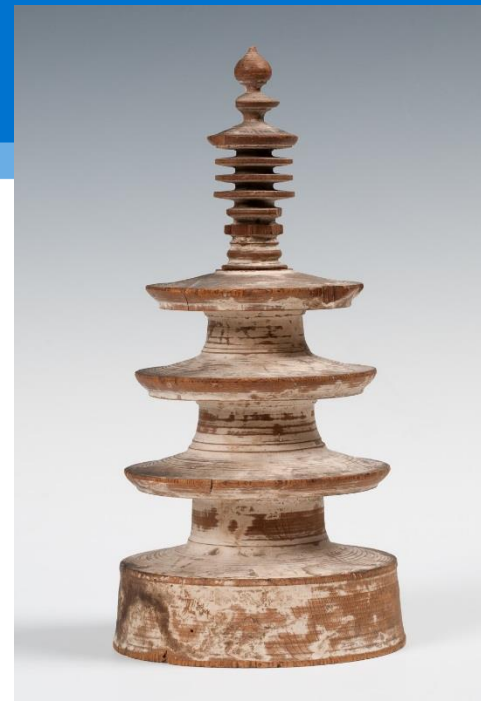
- 600th anniversary in 2016
- Legal deposit library for the UK (1 of 6)
- Over 8,000,000 items across all languages.
- About 100,000 items in Japanese.
- Aoi Pavilion (East Asian Reading Room and bookstacks) opened June 1998
- **Any researcher over 18** can register to use the library with photo ID & proof of address.
- 1 week free per year. £8 for 1 month, £15 for 6 months, or £28 for 1 year reader pass.



Library tower & Aoi Pavilion, 1998 photo

Historic Japanese Collection

- Early Japanese books and manuscripts collected by 19th c. diplomats Sir Ernest Mason Satow (1843-1929), William George Aston (1841-1911), and Heinrich von Siebold (1852-1908) among others.
- Includes books given by Emperor Hirohito from Imperial Japanese library in 1925.
- Mostly catalogued in 1980s and 1990s by Professors Peter Kornicki and Hayashi Nozomu (print & online).
- Around 2500 titles: manuscripts, woodblock-printed books, early maps, and examples of early printing.
- Plus Meiji microfilms, early photographs, about 100,000 volumes of modern / contemporary Japanese books and journals, and related works in other languages.




Hyakumantō darani
百万塔陀羅尼
(FG.870.1-4)

Concerns around rare books at Cambridge

- Large collection of rare material of various kinds.
- Lack of staff time for digitisation, metadata, maintenance of collection, and in-depth attention to rare materials.
- Western covers added to many of the Japanese old books.
- Japanese materials catalogued in various ways.
- Japanese collection not reaching full potential for research use?
 - Want to make material available globally via digitisation
 - Want to make material better known to people locally

EAJRS conservation survey at Cambridge in 2017

- Akio Yasue & Izumi Koide visited Cambridge on 10 May 2017
- Toured most open and closed areas that hold Japanese materials.
- Met with the Chinese librarian, Charles Aylmer, and with the heads of Conservation and Collection Care.
- Raised issues with diverse materials: microfilms, maps, old books, other media. Made suggestions around handling and care.
- Checked climate and light and location of the Japanese book storage.
- Considered question of whether to undo Western binding on traditionally bound Japanese books.  No conservation reason to rush this.
- For me, it was a relief to hear the conditions seemed mostly OK, but there were things I had not thought to worry about (like microfilms).

Digitisation Activities

- Using digital library infrastructure shared across library.
- Currently about 150 titles online.
- Support from alumna Professor Mikiko Ishii for initial group of items.
- Digitisation efforts from Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University:
 - Dr Zengxian Li visited to photograph books several years in a row, supported by Kakenhi grants. Other researchers in past.
 - Image backlog on Cambridge side due to metadata challenges.
 - Plan to convert Excel sheet based on book catalogue into TEI this year.
- Other digitisation: earlier project by NIJL and some digitisation done for readers as a paid service (but not always put online).

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Japanese Works

“Pleasure is
when you understand
all by yourself
a book that people
find impenetrable

— Tachibana Akemi, (1812-1868)
translated by Haruo Shirane



Japan possesses an exceptionally rich heritage of written culture founded in its long literary tradition and history of paper production and in its connections with the civilizations of neighbouring China and Korea, including the traditions of both Buddhism and Confucianism. The Aston, Satow and Von Siebold Collections at Cambridge University Library are among the most important collections of early Japanese books outside Japan. William George Aston (1841-1911), Ernest Mason Satow (1843-1929) and Heinrich von Siebold (1852-1908) were great pioneers of Japanese studies. Both Aston and Satow served as British diplomatic staff in Japan, while Heinrich von Siebold, the second son of Philipp Franz von Siebold, worked as an antiquarian, collector and translator.

These pioneer Japanologists traveled to Japan in the 1860s and found there an already well-developed and rich print culture. Traditional Japanese books were abundant and relatively cheap when they and other Western scholars first started to collect them. Cambridge University Library received most of its early Japanese books, over 2,500 items, in 1911-1913. In 1911, 721 Japanese books were presented from Von Siebold's collection, and later that same year, a large amount of Aston's Japanese books were acquired by the library, including Satow's books, for the sum of £250. Satow himself presented 371 volumes in 1912 and another 62 volumes in 1913.

There are two distinctive features in the Library's collection of early Japanese books. First, the collection represents a wide range of the various aspects of early Japanese learning, although Buddhism was

< 1 ... 3 4 5 6 ... 21 >

Myōhō rengekyō (FJ.1000.3)

This copy of Myōhō rengekyō 妙法蓮華經 (The lotus sutra) is an ornamented sutra (裝飾經), known as aigami kondai-kyō 藍紙金泥經 or konshi ... [more](#)



Shinobugusa (FJ.1000.16)

Saitō Gesshin 齋藤月亭 (1804-1878) was a scholar and author of historical artefacts. He collected various illustrated materials ... [more](#)



Suehirogarī (FJ.1000.23)

This scroll contains a story which describes the origin of the folding fan (扇子), using texts and colourful illustrations. ... [more](#)





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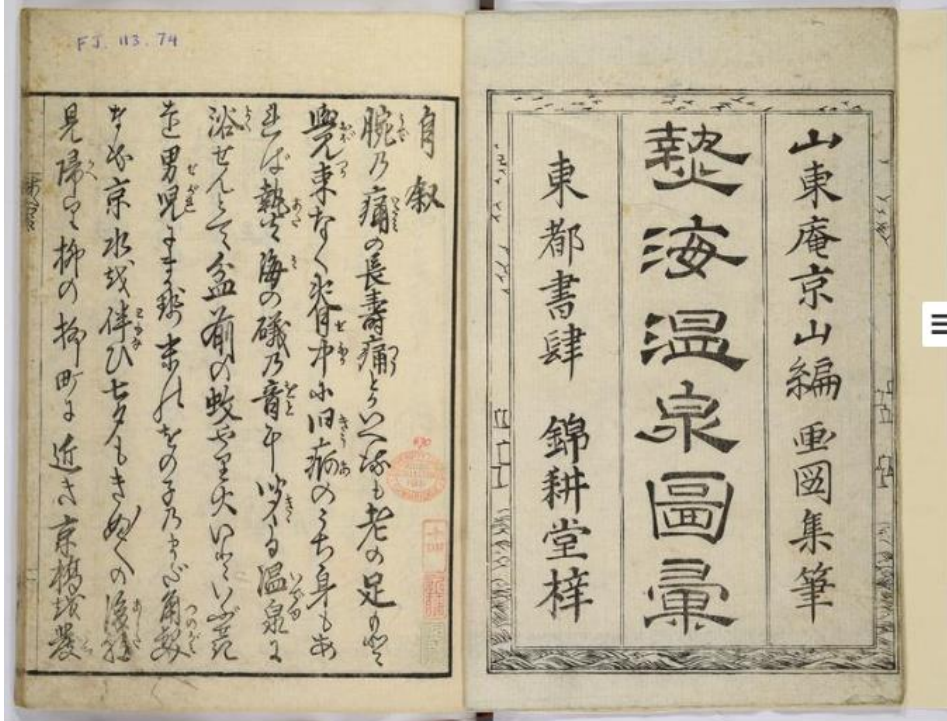
Atami onsen zui (FJ.113.74)

Use

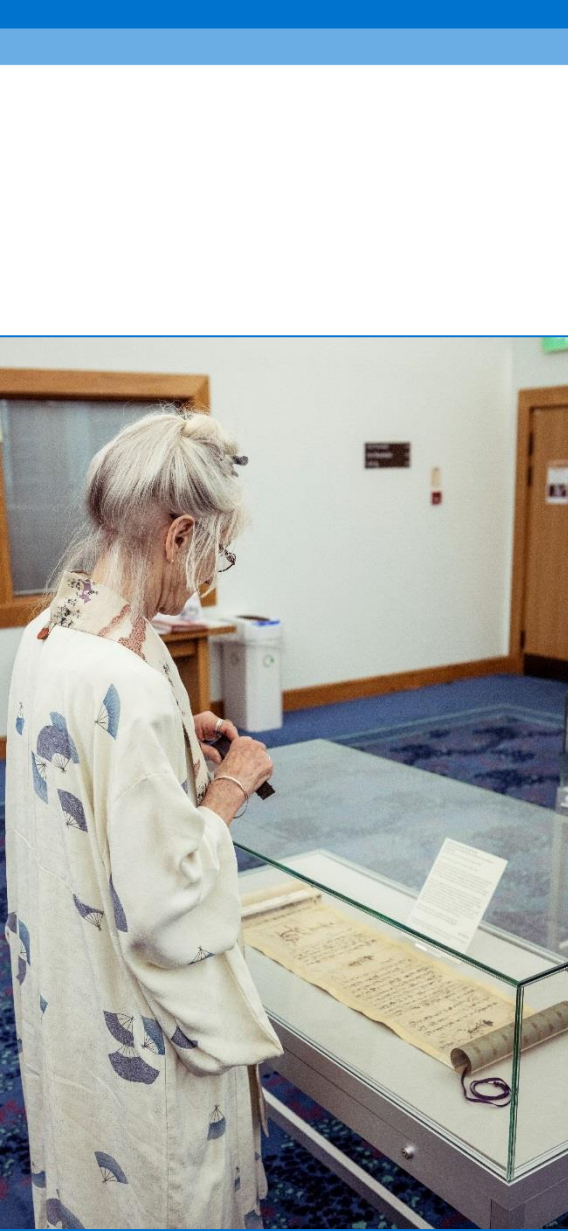


Information about this document

- **Physical Location:** Cambridge University Library
- **Classmark:** FJ.113.74
- **Uniform Title:** 熱海温泉図彙
- **Subject(s):** [Early printed books--Japan](#)
- **Author(s):** 山東京山著・岩瀬京水・溪斎英泉・歌川国安画
- **Origin Place:** Japan
- **Date of Creation:** 天保3年 (1832)
- **Language(s):** Japanese
- **Former Owner(s):** [Aston, William George, 1841-1911](#)
- **Note(s):** Catalogue number 1525 in Hayashi and Kornicki, [Early Japanese books in Cambridge University Library.](#); Published: 江戸、山口屋藤兵衛
- **Extent:** 1冊; 半紙本
- **Material:** Paper



Hope to encourage engagement and research with rare books via digitisation



Mrs Kiyoko Sawada-Rudd, Head of the Ikenobō London Chapter, creates flower arrangements based on from 16th c. scroll, *Yuishinken kadensho*

Dream of welcoming more researchers from Europe to use the Japanese materials

- How to join the library:
 - <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/using-library/joining-library>
 - Don't forget photo ID plus proof of address when you visit
 - Free pass for one week per year or small fee for longer pass
- About Japanese collections (including catalogues):
<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/departments/japanese-collections>
- View the digitised Japanese materials:
<https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/collections/japanese/>
- Email with any questions: japanese@lib.cam.ac.uk

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