

## My encounter with the image databases of Japan

Merete Pedersen\*

Slide presentation at the Open Workshop of the Japanese Art Librarian (JAL) Project 2016

(Please refer to the slide show for a better understanding of the text)

### Education

(Slide 1)

I am working as a librarian at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. I graduated from the former East Asian Institute at the University of Copenhagen with a M.A. in Japanese language and culture. I specialized in Japanese literature and history.

Scandinavian design is greatly influenced by Japanese arts and crafts, which motivated me to study Japanese language and culture. I was especially attracted to the beauty of Japanese kanji.

The building in the upper left corner is the main building of the Royal Library (the National Library of Denmark). It is known as “The Black Diamond”. To the right is the newly erected building of Copenhagen University which houses the departments of the Faculty of Humanities.

(Slide 2)

1975-1976 Tokai University, Shonan Campus, attending the Japanese Language Course for International Students

1990 The Japanese-Language Short-term Program for overseas Japanese teachers at The Japan Foundation Japanese Language Institute (Urawa)

1998 The Japan Foundation/National Diet Library training program for Japanese studies librarians

### Working experience and workplaces

(Slide 3)

1989-2002 Japanese research librarian and subject specialist librarian at the former Center for Orientalia and Judaica of The Royal Library.

The Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek) is the Danish National Library and holds many national collections. They are called national collections to distinguish them from the collections of the Copenhagen University Library which is a separate organizational unit within The Royal Library. The Oriental collection is one of the national collections.

The collection of Japanese books comprises approximately 6000 titles. Furthermore, there is a museum collection of ca. 170 titles primarily from the late Edo period (ca 1789–1867) consisting of woodblock printed books, many with colour illustrations, hand copied books, old maps, hand painted ukiyo-e (printed in *gafu*) and single sheet *nishikie* colour woodblock prints.

Although it is a small collection, it covers almost all literary genres of the late Edo period (ca 1789–1867) ranging from Japanese classic texts, Chinese classics, and medical books to *haikai* poetry, illustrated books, and popular literature for the ‘mass’ audience.

(Slide 4)

In 2002 the Center for Orientalia and Judaica at the Royal Library organized an exhibition about the world's writing systems. The title of the exhibition was ‘The transformation of writing’.

In order to introduce the historical writing systems of Japan, I exhibited several of the Edo period woodblock printed books held by the Royal Library arranging them according to their writing styles. I also wrote a paper

\* Merete Pedersen (Librarian / information specialist, Library, University of Copenhagen)

on the historical writing systems of Japan which was printed in an anthology: Verdens skrifter, edited by Stig T. Rasmussen.

(Slide 5)

For 20 years - from 1996 until now - I have been in charge of the library of the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies at the University of Copenhagen. Originally the staff consisted of a Japanese specialist librarian and a Chinese specialist librarian, who were in charge of the Department Library.

This is the web page of the Department Library.

(Slide 6)

This is the new building of the Faculty of Humanities, University of Copenhagen.

The Asian library is on the second floor in the left side of this picture. One can glimpse the reading room and the yellow metal bookcases in it.

(Slide 7)

The OPAC of the Royal Library makes it possible to cross search by way of the Ex Libris Primo integrated search system. It is called REX. With Primo, you can cross search all the collections and magazines held in the Royal Library's national collections, Faculty library collections and libraries of each department at the University of Copenhagen. Electronic materials are also included.

(Slide 8)

I wrote a guide for study materials relevant to the Asian studies programme at The University of Copenhagen. I created this guide using the service called LibGuides. At the bottom you can see the web banner of the AsiaPortal of NIAS - Nordic Institute of Asian Studies.

(Slide 9)

NIAS AsiaPortal is a scientific information resource portal for Asian studies

programmes at institutes in Scandinavia. When signed in on this portal site it is possible to get access to many commercial subscription databases as well as to free open access databases. The report about the NIAS AsiaPortal by Mr. Toshinori Egami, International Research Center for Japanese Studies, is very helpful.

### **Introduction to The Royal Library (Det Kongelige Bibliotek)**

(Slide 10)

This is the web page of the digital collection of the Royal Library called "The Digital National Library".

On the right side you can see an illustrated book of the Edo period, but actually there is very little Japanese material that has been digitized. Most of the digitized material consists of Danish and Western books, manuscripts, documents, maps, and ephemera.

(Slide 11)

As mentioned before the Oriental museum collection of the Royal Library mainly consists of about 170 titles from the late Edo period, and very few of them have been digitized. Here, however, you can see a few that have been digitized.

### **Introduction of the Catalogue of Japanese manuscripts and rare books**

(Slide 12)

The head of the Center of Orientalia and Judaica, Mr. Stig Rasmussen - rather than digitizing the books - preferred to complete the printed series of catalogues called the COMDC series introducing the Oriental museum collection. Therefore, I was temporarily hired for the second time by the Royal Library in order to research and compile the Catalogue of Japanese manuscripts and rare books, with 480 pages and published by NIAS Press in 2015.

(Slide 13)

I would like to introduce some of the features of this catalogue. As an example of a record in the catalog, I will present the Kōtei Ise monogatari zue published in Bunsei 8 (1825). The illustrations are by the painter Okada Gyokuzan (1737-1812) from the middle of the Edo period. Here you can see a double-page spread. First of all, for each catalog item there is an illustration in order to show the style of the writing systems and the style of the illustrations.

(Slide 14)

This is an enlarged part of the same book Kōtei Ise monogatari zue. I have provided transcriptions in the original *kanji* of the *mikaeshi* (title page), *jobun* (prefaces), *batsubun* (postscripts), *kanki* (colophon) and *okuzuke* (colophons) giving details of title, author, publisher, publication date, etc., sometimes replacing variant *kanji* with standard *kanji*, i.e. making a *honkoku* transcription. I hope that Japanese users of the catalogue will find all this information in *kanji* useful. All the bibliographical descriptions are also provided in *romaji* transcriptions for people who do not read Japanese. Another feature of this catalogue is that the bibliographical description and the bibliographical notes have been integrated and are found side by side.

I found the database CiNii Books provided by the National Institute of Informatics extremely useful for this purpose. Since pre-modern books contrary to modern books require bibliographical descriptions specific to each publication or manuscript, they are catalogued as “rare books” and provided with separate bibliographic records. The bibliographical notes of these records were extremely helpful to me.

(Slide 15)

Information about the different written forms or writing styles is also included, and

here we find a combination of *hiragana* and (only a few) *kanji* (*hiragana-majiribun*).

(Slide 16)

In the ‘Contents’ the genre and details about the work together with biographical notes about the author or artist are presented in English. The meaning of the title is also explained.

(Slide 17)

If the work has been digitized, there is a reference to the image database. Here you can find the information that the digital version of this book can be found in the Waseda University Library, (Kotenseki sogo database). While making research for this catalog, I gradually found my way to the many electronic resources and image databases available on the internet and found them very useful.

(Slide 18)

There are 9 pages of References to both printed material and online material.

(Slide 19)

There are also many colour illustrations.

(Slide 20)

Here is the book Itsukushima jinja hōmotsu ichiran published in Meiji 36 (1903). It is an early illustrated “catalogue of the treasures from Itsukushima Shrine”. Now some of these treasures are probably designated ‘national treasures’ and ‘important cultural properties’ of Japan.

(Slide 21)

These are the image databases that I have used the most:

- Kichōsho dejitaru akaibu = Digital archive of rare materials, Doshisha University Academic Repository

- Ritsumeikan Daigaku shozō kichōsho akaibu Nihon bungaku, geijutsu hen, Ritsumeikan University
- ARC ukiyoe etsuran shisutemu ARC, Ritsumeikan University Art Research Center
- Kabuki, jōruri dētabēsu, Ritsumeikan University Art Research Center
- Ukiyoe etsuran shisutemu = Ukiyoe Viewing System, The Tsubouchi Memorial Theatre Museum of Waseda University
- ukiyo-e.org database
- Kotenseki sōgō dētabēsu = Kotenseki sogo database: Japanese and Chinese classics, Waseda University Library,
- Shozō sakuhin sōgō mokuroku kensaku shisutemu = Union Catalog of the Collections of the National Art Museums, Japan (just a little!)

(Slide 22)

Thank you very much for letting me participate in the JAL Project. It has deepened my knowledge of Japanese art and culture as well as my knowledge of electronic resources in Japan.

Thank you for your attention.



デンマーク王立図書館 "Black Diamond"



コペンハーゲン大学


**日本における視覚資料と私との出会い**

MERETE PEDERSEN メレテ・ピーターセン  
日本語学科 修士 1986  
デンマーク、コペンハーゲン大学 旧東洋学部 日本語学科 日本文学 歴史専攻


JALプロジェクト2016 公開ワークショップ

1


### 留学生の長期間と研修生の短期間の日本滞在



1975-1976 東海大学別科日本語研修課程




1990 国際交流基金日本語国際センター海外日本語教師短期研修



1998 日本研究司書研修プログラム

2

### 1989-2002デンマーク王立図書館 (The Royal Library) 東洋学・ユダヤ学のセンター (Center for Orientalia and Judaica) 日本主題専門司書



3

### 2002年に日本語の表記体系の紹介 王立図書館の展覧会とアンソロジーの記事の提出





4

### コペンハーゲン大学 Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies のアジア図書館の担当者 (1996-現在まで)



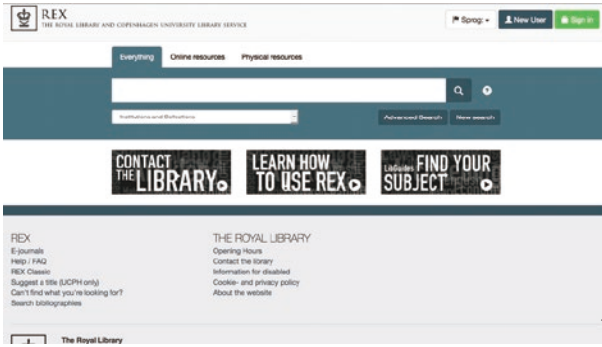
5



6



王立図書館のOPACでは、ExLibris Primoという統合検索システムによるまとめた検索ができます



アジア学科に関する資料のガイド (studies guide/subject guides)を執筆しました (Springshare LibGuides)



NIAS AsiaPortalはアジア研究のための北欧学術情報資源ポータルサイト



"The Digital National Library"  
国立図書館のデジタル化したコレクション



Digitaliserede værker fra Japan

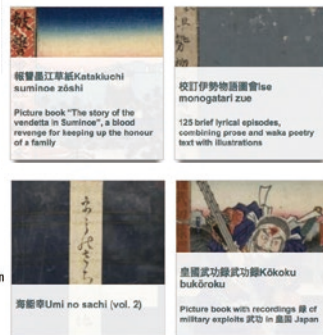
Forfatter: Bent Lerbæk Pedersen

Japansk billedværk

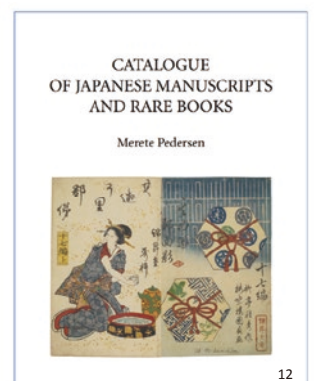
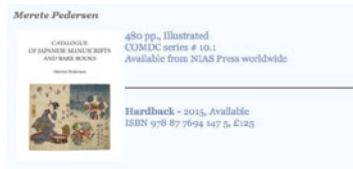


100 billeder af Avalokitesvara (Hyaku Kannon) af Kanō Tansen (1686-1728) dateret til 1721

4 resultater fundet.



11



12

**30 (Kôtei) Ise monogatari zue (Okada Gyokuzan)**  
(校訂) 伊勢物語図會

**Title in standard kanji** (校訂) 伊勢物語図會


**Classification** 物語

**Copy-editor** 市岡猛彦 Ichioika Takehiko (1781–1827)  
Foreword序 by 市岡猛彦

**Illustrator** 岡田玉山 Okada Gyokuzan (1737–1812), also known as Gyokuzan I 玉山 (初世)

**Date of publication** 文政8 (1825)  
Kanki 刊記 reads: 「文政八年乙酉秋」  
名古屋 Nagoya: 美濃屋伊六 Miyoya Iroku (and 5 others)  
Kanki shoshi 刊記書肆 list of publishers reads: 書林/江戸、鶴屋金助・大阪屋茂吉/大阪、河内屋曾七/京、吉野屋仁兵衛/名古屋、永楽屋東四郎・美濃屋伊六

**Illustrations** *Sanizuri-e* (black-and-white prints), many double-leaved



**30 (Kôtei) Ise monogatari zue (Okada Gyokuzan)**  
(校訂) 伊勢物語圖會

OA 93-958/Mus

**Classification** LITERATURE

**Title in standard kanji** (校訂) 伊勢物語図會

**Classification** 物語

**Copy-editor** 市岡猛彦 Ichioika Takehiko (1781–1827)  
Foreword序 by 市岡猛彦

**Illustrator** 岡田玉山 Okada Gyokuzan (1737–1812), also known as Gyokuzan I 玉山 (初世)

**Date of publication** 文政8 (1825)  
Kanki 刊記 reads: 「文政八年乙酉秋」  
名古屋 Nagoya: 美濃屋伊六 Miyoya Iroku (and 5 others)  
Kanki shoshi 刊記書肆 list of publishers reads: 書林/江戸、鶴屋金助・大阪屋茂吉/大阪、河内屋曾七/京、吉野屋仁兵衛/名古屋、永楽屋東四郎・美濃屋伊六

**Imprint** 名古屋 Nagoya: 美濃屋伊六 Miyoya Iroku (and 5 others)  
Kanki shoshi 刊記書肆 list of publishers reads: 書林/江戸、鶴屋金助・大阪屋茂吉/大阪、河内屋曾七/京、吉野屋仁兵衛/名古屋、永楽屋東四郎・美濃屋伊六

**DESCRIPTION** 3巻, 3冊  
Total 180 丁 (leaves). (上: 2, 67 丁, 中: 47 丁, 下: 64 丁)  
Obon 大木 26 × 18.1 cm  
*Fukurotoji*  
Woodblock print  
Within single borders, notations on top margin  
*Hiragana-majiribun* 平仮名交じり文  
10 lines to page  
Dark bluish-grey cover with original *daisen*  
Title from title slip on cover *daisen*: 校訂伊勢物語図會. 校訂 is a 角書 *tsunogaki* title

**ILLUSTRATIONS** *Sanizuri-e* (black-and-white prints), many double-leaved

**CONTENTS**

"Revised 校訂 illustrated 図會 Ise monogatari". Ise monogatari is a mid-10th-century collection of some 125 brief lyrical episodes (variant texts range from 110 to 140 or more episodes), combining elements of prose and *waka* poetry of anonymous authorship. It is the oldest of the *uta monogatari*. Formerly attributed to the 9th-century poet Ariwara no Narihira.

The genre is *monogatari bungaku* 物語文学, i.e. various prose works of the 9th–14th centuries, ranging from long romances to historical accounts and collections of short anecdotes. The different types of *monogatari* are *uta monogatari*, *tsukuri monogatari* (courtly romances), *giko monogatari* (pseudoclassical tales), *rekishi monogatari* (historical tales), *gunki monogatari* (military tales), and *setsumashū* (collections of orally transmitted tales). Distinguished from *waka bungaku* (poetry), *nikki bungaku* (journals or diaries), and *zuihitsu bungaku* (essays or random notes).

Okada Gyokuzan was an *ukiyo-e* painter of late Edo period, who lived in Osaka. He studied woodblock printing and painting under Tsukioka Settei and was ordained *Hokkyo* rank.

**SEALS OF OWNERSHIP** BIBLIOTHECA REGIA HAFNIENSIS

**OTHER COPIES** Digitized copy: 早稲田大学図書館, shelf mark: 文庫 30 c0036  
Digitized copy of the Royal Library holding: [www.kk.dk/books/ortsam/2011/mar/ostryk/object80535/da/](http://www.kk.dk/books/ortsam/2011/mar/ostryk/object80535/da/)

**PROVENANCE** Purchased from Branner's Bibliofie Antikvariat, Copenhagen, in 1984.

**REFERENCES** Kornicki database: デンマーク / DK / KB / Jap.958  
NKSMID: 著作 ID 11836  
KSM: 1.216.2; 古典籍総合目録 1.39.3.  
Gardner 1993: No. 276  
*Encyclopedia of Japan*. Kodansha. Retrieved from JapanKnowledge database  
Nihon Jinmei Jiten 日本人名大辞典 Kodansha. Retrieved from JapanKnowledge database

CATALOGUE OF JAPANESE MANUSCRIPTS AND RARE BOOKS

**Library and union catalogues (online public access catalogs) and image databases**

The Amica Library (Art image database), copyright 2004. *Cartography Associates*. (David Rumsey). [www.davidrumsey.com/amica](http://www.davidrumsey.com/amica)

ARC ukiyoe etsuran shinutemu ARC 浮世絵閲覧システム [Ukiyoe Database] Ritsumeikan University Art Research Center, copyright 1999–, [www.dh-jac.net/db/arcnishi/ie/search.htm](http://www.dh-jac.net/db/arcnishi/ie/search.htm)

Art of Asia (Collections search). *Museum of Fine Arts, Boston*, [www.mfa.org/collections/asia](http://www.mfa.org/collections/asia)

British Museum collection online, copyright Trustees of the British Museum, [www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection\\_online/search.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/collection_online/search.aspx) (Biographical details of artists can be found in the records at "producer name" (opens up in a mouseover "hover box"). The web page of the biographical details can also be found by using a search engine).

Bunka dejitaru raiburari 文化デジタルライブラリー, copyright 2012 Nihon Geijutsu Bunka Shin-kōkai 日本芸術文化振興会 (Japan Arts Council), [www2.ntj.jac.go.jp/dglib](http://www2.ntj.jac.go.jp/dglib)

Catalogue of early Japanese books and Catalogue of early Japanese books in microform or digital at NIJL = 所蔵和古書・マイクロ/デジタル目録データベース, National Institute of Japanese Literature, [base1.nijl.ac.jp/~wakosyo/](http://base1.nijl.ac.jp/~wakosyo/)

CiNii Articles, copyright 2014. National Institute of Informatics, [ci.nii.ac.jp/](http://ci.nii.ac.jp/)

CiNii Books, copyright 2014. National Institute of Informatics, [ci.nii.ac.jp/books/](http://ci.nii.ac.jp/books/)



Umi no sachi (Katsuma Ryōsu) 海の幸 (no. 47)

19

**308** *Shokuhin jūji kinoshita kishiro*  
 食品十景物 一巻

308 307.36a

This is a woodblock print illustration of a fish, likely a salmon, with a smaller fish below it. The fish are rendered in a detailed, realistic style. There is handwritten Japanese text above the fish.

**308** *Shokuhin jūji kinoshita kishiro*  
 食品十景物 一巻

308 307.36a

This is a woodblock print illustration of a fish, likely a salmon, with a smaller fish below it. The fish are rendered in a detailed, realistic style. There is handwritten Japanese text above the fish.



Shokuhin jūji kinoshita kishiro (Shokuhin jūji kinoshita kishiro)

20

## 特によく利用した画像データベース

- ・貴重書デジタル・アーカイブ (同志社大学 図書館)
- ・立命館大学所蔵貴重書アーカイブ日本文学・芸術編
- ・ARC 浮世絵閲覧システム (立命館大学アート・リサーチセンター)
- ・ARC 歌舞伎・浄瑠璃データベース (立命館大学アート・リサーチセンター)
- ・浮世絵閲覧システム (早稲田大学坪内博士記念演劇博物館)
- ・ukiyo-e.org database
- ・早稲田大学図書館古典籍総合データベース
- ・所蔵作品総合目録検索システム (独立行政法人国立美術館)

21

ご清聴ありがとうございました

22