Tero Tapani Salomaa*

I was just 17 years old when I visited Japan for the first time. I traveled by myself via Siberian railway to Nahodka and arrived by ship to Yokohama. In Japan I used trains and ferries and found myself in Okinawa Islands. That two months journey had great influence to my future career and life.

Few years after visiting Japan, I entered University of Helsinki's East Asian department. Allready during my university years I was interested in Japanese collections, which had not been catalogued, in Finland. Thanks to the help of National library librarians I was able to make catalogue of their Japonica collection.

During my career I have had my own publishing company, worked as a director of comic festival etc. Since year 2012 I have been debuty director of Hokkaido University European office, based in Helsinki. My main job is to promote Hokudai in Europe and connect Hokudai professors and students with our partner institutions.

My research project, which last year, is called "Tracing for uncatalogued artifacts in Finland", There are various Japanese collections in Finland with no catalogue nor proper identification. For example missionary and seamen collections including artifacts, diaries

and photos. Also famous Finnish painters, for example Gallen-Kallela, had collection of Japanese objects.One of my interest is to find out how the Japanese artifacts ended to Finland. Why Finns visited Japan in early days and what kind of artifacts they brought with them. My project aims to make a list of early Finnish visitors to Japan. After tracing the names I try to trace their descendants and interview them to find out if there are some Japanese objects left in the family. To identify artifacts properly I need knowledge on Japanese culture and good network with professionals. Thanks to JAL project I have been able to make such connections and get wide knowledge on art related databases.

Slide

2. Is this piece of art?

3. This picture was taken in the beginning of 20th century in the place which is located around 30 km from Helsinki. Those days Finland was not independent.

4. If we look at the picture closer, we can find landlord Gustav Rosenberg (1836-1926) and his youngest child Fanny Rosenberg (1886-1967 in the picture. According to the legend Mr. Rosenberg used the nife every day.
5. If there is no explanation in the picture is

almost meaningless. 6. If we write explanation the picture becomes "historical decompant". This misture may taken

"historical document". This picture was taken in 1945, just after the end of Second World War.

7. If we look at the picture closer, we can find Fanny, now 69years old, and his husband Teodori and their grandson Pauli (11years old). Even a dog called Fiu can be found from the picture. This picture was taken on Teodori's 60 years birthday. This Pauli-boy in the picture is my father.

8. If we look at this diagram, we can found that Gustav Rosenberg (user of the nife) is my

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great-great grandfather and Fanny is my grandfather's mother.

9. This picture was taken 3 years ago. It is same place were Gustav was the landlord. The lady at the picture is my father's cousin Anneli. She told me the story of the nife and gave it to me.

10. After hearing the story we see the nife differently – do not we?

11. Shortly about my history with Japan. At second year at High School I read book called "by train to Japan", and actually decided to travel via Siberia to Japan. Later I stayed one year at Tsurui-mura, studied at Hokkaido university etc. Since 2012 I have worked as deputy director of Hokkaido University European office.

12. My present project is called "Tracing for uncatalogued Japanese artifacts in Finland".
Especially I am interested in those Finns who visited Japan before World War I – over 500 known Finns has visited Japan before 1920's

13-14. Examples of "hidden Japanese artifacts" I have found in Finland. Some of them were brought by missionaries, some of them by seamen, and some of them were bought by famous artists.

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Some future plans

What kind of Japanese artifacts can be found in Finland?

How and what kind of route those were brought to Finland?

How they were used in Finland and what was those original function in

Japan?

テロ・サロマー





