

Exploring Southeast Asian Studies Programs and Scholarly Treasures in Japanese Institutions: A Preliminary Fieldwork Survey

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Introduction

Southeast Asian studies has internationalized in recent years, but Japanese scholarship on Southeast Asia has not been “widely publicized” in research, teaching, learning, and outreach in the United States as well as in other academies.² My preliminary fieldwork survey at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) was to explore the Southeast Asian studies programs and scholarly resources at various institutions that offer Southeast Asian studies programs. The other purpose has been to collect Southeast Asia research resources from the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIH)³ for my comparative study perspective in the field. This essay highlights my general observations, special collection research interests, and the next steps of my research journey. It also aims to present this information to Southeast Asianists who may not be familiar with the wealth of information that is available, collected and archived in Japan.

Fieldwork Site Visits

To gain a general overview of Southeast Asian studies and relevant scholarly resources in social sciences and humanities, I conducted intensive site visits in Chiba, Kyoto, Osaka, Tachikawa, Tokyo, Yokohama and Nagasaki as part of my first exploration journey to establish personnel networking for future follow-ups.⁴

Retrospective and Current Southeast Asia Newspaper Holdings and Han Nom Special Collections

Almost all libraries that collect Southeast Asia-related materials subscribe to Southeast Asia newspapers in English and Southeast Asian languages (primarily in Indonesian, Malay,

Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese) for their primary clientele. Among them, the Institute of Developing Economies Library⁵ and the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library⁶ have significant holdings of retrospective and current newspapers for public access. It is gratifying to know that Southeast Asia news sources are one of the top priorities in Southeast Asia collection development at Japanese institutions.

The Toyo Bunko⁷ (The Oriental Library), a private research institution in Tokyo, has the most comprehensive and well-preserved Han Nom⁸ rare book collection in Japan. Its Han Nom holdings serve as one of the best primary sources for pre-modern Vietnamese studies. All texts are in original version of double leaves, oriental style and elegantly bound in fabric cases. The bulk of the Han Nom holdings are gift collections by Mr. Nagata Yasukichi⁹ who served as consul general in Hanoi from 1930 to 1933¹⁰ and Professor Yamamoto Tatsuro who was regarded as the pioneering scholar of Vietnamese studies in Japan.¹¹ Toyo Bunko has the most complete 大越史記全書 (Complete Annals of Great Viet) in various classical Chinese editions for a comprehensive study of pre-modern Vietnamese historiography.¹² Specific titles of the Han Nom collection ranging from classics, history to philosophy, and literature are well-documented in the following catalogs that patrons may request to page the items and conduct research onsite in the reading room:

Iwai Hirosato 岩井大慧. 1935. *Nagata Yasukichi-shi shūshū Annan-bon Mokuroku* 永田安吉氏蒐集安南本目錄. Japan: [s.n.]

Tōyō Bunko 東洋文庫. 1939. *Tōyō Bunko Chōsen-bon Bunrui Mokuroku, fu, Annam-bon Mokuroku* 東洋文庫朝鮮本分類目録：附・安南本目錄. Tokyo: Tōyō Bunko.

Tōyō Bunko 東洋文庫. 1999. Kodaishi Kenkyū linkai. 古代史研究委員會. *Tōyō Bunko Zō Etsunan-bon Shomoku* 東洋文庫藏越南本書目. Tokyo: Tōyō Bunko, 1999.

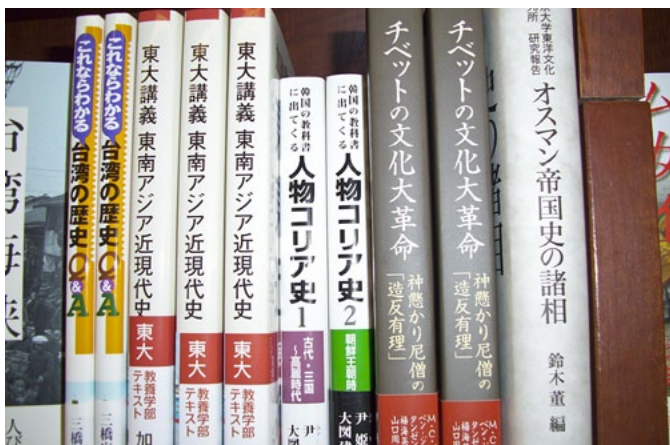
Tōyō Bunko 東洋文庫. 2012. *Yamamoto Tatsurō Hakushi Kizōsho Mokuroku. Wa-Kansho, Etsunan Bunken Hen* 山本達郎博士寄贈書目録. 和漢書・越南文献篇. Tōkyō : Tōyō Bunko, p. 281-289.

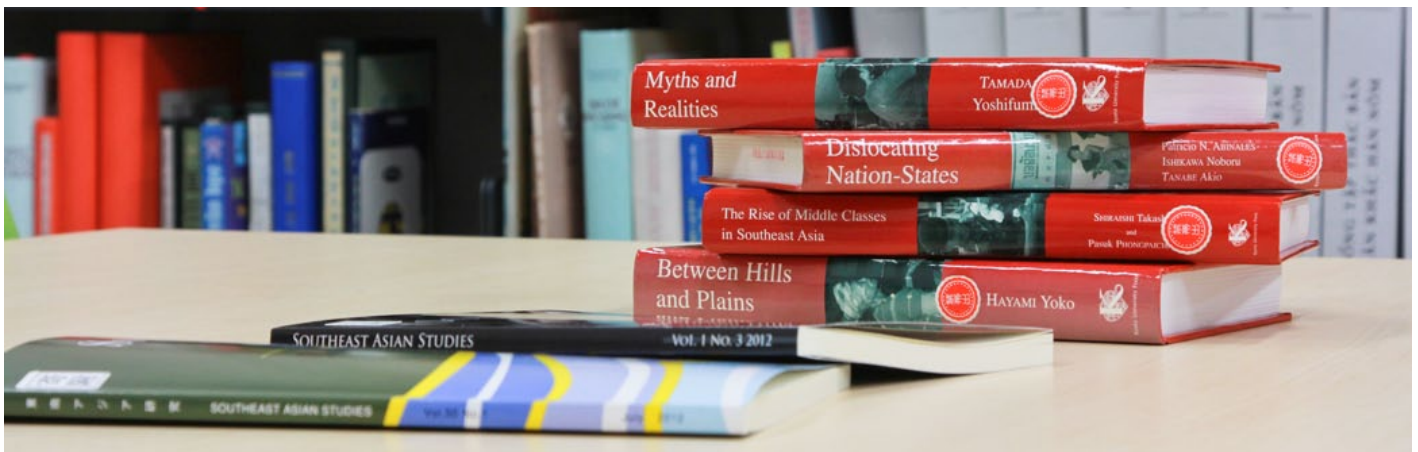
In addition to the above, the Han Nom Microfilm Collection contains approximately four standard bookshelves of Han Nom holdings in facsimile reproduction from the microfilm collection of École française d'Extrême-Orient Library in Paris and these are merged with the Toyo Bunko Han Nom Collection.¹³

Keio Institute of Oriental Classics

The Keio Institute of Oriental Classics¹⁴ at Keio University received the prominent Henri Maspero¹⁵ (1883-1945) gift collection of Vietnamese studies including Han Nom holdings but

Contemporary Southeast Asia history textbooks on display in a bookstore in Tokyo





Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) publications at CSEAS library

the entire collection is yet to be processed for public access. The collection includes Han Nom texts primarily in history and literature, Vietnamese and French monographs, journals and newspapers holdings. The Maspero collection would serve as primary and secondary sources for pre-modern Vietnamese studies at Keio in the future.

Osaka University Library on the Minoh campus

The Osaka University Library on the Minoh campus has modest Han Nom holdings of about 20 titles related to Vietnamese history and literature. They serve as useful reference sources for students interested in Han Nom textual readings.

Southeast Asia Special Collections

Besides the general Southeast Asia holdings at the institutions that I visited, I would like to highlight a few notable Southeast Asia special collections here. The Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia at the University of Tokyo owns the Tanaka Norio Collection of monographs primarily in Dutch about Indonesian studies and the Takigawa Tsutomu Collection of 2,050 monographs in Japanese and European languages related to Southeast Asian studies.¹⁶ The Center for Southeast Asian Studies Library at Kyoto University has four special collections: the Charas Collection,¹⁷ the Foronda Collection,¹⁸ the Ocampo Collection,¹⁹ and the Indonesia Islam Collection that have been highly regarded as valuable sources for Southeast Asian studies.

The Institute of Social Sciences at Waseda University received two renowned special gift collections for Indonesian studies: the Nishijima Collection²⁰ of about 400 volumes regarding the Japanese military administration in Indonesia and the Masuda Collection²¹ of over 1,200 documents of primary sources for post-independence Indonesia. The Mauro Garcia Collection²² at the Central Library of Sophia University is a gift collection on Filipiniana studies collected by Mauro Garcia (1906-1982), a Filipino historian and bibliographer. It includes 5,320 titles of monographs and journals primarily in English and Filipino languages and a few items in Japanese and Chinese as well as important documents about the Japanese occupation in the Philippines. The entire collection was professionally cataloged using the Library of Congress classification system. It is highly recommended to contact the respective holding institutions in advance for onsite research access to those special collections.

Future Research

My intensive fieldwork survey covered site visits, data gathering, evaluative analysis of explorations and vis-à-vis informal interviews with relevant faculty members, researchers, lecturers, administrators, librarians, curators and graduate students in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The survey experience has benefited me immensely in framing the next steps of my research project in the following directions in the future. Firstly, how can I share my study of Japanese Southeast Asia scholarship and librarianship with the global academic Southeast Asia community through presentations and project initiatives? Secondly, how can I create a short-term and long-term intellectual impact on Japanese Southeast Asia collection development enrichment through library acquisitions, gifts and exchanges of scholarly works as well as through potential collaboration with Japanese institutions? Thirdly, how can I promote and facilitate Japanese Southeast Asia scholarship through print and digital resources via interlibrary lending and open access to the international Southeast Asia community? Fourth, how can I articulate and implement the three key points of my fieldwork observations which are a) *Local resources, global treasures*; b) *One mission, one community*; and c) a "*Heart, Head & Hands*" self-motivated principle to better serve the global Southeast Asia constituencies in the field? Finally, how best can I combine wireless technology and mobile devices and applications in promoting technological and information literacy to make ubiquitous e-learning of Southeast Asia scholarship possible?

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桜井由躬雄 (Sakurai Yumio). 1979. 「在泰京越南寺院景福寺所蔵漢籍字喃本目録」 [Zai-Taikyo Etsunan Jiin Keifukuji ShozoKanseki Jinanbon Mokuroku - Catalogue of Chinese and Chu Nom Texts Preserved at the Vietnamese Temple Canh Phuc Tu in the Thai Capital]. 東南アジア史学会 (Tōnan Ajia Shigakkai). 東南アジア, 歴史と文化 [Tōnan Ajia, Rekishi to Bunka] 8: 73-117.

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Notes

- ¹ Virginia Jing-yi Shih was a former Visiting Research Fellow at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) of Kyoto University. She is Librarian in charge of the Southeast Asia Collections at the University of California, Berkeley (USA). She is deeply indebted to CSEAS for its funding support and special thanks are due to the faculty, scholars, librarians, colleagues, and graduate students whom she consulted at CSEAS and beyond for their advice, recommendations or referrals to make her intensive fieldwork in 2012 possible. This is a brief work-in-progress report for information sharing. Please note that all web-based citations in this report are accessible as of 14 January, 2013.
- ² In recent years, there have been many academic inquiries into scholarship on Southeast Asia. See references for a brief overview of some of the work that has come out.
- ³ The National Institutes for the Humanities are one of the four groups of the Inter-University Research Institutes that are regarded as world-class research institutes in Japan. The National Institutes for the Humanities include six national institutions: International Research Center for Japanese Studies, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, National Institute of Japanese Literature, National Museum of Ethnology, National Museum of Japanese History, and Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. Their research library holdings reflect the strengths of their scholarship to meet the research needs of their respective primary clientele. They provide a national perspective of leadership and scholarship that can be applied as a comparative study for Southeast Asian studies.
- ⁴ One other place which merits special attention for those who are not familiar in where to search for materials is Jinbōchō, well-known as the center for antiquarian booksellers, major bookstores and publishing houses in Tokyo. I visited Jinbōchō for an overview of historical and contemporary Japanese book publishing and foreign book importing and exporting business through special order requests. A handful of Southeast Asia-oriented works are available at a few bookstores shelved under world history, oriental history, fine arts, religions, foreign language learning and teaching, world literature, world maps and travel guides. Directory of bookstores in Jinbōchō: <http://jimbou.info/> (accessed 3 Jan, 2013)
- ⁵ <http://www.ide.go.jp/English/Library/index.html> (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ⁶ <http://navi.ndl.go.jp/asia/entry/about-en.php> (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ⁷ <http://www.toyo-bunko.or.jp/ToyoBunko-E/index-e.html> (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ⁸ *Han* refers to classical Chinese while *Nom* refers to the Vietnamese demotic script derived from classical Chinese.
- ⁹ The Nagata Yasukichi Vietnamese Collection of 103 items in 695 volumes including Han Nom holdings was transferred to Toyo Bunko in 1934. Source: *Directory Database of Research and Development Activities*. http://read.jst.go.jp/public/cs_sgn_010EventAction.do?lang_act1=E&action1=event&sgn_code=5000004291&judge_act1=2 (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ¹⁰ Minami Yoshizawa, "The Nishihara Mission in Hanoi, July 1940," in *Indochina in the 1940s and 1950s: Translation of Contemporary Japanese Scholarship on Southeast Asia*, edited by Takashi Shiraishi and Motoo Furuta. Ithaca, N.Y.: Southeast Asia Program, Cornell University, 1992, p. 45.
- ¹¹ Shiba Yoshinobu, ed. (John Wisnom translator), *Treasures of the Toyo Bunko*. Tokyo: The Tōyō Bunko, 2008, p. 217
- ¹² 引田利章 (Hikita Toshiaki), *大越史記全書 (Daietsu Shiki Zensho)*, Tōkyō: Hikita Toshiaki, Meiji 18 [1885] (10 vols). The contents include: 1. 越鑑通孝総論 2. 外紀全書 3-5. 本紀全書 (吳士連編) 6-8. 本紀実録 9. 本紀続編 (范公著) 10. 本紀続編追加 (黎僖編). For background information, please see <http://tinyurl.com/7lowxux> (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ¹³ <http://www.efeo.fr/index.php?l=EN> (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ¹⁴ http://www.sido.keio.ac.jp/usage/about_shido.html (accessed 2 Jan, 2013)
- ¹⁵ Henri Maspero was a distinguished French Sinologist and a scholar of Vietnamese linguistics.
- ¹⁶ Catalog of the Institute for Advanced Studies on Asia, the University of Tokyo, 2012, p. 22-23 (English version)
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- ¹⁹ The Ocampo Collection is named after Professor Ambeth R. Ocampo, a prominent Filipino historian and Chairman of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines. The collection includes 1,000 volumes of rare books, journals and ephemeral materials regarding the Philippine politics and cultural history.
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