

A debriefing session of the ITP programs

## Research on Japanese Art Collection in Italy

### A Case Study of Surveying Japanese Art Materials in Europe

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### Current Situation of Study on Japanese Art Collections Preserved in Italy

- Japanese Art Collection Preserved in Italy: there are numerous Japanese art collection in Italy, but they haven't utilized and studied it enough.
- Reasons:
  - Minority & marginal
  - lack of budget
  - language barrier (Japanese - Italian)
  - lack of experts, etc.

2 **Sharing information is not enough**

### Policy of Italy for Digitizing Cultural Heritage

- Italian government focuses its provisions in digitizing cultural heritage through internet and in promoting various projects inside and outside Italy.
- Japanese Art Collection, the fundamental tool in sharing such system lags.  
e.g.) users can research 0% of image data of Japanese art materials on **Culturalitalia** (Oct.2009) by the Central Institute for the Union Catalogue (ICCU)

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### Share information

DIGITIZATION

DATABASE CONSTRUCTION

***This is one of the Key Strategies to realize Valorization Materials.***

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### Digitization work in the Art Oriental Museum of Venice

#### **Art Oriental Museum of Venice :**

September 29, 2009 – October 2, 2009

- Finished photography :  
759 Japanese woodblock prints
- Work Scope:**  
Digital photoshoot;  
Creating and Cataloging metadata.

Collectively working with graduate students from Venice University.

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## The collection of Oriental Art Museum of Venice:

- **Collector : Henry of Bourbon, Count of Bardi**  
( 1851 ~ 1906 )

**-1887-1889**

Visited South-east Asia,  
and China to Japan\*.

\*At that time, the world tour was in vogue  
in the European aristocratic class.

In Japan, his sojourn lasted for seven  
months traveling from Nagasaki  
to Hakodate.



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## Count Bardi Collection

**One of the largest private collections in Europe**

- during his period, it consists of “ethno-anthropological”  
items: bowls of wood, bow and arrows, bags of seal  
skin, in which some belonged to the Ainu tribe.

- now, there are more than **10,000 items**  
lacquer wares, potteries and porcelains, swords and  
armors, musical instruments, Japanese wood block  
prints, scrolls, palanquins, etc.

**includes various materials from  
different genre**

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## Issues known by hearing investigation: divulagation of information

- No institution has a high resolution image data of the  
collection ( except National Oriental Art Museum).
- Most of the museums don't have an expert curator .
- Japanese art material is not included in the online  
database of the local government (Trieste).
- Neither National Museum of Oriental Art nor National  
Ethnographic Prehistoric Museum has published a  
general data on Japanese art collection.

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## Future Projects

### 1 . Oriental Art Museum of Venice:

- Digital photography
- Cataloging data (Japanese - Italian languages)
- large size works ( as maps);
- illustrated books: 289 items from  
the late Edo period- Around 1987

### 2 . Chiossone Museum of Oriental Art:

Digitize & photograph Japanese woodblock prints

### 3 . Trieste City Museum of Oriental Art/ National Ethnographic Prehistoric Museum Projects

will start this summer

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## Achievements

- Verbal Presentation International workshop: The  
Impact of Image Culture Using Digital Archives In  
Japanese Art, *Ways of Introducing Cultural Heritage  
Online: Japanese Art Collections in Italy*, 14  
September 2009.
- Referred paper, *Current Conditions of Public  
Information on Japanese Art Collections in Italy,  
and on Italian Government's Policy towards  
Digitizing Cultural Properties*, Japan Art  
Documentation Study, bulletin, vol.17

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