

Japanese culture studies and premodern Japanese books in French libraries and museums

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Presentation outline

During the age of Japonism in nineteenth-century France, in addition to ukiyo-e woodblocks, paintings, porcelain, lacquerware, *okimono* and other art objects, collections of Japanese books (*hanpon*) were also assembled. The majority of these were illustrated books (*eribon*) and pictures albums (*gafu*) from the Edo period. For this reason, major collections of Japanese books can be found in various libraries and museums throughout France, but these have not necessarily been properly researched and put to use. Christophe Marquet has spent over twenty years researching the Emmanuel Tronquois (1855-1918) collection at the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and has helped organise exhibitions of Edo period art books and ukiyo-e throughout France (Bibliothèque du Havre 1996, Bibliothèque nationale de France 2007 and 2008, Musée des beaux-arts de Rouen 2009, Musée des beaux-arts de Nancy 2011, Musée Champollion 2013), thereby shining a light on these collections. Furthermore, he has published numerous facsimiles and French translations of illustrated books by Japanese artists from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, including Tachibana Morikuni, Ōoka Shunboku, Nakamura Hōchū, Hokusai, Utamaro, Kuwagata Keisai, and Kawanabe Kyōsai, with explanations of their contents. I propose to consider how these various publications and Japanese books from the Edo period might promote overseas research into Japanese culture.

Profile

Art historian, professor at the National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations (INALCO) in Paris, and head of the Maison Franco-Japonaise in Tokyo, Christophe Marquet specialises in the history of art and publishing in Japan. He has published many academic papers on Japanese book history: "Printed books in the Edo period: the golden age of Japanese publishing", *Back Cover*, 2013; "Learning Painting in Books: Typology, Readership, and Uses of Printed Painting Manuals during the Edo Period", in *Listen, Copy, Read. Popular Learning in Early Modern Japan* (Brill, 2014). He has also edited several books on this topic, including: *Du pinceau à la typographie (From Brush Calligraphy to Typography)*, EFEO, 2006). He recently published a book on Japanese folk paintings: *Ōtsu-e: imagerie populaire du Japon (Ōtsu-e: Japanese popular imagery)*, Picquier Ed., 2015)