National Archives of Japan

Workshop

Japanese Paper Conservation Techniques

◆ Programme ◆

14:30-15:00  Lecture:
Brief Description of Japanese Paper Conservation
Katsuhiko MASUDA, Professor, Showa Women’s University

15:00-16:40  Workshop
Itaru ARITOMO, Chief Conservator, National Archives of Japan
Ikuko NAKAJIMA, Conservator, National Archives of Japan

16:40-17:00  Q&A
Brief Description of Japanese Paper Conservation

Katsuhiko MASUDA
Professor, Showa Women’s University

【Abstract】

The transforming format of mounting is historically the work done by the mounter, and it diverted to the repairing and restoring technique for aged and damaged artifacts, including hanging scrolls, rolled books and folding screens, and formed the basic of restoration techniques still applicable in the present day.

The systematized techniques involved are applied by other countries since it meet the global restoration principles. It allows repeated repairs with relatively little effort by the use of low bonding strength for maintaining the flexibility.

In the field of paper conservation in Japan, the original formats of historical documents are not changed in accordance with the general rule of respecting the originality.

But the availability of Japanese paper made in traditional paper workshops, and a traditional aspect of Japanese culture that gives high appreciation to the texture and qualities of materials, have made it possible to hand down these traditional techniques to future generations as part of the standard global principles of restoration activities.

【Profile】

DATE OF BIRTH
Born in 1942

EDUCATION
Graduated from Tokyo University of Education (1965)

EXPERIENCE
Professor, Showa Women’s University (2001-Present)
Professor, Graduate School of Conservation, Tokyo University of the Arts (1994-2001)
Work as staff member of UNESCO dispatched from Agency for Cultural Affairs
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (1973-2001)
Endo Tokusui-ken (Conservation workshop) (1965-73)

RESEARCH FIELD
Conservation of cultural property, Paper conservation, History of paper making
**Workshop**

Itaru ARITOMO
Chief Conservator, National Archives of Japan
Ikuko NAKAJIMA
Conservator, National Archives of Japan

[Japanese Paper Conservation Technique]

*Fill in the worm damaged hole with Japanese paper. This technique is called “Tukuroi” in Japanese.*

**[Procedures]**

1. On the Japanese paper, trace the outline of the hole using a brush (*Mizufude*) with water. The outline should be slightly larger than the original size of the hole. Then, tear the Japanese paper by hand so that its fiber is loosened.
2. Trace the outline of the hole by using a small brush (*Kofude*) with a little amount of glue.
3. Pick up the torn Japanese paper with tweezers and place it on the damaged hole.

*Move on to the next procedure using the same material.

*Glue a sheet of paper to the entire back of the damaged material. This backing technique is called “Urauchi” in Japanese. The backing technique can be applied to maps, a sheet of document, and posters.*

**[Procedures]**

1. Cut the Japanese paper for backing 2 cm larger than the damaged material. (In this workshop, the backing paper is prepared.)
2. Spread out a nonwoven damp cloth without a crease. Use a water brush (*Mizuhake*) to spread.
3. Place the damaged material on the wet cloth and give the material proper moisture by spray. Then, spread the material without any creases.
4. Spread the backing paper on another nonwoven cloth. Then, coat with the thinned glue by glue brush (*Noribake*).
5. Lift the cloth and the backing paper together. Place on the damaged material.

*If possible, participants will have a second chance to do backing.*

*Strengthening paper – In the case of material which has information on both sides of the paper and acid deterioration material.*

**[Procedures]**

1. Spread a nonwoven damp cloth without any creases. Then, place the damaged material on the
cloth.
2. Carefully place the backing paper, which is larger than the material, on to the material.
3. Carefully spray glue on the backing paper.
4. Place a nonwoven cloth on the material. Then stroke on the cloth with a dry brush (Nadebake).
5. Turn over the paper and material together.
6. Carefully peel the cloth. In the same way, place another piece of backing paper on the material. Then, spray glue.
7. Place the nonwoven cloth on the material. Stroke on the cloth with a dry brush (Nadebake) again.
8. Dry the material.

*Next technique is Japanese bookbinding.*

*Although there are various types of Japanese bookbinding, we will do the most typical method of stitching, four-hole stitching (Yotsume-tojū).*

【Profile of Itaru ARITOMO】

**EDUCATION**

Bachelor of Economics, Senshu University (1972)

**EXPERIENCE**

National Archives of Japan (1982–Present)

Work as a conservation instructor for trainees from National Archives of Afghanistan (Feb. and Nov., 2006), Aceh Province in Indonesia (Jul., 2006) and National Archives of Ghana (Jul., 2003).

【Profile of Ikuko NAKAJIMA】

**EDUCATION**

Study conservation techniques in 1980’s.

**EXPERIENCE**

National Archives of Japan (1997–Present)

Work as a conservation instructor for trainees from National Archives of Afghanistan (Feb. and Nov., 2006), Aceh Province in Indonesia (Jul., 2006) and National Archives of Ghana (Jul., 2003).