

TRACING CHRISTIANITY IN EARLY MODERN JAPAN

**The Marega Collection in the
Vatican Library and its Value
for International Co-operation**

Vatican Library
National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan
Co-hosted by
Ōita Prefectural Board of Education
Historiographical Institute, The University of Tokyo

September 12th, 2015

14:00 - 18:00

Sala San Pio X

Via della Conciliazione 5, Roma

(access from Via dell'Ospedale, 1)

Ōhashi Yukihiro (Waseda University, Tokyo)
**Christianity in Japan from the 16th to the 19th Century:
Acceptance, Prohibition, Concealment.**

Satō Akihiro (Ōita Prefecture Ancient Sages Historical Archives)
**The Prohibition of Christianity in the Bungo Region and
Social Control.**

Silvio Vita (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)
**Behind the Documents: Mario Marega's activities in Japan
and the Formation of his Collection.**

Angela Nuñez Gaitan (Vatican Library)
**Management and Conservation Work on the Japanese
Documents in the Marega Collection: Joint Surveys and
Technical Exchanges with Japanese Institutions.**

Languages: Italian and Japanese
(written English translations provided for Japanese)



In collaboration with
Università Pontificia Salesiana
Istituto Giapponese di Cultura (The Japan Foundation)
Italian School of East Asian Studies

With the patronage of
Embassy of Japan to the Holy See
Università Ca' Foscari Venezia
Università degli Studi di Napoli L'Orientale
Sapienza Università di Roma
Associazione Italiana per gli Studi Giapponesi (AISTUGIA)

PROGRAM

- 13:30 Venue opening**
- 14:00 Welcoming addresses**
Jean-Louis Bruguès, O.P. (Librarian of the Holy Roman Church)
Cesare Pasini (Prefect of Vatican Library)
Tachimoto Narifumi (President of National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan)
Nagasaki Teruaki (Ambassador of Japan to the Holy See)
Kudō Toshiaki (Superintendent of Ōita Prefectural Board of Education)
- 14:15 Opening remarks**
Ohtomo Kazuo (National Institute of Japanese Literature)
- 14:30 Ōhashi Yukihiro** (Waseda University, Tokyo)
Christianity in Japan from the 16th to the 19th Century: Acceptance, Prohibition, Concealment.
- 15:15 Satō Akihiro** (Ōita Prefecture Ancient Sages Historical Archives)
The Prohibition of Christianity in the Bungo Region and Social Control.
- 16:00 Silvio Vita** (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies)
Behind the Documents: Mario Marega's activities in Japan and the Formation of his Collection.
- 16:30 Angela Nuñez Gaitan** (Vatican Library)
Management and Conservation Work on the Japanese Documents in the Marega Collection: Joint Surveys and Technical Exchanges with Japanese Institutions.
- 17:00 General discussion**
Marco Del Bene (Sapienza Università di Roma)
Iguchi Kazuki (Advisor General, Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives)
Kawamura Shinzō (Sophia University, Tokyo)
Delio Proverbio (Vatican Library)
- 18:00 Closing address**
Imanishi Yūichirō (Director-General of the National Institute of Japanese Literature)
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The Japanese documents collected by Mario Marega (1902-1978) in the first half of the 20th century, recently discovered at the Vatican Library, shed light on the prohibition of Christianity in Japan since the 17th century and its consequences at the local level. In most cases administrative papers concerning the descendants of Christian families in the region of Bungo, present-day Ōita Prefecture, over a span of about two hundred years (17th-19th century), this huge mass of more than ten thousand records opens up many possibilities to the scholarly community and to wider audiences.

This symposium will be the first occasion to consider their historical meaning from different perspectives: the effects of the ban on Christianity on Japanese society, the mechanisms of social control and the context of the Bungo region, and the circumstances under which the documents could be assembled within the framework of missionary work during the 20th century. Moreover, presented here will be the first results of an international project just launched to make available the entire collection through conservation, digitisation, and cataloguing.

A co-operative enterprise between the National Institutes for the Humanities of Japan (through the National Institute of Japanese Literature) and the Vatican Library, this project involves many Japanese leading centers in the field of archival research and the Università Pontificia Salesiana, and will offer meaningful tracks for cultural and academic exchanges between Japanese and European institutions by using the manuscripts as source material for research as well as teaching tools for training in the reading of historical sources, in palaeography, in archival and conservation techniques.
