

# National Museum of Japanese History

## Annual Report 10 2013

### Publication Preface

The National Museum of Japanese History (NMJH) is an inter-university research institute that was established to promote sustainable and systematic research of Japanese history and culture.

A defining characteristic of our museum is the array of functions it performs for the collection, organization, conservation, and the study of academic materials and information, as well as making these available. “Museum-based Research Integration,” an innovative research style that capitalizes on the NMJH’s institutional identity as a museum, organically linking the three elements of materials, research, and exhibits. Moreover, through broad-based sharing and publicizing of these elements to people at home and abroad, this new research style serves to promote research that uses the museum format to maximum advantage.

Furthermore, as an inter-university research institute, the NMJH plays a significant role in facilitating the joint use, by researchers at home and abroad, of this array of functions pertaining to its historical material (through its exhibits, publications, and information databases) in conjunction with the promotion (through its research activities) of leading next-generation researchers.

The complete spectrum of projects at the NMJH focuses on researches, who are advanced through the unification of research and administrative units within our three center system, comprising the Research Support Center, Museum Resource Center, and Museum Outreach Center.

Since formulating our Basic Plan for Permanent Exhibition Renewal in 2004, we have opened new exhibitions in Gallery 3 (The Early Modern History) in March 2008, Gallery 6 (The Contemporary History) in March 2010, and Gallery 4 (Folklore) in March 2013.

With the unveiling of the Contemporary History (Gallery 6) exhibits in 2010, the NMJH embarked on an important mission, both in Japan and overseas, by becoming the sole Japanese institution with permanent exhibitions spanning the entirety of Japanese history and culture, from the prehistoric and ancient through the modern and contemporary. The NMJH will have to constantly organize new permanent exhibitions to respond in an appropriate and prompt manner to future research developments and social needs.

This Annual Report summarizes our activities at the NMJH over the past year. As a museum serving as an inter-university research institute, it is our duty to provide an accurate report to substantiate whether the NMJH is making sufficient exertions in accordance with the principles listed above.

This Annual Report is organized as follows, and I invite readers to inspect and offer any critique from their perspectives on the diverse fields covered by our activities.

## Part 1: Research Section

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## Part 2: Projects Section

In March 2013, the NMJH celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. Dr. Mitsusada Inoue, our founding Director, once described the goal of the NMJH to establish a new vision for museums as our “100-Year Plan.” In honor of our thirtieth anniversary, I would like to make this the year for laying out the groundwork for our future activities and to establish a clear vision for the future.

On the basis of our model of Museum-based Research Integration, it is my desire that the NMJH is able to promote pioneering and comprehensive studies of Japanese history and culture, and I look forward to work together and progress with the museum staff so that we might be able to accomplish our duties as an inter-university research institute for university researchers and our other colleagues.

Director General, National Museum of Japanese History

KURUSHIMA Hiroshi

## I Research Activities—Research Support Center

In the fourth year of our Medium-term Plan (Phase II), we have made progress on nineteen collaborative research projects, which include both Basic Research (six branches on two continuing topics) and further thirteen Scientific Research projects (seven new projects and six continuing ones). Among the scientific research projects, we have strengthened our position as an inter-university research institute with the selection and initiation of a project on “Studies on the Creation of Intellectual Structures using Digital Archive Data of Historical Materials: Focusing on kosode byōbu”

Public exhibitions of collaborative research outcomes have included a special exhibition entitled “Technologies that made the era: Production revolution of the Middle Ages” showcasing the results of a scientific research project that concluded last year on the topic of “A General Study of Artisans and Technology in the Middle Ages,” as well as an exhibit on “Earthquakes in Japanese History,” which served as an interim report on a basic research project on the topic of “Comprehensive Research on Disasters and Museum Activities/Historical Accounts.” Even at the level of the Collaborative Research Committee, the outcomes of these collaborative research projects have been publicized not only in the conventional form of research articles but also as special and feature exhibitions, and have received positive evaluations through proactive engagements to further deepen and expand the research.

Regarding the basic research project on “Comprehensive Research on Disasters and Museum Activities/Historical Accounts,” which was launched as an engagement by the historical sciences with

contemporary issues in the 2012 fiscal year, we are continuing our efforts to communicate information about the project at home and abroad. These endeavors include the presentation of our findings at an international conference on “Cities, Nature, & Landscapes: From Nara to the Networked City” hosted by the Japanese Studies Association of Australia, and especially our research presentations on the details of continuing surveys of conditions in areas affected by the Tohoku earthquake.

While the outcomes of each of our collaborative research projects are published continuously in special issues of the Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History, this year saw the publication of six separate issues on various themes, including “Basic Study for a New Image of the Ancient State,” “General Study of Rakuchu-rakugai-zu byobu [Folding Screens of Scenes in and Around Kyoto], Rekihaku ‘A’ Version,” “Research and Description on Human Livelihoods and Utilization of Natural Resources,” “Resource Studies on Warriors and the Samurai Class in Medieval and Early Modern Times,” “Study on Methods for Functional Utilization of Museum Information Resources and Research on its Applications,” and “Formation and Development of Agrarian Society.” In addition, we also published two regular issues of the Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History focusing on the research findings of individual researchers (one of which served as a “Special Issue for the 30th Anniversary of National Museum of Japanese History II”).

Collaborative research with the National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU) continued through projects such as a comprehensive study on “human Cultural resources,” and other studies relating to catastrophic disasters such as the Great East Japan Earthquake. Moreover, a survey of the Siebold Collection of the Munich State Museum of Ethnology in Germany was conducted as a part of an NMJH-led collaborative research project entitled “Study of the Siebold Family Collection and Other Materials Collected in Japan and Taken Overseas in the Nineteenth Century” being conducted in association with a wider NIHU project on Japan-related materials located in other countries, resulting in an international symposium on “Siebold’s Vision of Japan: Towards the Advancement of Japanese Studies and Japanese Exhibitions Using Collections of Japanese Materials in the West” (held at Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany).

With regard to international relations and exchanges, we have entered into new agreements with the Taipei National University of the Arts in Taiwan, the Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum), and the Canadian Museum of History for academic purposes with a view to the exhibition and the promotion of collaborative research. In combination with these, we are now engaging in exchange programs with a total of thirteen institutions. We continued our relationship with the National Folk Museum of Korea with the hosting of an international symposium on “New Perspectives on Comparative Folklore Research in Japan and South Korea: The View from Museum-based Research Integration.” Moreover, as a record of last year’s international symposium, two volumes of proceedings were published, i.e., *Higashi ajia no shūkyō bunka: Ekkyō to hen’yō* (Religious Cultures of East Asia: Border Crossings and Transfigurations) and *kodai nihon to kodai Chōsen no moji bunka kōryū* (Exchanges of Written Culture in Ancient Japan and Korea).

Furthermore, we employed two foreign researchers. Other than allowing them to participate in survey and research activities including those related to our general exhibitions and collaborative research, we also extended our networks and planted the seeds of new collaborative research endeavors through other initiatives, including extending invitations to three foreign researchers for Short-Term Visiting Scholars Program and the implementation of a mutual exchange of researchers with the National Research Institute of Cultural Properties of Korea.

Director, Research Support Center  
SEKIZAWA Mayumi

#### I-1. Collaborative research

Collaborative research projects are undertaken by the NMJH by securing the involvement of researchers from subsequent parts of Japan and overseas in its capacity as an inter-university research institute. To date, the research agendas for such projects have been set on the basis of contemporary trends relative to Japanese history and culture. Since the NMJH commenced its operations in 1981, our collaborative research projects have characteristically been based on empirical and interdisciplinary studies facilitated by cooperation between the fields of history, archaeology, folkloristic, and a various other associated areas.

Collaborative research at the NMJH consists of four fundamental components: basic research, scientific research, development-based collaborative research, and NIHU-related collaborative research. Basic Research consists of interdisciplinary topics based on major research themes focusing on human agency and history, while scientific research establishes new methodological bases for historical studies and makes the museum collections available through advanced digitization systems. These two components form the core of collaborative research, whereas development-based collaborative research aims to nurture young researchers on the path to becoming fixed-term assistant professors, ensuring that their collaborative research projects produce results by investigating emerging topics with the potential for further exploration. Finally, NIHU-related collaborative research refers to research projects on topics determined by the NIHU in which the NMJH is the initiator.

Collaborative research undertaken over the past fiscal year progressed with six projects in basic research, thirteen in scientific research, and seven in NIHU-related collaborative research. The following discussion highlights the new research topics that were introduced during this fiscal year.

##### 1. Basic Research

Three research projects initiated during the previous fiscal year were further developed, including three branches under the umbrella topic of “The Reconstruction of the History of the Ancient Japanese Archipelago” and another three branches under the umbrella topic of “A General Study of Museum Activities and Historical Narratives of Disaster.” All of these projects involve collaborative research designed to enhance the academic foundation for special exhibits, the renewal of our general exhibits, as well as represent practical examples of museum-based research integration as envisioned by the NMJH.

## 2. Scientific Research

The past year saw the commencement of several research projects, consisting of a multi-dimensional analytical field study on the “Effects of Protected Area Systems on Resource Leverage and Changing Livelihoods in the Surrounding Area: Possibilities for Regulation in Sustainable Regional Development;” five historical material development studies on “Rapid Economic growth and Changes in Local Communities,” “Interdisciplinary Research Perspectives on the Reconstruction of the Cultural History of Lacquer,” “Exercises towards Exhibiting the History of Foreign Relations and Exchanges: An Attempt to Exhibit Relations and Exchanges with Germany and America in the 19th Century,” “A Cross-Sectional Study of the Uses and Application of Wood Based on Age Information,” “A Study on the Use and Production of Visual Folkloristics as a Research Resource;” and an open-application collaborative research project on “Studies on the Creation of Intellectual Structures Using Historical Materials Digital Archive Data: Focusing on kosode byōbu [Folding Screens Decorated with Short-sleeved Kimono].” In addition, research continues on six ongoing collaborative research projects.

## 3. NIHU-related Collaborative Research

The past year observed the commencement of a project on “Urban Customs and the Artisan: Evidence from Early Modern Japanese Paintings” that involves several of the NMJH staff researchers, though not as principal investigators.

The main purpose of this study is to assemble a corpus of images on the theme of “artisans;” especially from among historical materials in the collections of the NMJH and the National Institute of Japanese Literature, and to identify and classify continuities and changes in the depictions of artisans and occupational transformations over a span of nearly four centuries of artistic representations of individual occupations and artisans.

Furthermore, from the perspective of selection and concentration in the use of expenditures, the portion of Kakenhi grants to be utilized were effectively employed with collaborative research, and efforts were made to prioritize new basic research and open-application collaborative research by efficiently using allocated funds.

Staff Members in Charge of Collaborative research

HIGUCHI Takehiko

MURAKI Jiro

## 1-2. Externally Funded Research

One of the responsibilities of the NMJH is to procure external funding to stimulate research activities, a challenge that is becoming increasingly necessary with each passing year to counterbalance the reduction in operating grants. This fiscal year, we invited a speaker from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (FURUKAWA Tomokazu, Deputy Manager of the Second Division for Research Grants) to lead a briefing session for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, a type of competitive research funding. In addition to making efforts to increase the number of applications for such grants, we also

conducted awareness activities to educate researchers on how to use research funds economically and an information session on how to prevent their improper use.

A total of eight applications for Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research were approved in fiscal 2013, which, including ongoing projects, brings our total number of funded research projects to twenty-seven, with an overall budget of JPY 88,070,000 (refer to the List of adopted projects).

Staff Members in Charge of Collaborative research

HIGUCHI Takehiko

MURAKI Jiro

### I-3. Research Implementation System

The Research Support Center establishes a recruitment policy for collaborative research projects at the NMJH in each fiscal year and undertakes deliberation and accommodation proposals and plans for collaborative research submitted by the NMJH research staff and external researchers. After deliberations at meetings of the Executive Council of the Collaborative research Committee (which includes external committee members), efforts are made to develop research in a systematic manner that is reflective of the views of the wider academic community.

Futhermore, along with our own collaborative research staff, research at the NMJH involves the hiring of visiting instructors and (long-term) foreign researchers to be attached to projects, which includes the public recruitment of collaborative researchers with the aim of fulfilling and enhancing the museum's function as an inter-university research institute. In addition, adjunct researchers and research assistants, including researchers from other institutions, were employed to facilitate research efforts.

Director, Research Support Center

SEKIZAWA Mayumi

### I-4. International Exchanges

The NMJH hosts international research meetings, invites foreign researchers, and dispatches researchers overseas to enhance the international caliber and status of its research activities. In fiscal 2013, the following initiatives were undertaken to strengthen our ties with our partner research institutions overseas.

#### 1. Conclusion of Agreements

We entered into new agreements with the Taipei National University of the Arts (Taiwan), the Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum, Federal Republic of Germany), and Daehan Cultural Property Research Center (Korea), and entered into second-phase agreements with the Kyungpook National University Museum (Korea), and the Canadian Museum of History with the aim of realizing new developments based on past achievements and working to promote further academic exchanges.

#### 2. Enhancement of International Exchanges Based on Exchange Agreements

We made progress on ten separate international exchange projects, including “Exchanges and Regional Activities of East Asian Religions” with the University of Illinois (United States), and our “Mutual Exchange Project with the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences” with the Institute of Archaeology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (China).

We disseminated the results of some of our recent research exchange projects in the countries of partner institutions and in presentations by the NMJH teaching staff who attended a “Colloquium on Korea–Japan Academic Exchanges,” organized by the National Folk Museum of Korea to share the results of our mutual international exchange program on “Regional Comparisons in Japan and South Korea in Museum-based Research Integration.”

An international symposium and ceremony held to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Foundation of East Asia Cultural Properties Institute (Korea) was attended by several museum staff, including Deputy Director FUJIO Shin'ichiro, who presented and disseminated the results of our research projects overseas.

Our research exchanges with other research institutes such as the Pusan National University Museum, the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage, and the Yeongnam Institute of Cultural Properties are evolving, with expectations of future results from our research collaboration.

### 3. Institutional Hosting of Foreign Researchers and Inviting Short-term Foreign Researchers

The NMJH hosted two foreign researchers and invited three short-term foreign researchers from various European and Asian countries.

### 4. Sponsoring International Symposia and Other Meetings

We invited several researchers from our partner institution, the National Folk Museum of Korea, including the museum's director, to attend our international symposium on “New Perspectives on Comparative Folklore Research in Japan and South Korea: The View from Museum-based Research Integration,” where the results of previous international exchanges were presented.

A significant number of foreign researchers also visited the museum for reasons other than the aforementioned international symposia, collaborative research projects, or exchanges with our partner institutions overseas. During this fiscal year, the NMJH was visited by researchers from overseas institutions, such as the Chinese Ministry of Culture Nationality, Folk Literature, and Art Development Center (China) and the Hong Kong Heritage Museum (China), who came to explore the facilities and interact with the NMJH researchers.

Staff Member in Charge of International Exchanges

TAKATA Kanta

## II Collection of Materials and Publicizing of Research–Museum Resource Center

The Museum Resource Center has jurisdiction over museum activities, focusing on the accumulation and management of materials and exhibits for publicizing research results. To perform these duties effectively, the NMJH held monthly meetings at the Museum Resource Center based on regular

discussions among the staff responsible for materials and conservation, information and intellectual property, and exhibitions, as well as the Executive Council of the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life.

### 1. Collection, Production, and Preservation of Materials

The collection and conservation of materials are crucial for both the research that is conducted at the museum and the exhibitions that publicize the results. The NMJH has collected materials under basic policies that promote collaborative use, continuity, and flexibility. This fiscal year, we acquired a variety of materials to supplement generic collections in fields relating to our research projects, including the souka-mon kawatake, a lacquered shield painted with a plant-and-flower motif, whose decoration shows the influence of Japanese lacquer techniques; the soten senjimon, a calligraphic primer on seal script and cursive characters published in the Korean peninsula; and the Hanashin butai haikai maku, a stage backdrop curtain with thematic motifs illustrated with traditional designs. In terms of donations as well, we were fortunate to acquire the “HAYASHI Aya Textile Collection,” an extensive collection of superior quality items consisting principally of short-sleeved kimono (kosode), kimono, obi belts, and wrapping material (fukusa). Finally, energetic efforts were undertaken to produce materials relating to our archeological specimens toward the renewal of our permanent exhibition in Gallery 1.

To preserve materials, insects, room temperature, humidity, and the overall environmental condition were investigated on the advice of the Study Committee on Resource Preservation Environment. Appropriate means of environmental improvement and countermeasures were then evaluated.

### 2. Exhibitions

As an inter-university research institute, our museum possesses an array of functions for the collection, organization, conservation, and the study of historical and folkloric materials and information, as well as their availability. In particular, we seek to disseminate information and the results of research through what we call “Museum-based Research Integration,” a method that organically links the collection, study, and exhibition of research materials. While our primary focus remains on our permanent exhibitions, we may also note specific illustrations of our activities in terms of our special exhibitions, feature exhibitions, and special exhibitions at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life, as well as in joint exhibitions, such as those planned and staged in association with the research institutes of the National Institutes for the Humanities.

We organized three Special Exhibitions during the past year:

- “Technology that Made the Era: Production Revolution of the Middle Ages” (July 2 to September 1, 2013)
- “Documents from Medieval Japan: Functions and Styles” (October 8 to December 1, 2013)
- “Earthquakes in Japanese History” (from March 11, 2014)

In “Technology that Made the Era,” we exhibited the comprehensive results of our study of the history of a broad range of technologies such as lacquerware, wood products, ceramic ware, iron manufacture, smith forging, casting, horn implement, and stone ware, focusing on the medieval period, when technological advances caused major changes in social life. The exhibition featured the history of

medieval technologies that have endured into the contemporary era, organized around the two principal themes of “Technologies that changed life” and “Cutting-edge technologies.”

In “Documents from Medieval Japan,” we collected historical documents (komonjo) pertaining to each of the various social classes of warrior families (buke), the court nobility (kuge), religious establishments (jike), and commoner households (shomin) focusing on the medieval period and the eras that came immediately before and after to exhibit a comprehensive picture of medieval textuality and illuminate its diversity. By highlighting the elements of form, such as medium, size, and style, rather than content, the exhibition considered the function of these documents and their historical context. The exhibition also provided an opportunity to present historical documents that have been the object of continuous and long-term collection and research efforts in a more systematic manner.

In “Earthquakes in Japanese History,” we organized a three-dimensional exhibit of earthquakes that examined how people and societies experience earthquakes, considering what is learned and what is forgotten. The exhibit opened up contemporary and social historical perspectives, uniting insights from the humanities and natural sciences to illuminate past research findings of the history of natural disasters. Considering our recent experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the display was organized with the dual perspective of historical earthquakes in the Tohoku region and earthquakes in the early modern and modern periods.

We organized Feature Exhibitions in the auxiliary rooms of Galleries 3 and 4.

As part of the feature exhibition “Early Modern Period in Artifacts” held in Gallery 3, the following four exhibitions were held, allowing an opportunity for the social dissemination of our research achievements through the exhibition of the NMJH’s abundant collections and related research developments.

“Insects in the Edo Culture” (July 23 to September 1, 2013)

“Japanese lacquerware Overseas II -Export lacquer in the Edo period” (October 29 to December 1, 2013)

“Celebration of the Year of the Horse” (December 17, 2013 to January 19, 2014)

“Hina Doll and Ornaments Associated with Princess Kazunomiya” (February 18 to March 30, 2014)

Furthermore, “The Great East Japan Earthquake and ordinary lives and folk culture in Kesenuma” (March 19 to September 23, 2013) was displayed in Gallery 4 as a Feature Exhibition in association with the NIHU, and we also organized an exhibition on “Various Seasonal Festivals” (ongoing from November 26, 2013), which reflects the research activities conducted by the NMJH.

Special Exhibitions at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life included “Traditional *Primula Sieboldii*” (April 16 to May 6, 2013), “Traditional Japanese Morning Glories” (July 30 to September 1, 2013), “Traditional Antique Chrysanthemums” (November 6 to December 1, 2013), and “Winter Flowers ;*Camellia Sasanqua*” (December 3, 2013 to January 26, 2014).

In addition, it may be noted that preparation renovation plans for the Permanent Exhibition in Gallery 1 began in earnest during this fiscal year.

#### 1. Information Delivery

Materials acquired by the NMJH in accordance with its collection policies are archived with the necessary information to be effectively used as resources for research (e.g., materials survey projects) and made available to the public through its museum collections databases. Furthermore, they are also disseminated to the public in other formats, such as document catalogs and illustrations with more comprehensive and advanced research information or as special collection databases.

This year, we published two catalogs: *Nomura Collection: Dress Furnishings II* (Illustrated Catalogs of the National Museum of Japanese History, volume 10) and the *Inou Mozaemon Family Collection* (Document Inventories of the National Museum of Japanese History, volume 11).

A major challenge has been converting the vast quantities of film images of materials into digital format, and trials still continue. Since the museum's overall information dissemination activities are subject to external evaluation, guidelines have been formulated based on internal evaluations. Several improvements are also expected in terms of information dissemination utilizing digital data related to our collections and exhibitions.

Director, Museum Resource Center  
NISHITANI Masaru

## II-1. Materials

At the NMJH, the Museum Resource Center is responsible for the collection, management, and the conservation of materials. In accordance with a basic policy for materials collection that was approved by the Executive Council Materials Collection Committee in 2012, we have accumulated various materials as well as undertaken investigations and support measures for their management and utilization.

With the opening of exhibitions in Gallery 6 (The Contemporary Era) and Gallery 4 (Folklore), the acquisition of various folkloric materials and historical materials relating to the modern and contemporary era has been envisioned, and we are accumulating a signature collection for our museum, greatly facilitated by a gradual increase in donations.

Noteworthy materials among those acquired during the past fiscal year include the *Hanashin Butai haikei maku* [stage backdrop curtain] and the *Miyamoto Okazu juyo kiroku* [Important Records of Mr. Okazu Miyamoto]. *Butai haikei maku* are large stage backdrop curtain used during performances of kabuki and Japanese dance that, together with their associated materials, illuminate the evolution of the performing arts in the context of contemporary history. The *Important Records of Mr. Okazu Miyamoto* are a collection of materials that document the history of a man who served the shogun and the Meiji Government as a diplomat and became a member of the former House of Lords. In terms of our existing collections, we also managed to complement our collections of Japanese yokai monsters and ghost tales, fashion magazines, and materials on rites of passage. For further details on these acquisitions, refer to the section on "Collected Materials." With regard to our own productions, similar to previous years, in addition to our creation of reproductions of *Shosoin* documents, we have continued restoration work on court costumes (*noshi*) from the late Heian Period, which are displayed in the Permanent Exhibition in

Gallery 2. Please see the relevant sections for more details.

With regard to the management and conservation of materials, a survey of biological fauna present in the museum (such as insects that might damage cultural properties) was conducted, as was an investigation into possible methods and timing of insecticide spraying as a means of pest control for the cultural properties held by the museum. The investigation identified possibilities for more effective implementations. Moreover, discussions began on the fumigation of materials from the perspective of improving the effectiveness of our projects and conservation. In addition to discussions inside the Museum Resource Center, this problem is being considered by the Resource Preservation Environment Study Committee (whose members include external experts), and improvements are being promoted.

Moreover, with regard to the utilization of materials, we have signed a memorandum of understanding with the Imperial Household Agency Shosoin Office on the digitization and replication of the Shosoin documents with the intention of improving project oversight and research utilization. In addition, we have commenced the construction of a distribution system to simplify the current system for the external delivery of images. Furthermore, we also investigated ways to improve the utilization of the same day viewing of materials in the NMJH's collection.

An additional issue over the past fiscal year has been the need to investigate the construction of a system for surveying the condition of materials in the museum's collection; this is an important task for the museum. Together with promoting the joint use of items held in the museum's collection, confirming their storage conditions, and identifying materials in need of repair, this project will also entail the provision of data on storage conditions to encourage the formulation of storage plans. Various substances are used especially in the composition of materials from the contemporary and modern periods, and it is not yet possible to say that we have an adequate understanding of how they have been affected by subsequent circumstantial changes. It will be necessary to build a system that will facilitate comprehensible data related to the condition of material, while allowing the regular management and maintenance of materials, and it will be necessary to consider specific mechanisms for this purpose.

Staff Member in Charge of Materials

YAMADA Shinya

## II-2. Exhibitions

As an inter-university research institute, our museum possesses an array of functions for the collection, organization, conservation, and the study of historical and folkloric materials and information, as well as making these available. In particular, we seek to disseminate information and the results of research through what we call "Museum-based Research Integration," a methodological style that organically links the collection, study, and exhibition of research materials. While our primary focus remains on our Permanent Exhibitions, we may also note specific illustrations of our activities in terms of our Special Exhibitions, Feature Exhibitions, and Special Exhibitions at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life, as well as in joint exhibitions such as those planned and staged in association with the research institutes of

the National Institutes for the Humanities.

We organized three separate Special Exhibitions. In “Techniques that Mode the Age: A Manufacturing Revolution in the Middle Ages” (July 2 to September 1, 2013), we exhibited the comprehensive results of our study of the history of a broad range of technologies such as lacquerware, wood products, ceramic ware, iron manufacture, smith forging, casting, horn implement, and stone ware, focusing on the medieval period, when technological advances caused major changes in social life. The exhibition featured the history of medieval technologies that have endured into the contemporary era, organized around the two principal themes of “Technologies that changed life” and “Cutting-edge technologies.”

In “Documents from the Middle Ages-Functions and styles-” (October 8 to December 1, 2013), we collected historical documents (komonjo) pertaining to each of the various social classes of warrior families (buke), the court nobility (kuge), religious establishments (jike), and commoner households (shomin) focusing on the medieval period and the eras that came immediately before and after to exhibit a comprehensive picture of medieval textuality and illuminate its diversity. By highlighting elements of form, such as medium, size, and style, rather than content, the exhibition considered the function of these documents and their historical context. The exhibition also provided an opportunity to present historical documents that have been the object of continuous and long-term collection and research efforts in a more systematic manner.

In “Earthquakes in Japanese History”(ongoing from March 11, 2014), we organized a multi-faceted exhibition of earthquakes that examined how people and societies experience earthquakes, what they learn and what they forget, from the historical context and the viewpoint of social history. This exhibition united insights from the humanities and natural sciences to illuminate the research findings on the history of natural disasters. Considering our recent experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake, the exhibition consisted of the dual perspectives of historical earthquakes in the Tohoku region and earthquakes in the modern and contemporary periods.

As part of the feature exhibition “Early Modern Japan in the Rekihaku Collections” held in Gallery 3, “Insects in the Edo Culture” (July 23 to September 1, 2013), “Japanese lacquerware Overseas II -Export lacquer in the Edo Period-” (October 29 to December 1, 2013), “Celebration of the Year of the Horse” (December 17, 2013 to January 19, 2014), and “Hina Doll and Ornaments Associated with Princess Kazunomiya” (February 18 to March 30, 2014) were organized, providing an opportunity for the social dissemination of our research achievements through the exhibition of the NMJH’s abundant collections and related research developments.

Furthermore, “The Great East Japan Earthquake and ordinary lives and folk culture in Kesenuma” (March 19 to September 23, 2013) was displayed in Gallery 4 as a Feature Exhibition in association with the NIHU, and we also organized an exhibition on “Various Seasonal Festivals” (ongoing from November 26, 2013).

Special Exhibitions at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life included “Traditional *Primula Sieboldii*” (April 16 to May 6, 2013), “Traditional Japanese Morning Glories” (July 30 to September 1, 2013),

“Traditional Antique Chrysanthemums” (November 6 to December 1, 2013), and “Winter Flowers ;Camellia Sasanqua” (December 3, 2013 to January 26, 2014).

In addition, it may be noted that preparation of renovation plans for the Permanent Exhibition in Gallery 1 began in earnest during this fiscal year.

Staff Member in Charge of Exhibitions  
UENO Yoshifumi

### II-3. Material Surveys Project

The NMJH undertakes systematic surveys to ensure that the materials held in its collections are widely available for research use. These systematic projects survey and classify basic data on objects, such as cataloging information and images and making such data publicly accessible in various formats, which include catalogs of documents and illustrations. In the past fiscal year, the NMJH conducted projects on materials related to the Suzuki school of carpenters, materials relative to maternity clinics, archaeological materials relative to prehistoric relics, the Ikuta Collection (hand drums), the Nomura Collection (dress furnishings), and the Ino Family (early modern and modern documents). We also published Nomura Collection: Dress Furnishings II in our illustrated catalog series and the Inou Mozaemon Family Collection in our document inventory series.

Staff Member in Charge of Information and Intellectual Property  
SAKAMOTO Minoru

### II-4. Databases

The NMJH makes three types of databases available to the public: databases of museum collections for making information on its collections publicly accessible and contributing to their use for research purposes; databases collating the findings of collaborative research and bibliographies in various fields of research; and full-text databases composed mainly of historical records. In the past fiscal year, we updated the existing databases on General Catalogue, REKIHAKU Library Catalogue, Bibliography of Folklore Study in Japan Popular Superstition, and Japanese Folk Songs.

These databases are available at <http://www.rekihaku.ac.jp/database/>

Staff Member in Charge of Information and Intellectual Property  
SAKAMOTO Minoru

### III Publicizing Research Activities and Social Cooperation—Museum Outreach Center

In its role as a museum-format inter-university research institute, the NMJH promotes collaborative research with universities and other institutions. Together with the dissemination of the resulting achievements to a wider audience, from domestic and overseas researchers to the general public, our Museum Outreach activities promote the use of the museum in cooperation with schools and the wider public. On the basis of the public relations policy formulated to broaden the understanding of the

museum's research activities and to publicize their achievements, the Museum Outreach Center has developed the following public relations, publication, and museum activities at the suggestion of an external advisory panel.

## 1. Publicizing Research, Exhibitions, and Resources

### (1) Public Relations Activities

As a new trial, the Museum Outreach Center employed an advertising agency to publicize our Special Exhibitions and the research activities of the teaching staff, and also hosted events in connection with Special Exhibitions.

During Special Exhibitions, Feature Exhibitions, and events such as Rekihaku Forums, the Center produced materials such as flyers and posters and worked to ensure effective distribution and to publicize events using the mass media. Particularly effective PR measures included hosting sneak previews of Special Exhibitions for journalists and bloggers on the day before they were opened to the public as well as arranging for buses from Tokyo. Leading up to these events, we created and distributed press releases featuring innovative designs that easily comprehensible, and worked to increase the media presence of articles about activities at the museum.

Among our Permanent Exhibitions, we concentrated our efforts on the exhibition in Gallery 4, which was recently reopened last March following its renovation, organizing a musical performance by Marewrew, a troupe of Ainu singers. The performance was attended by 324 visitors and was very well received. In addition, we selected four particularly popular supernatural creatures (yokai) from the museum's collection of ghost stories and Japanese yōkai monsters to produce strap accessories for sale in the Museum Shop.

We completely revamped the Museum website, eliminating all the broken links. In addition, instead of posting weekly updates two times, we published a monthly e-mail newsletter to avoid any delay in communicating information about the museum's Special Exhibitions and forums. As a part of our efforts to disseminate information relating to our research activities, we also posted the abstracts of research papers written by the museum's research staff. To provide a straightforward introduction to events at the museum, including research and exhibitions, we introduced a Twitter feed and started a newsletter "Rekihaku dayori" featuring interviews with staff in charge of the various Special Exhibitions.

### (2) Publicizing Research Achievements through Lectures and Forums

In addition to the Rekihaku Lecture and programs at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life which are held monthly, the NMJH also hosted eight Rekihaku Forums (including one on visual materials and one film festival) as a means of raising public awareness of the museum's cutting-edge research achievements in Japanese history and culture. The Rekihaku Forums focused on our Special Exhibitions and themed forums primarily in connection with the new Permanent Exhibition in Gallery 4 (Folklore). We tried to be proactive by organizing Rekihaku Forum events not only in the NMJH but also in Tokyo, which has been an effective strategy for introducing our activities to people who had not yet visited the museum.

On three occasions, we held public screenings in the NMJH Auditorium as part of our "Rekihaku Film

Series,” showing films including “Visual Materials for Folk Cultural Assets” produced in association with the Agency for Cultural Affairs and “Visual Materials for Folklore Studies” created by the staff of Folklore Studies.

## 2. Publications

In addition to publishing illustrated catalogs of our exhibitions and the Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History, which brings together the results of research conducted by the NMJH staff, we also publish the bimonthly general history journal REKIHAKU, which introduces research activities at the NMJH from multiple angles, as well as the Meeting Abstracts that are collated and published for participants attending the meetings of the Rekihaku Forum; we also publish the Transactions of the Rekihaku Forum following these events. Furthermore, our Center publishes the NMJH Annual Report, containing information about the museum's research and other activities.

## 3. Museum Activities

As a Special Exhibit-related event, we organized the “Experience Artisan's craft” in conjunction with one of our Special Exhibit on “Techniques that Made the Age: A Manufacturing Revolution in the Middle Ages,” and also hosted two “Rekihaku Tanken” (“Explore Rekihaku!”) events.

With the reopening of our Permanent Exhibition in Gallery 4, we revised the Gallery 4 chapter of our Guidance Video and produced a new DVD capable of playback with foreignlanguage subtitles.

As reference for conducting improvements related to the use of the museum, including volunteer activities and the Museum Shop, we collaborated with the Museum Resource Center to administer a survey of other museums. Research and administrative staff formed groups and toured eleven regional museums, conducting interviews with officials at each institution, and subsequently sharing our findings at briefing meetings.

We have also purchased several audio headset units, enabling the museum, for example, to provide explanations of the exhibitions while not inconveniencing other patrons.

## 4. Cooperation with Schools and the Public

Taiken Rekihaku (“The Rekihaku Experience”), which was initiated at the end of fiscal 2012, introduces programs aimed mainly at children of elementary school age or younger. Museum staff produces and expands learning kits for use in these programs.

To support the NMJH's role as an inter-university research institute, the center has been actively working to incorporate lectures and orientations to encourage the use of our museum facilities. As a part of our program, the creation of worksheets by short-stay international students, which we have been running since 2009 in cooperation with the Chiba University Center for International Research and Education, we organized a presentation session during the summer term, where students were awarded a diploma by the NMJH to acknowledge their completion of the program.

Co-sponsored by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, we organized a five-day professional training seminar for staff members at history and folklore museums from subsequent parts in Japan, designed to improve the skills and expertise of participants. Through this seminar, which is held annually and trains

approximately forty trainees each year, close links have been established among history museums nationwide.

Since fiscal 2008, our Center has convened the museum school liaison Study Group as a biennial meeting with teachers from elementary, junior high, and high schools as a practical forum for discussing the use of the NMJH (and of museum facilities and materials more widely) as a site for curricular education. As fiscal 2013 constitutes the second year in the third two-year term, a meeting of the Museum School Liaison Forum was held at the end of the year with the intention of presenting and sharing research findings.

The center also held the “NMJH Seminar for Teachers,” a two-day training program to encourage the inclusion of the museum's exhibitions in school and community educational activities.

The “Sakura City NMJH Seminar” was held as a teacher training seminar for elementary and junior high school teachers from Sakura City, organized by the Sakura City Board of Education.

The Center also held several events for elementary and junior high school students during the summer vacation and other school holidays, thereby fulfilling its role in cultivating citizens who would retain a lifelong interest in Japanese history and culture.

Director, Museum Outreach Center  
SAITO Tsutomu

### III-1. Publicizing Research Achievements through Lectures and Forums

The NMJH hosts various events to raise awareness of the status of its day-to-day research activities to the wider public. These events consist mainly of the Rekihaku Lecture Series, programs at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life, the Rekihaku Forums, the Rekihaku Forums on Visual Materials, the Rekihaku Film Series, and other explanations of exhibits and various family-oriented hands-on programs. For years, the NMJH has also edited and published the bimonthly journal REKIHAKU. In accordance with its mission of museum-based research integration, and to encourage public interest in the museum's activities, the NMJH continues to make information about its research activities and their findings available through such publications.

This fiscal year, the NMJH hosted twelve Rekihaku Lectures, eleven programs at the Botanical Garden of Everyday Life, six Rekihaku Forums, one Rekihaku Forum on Visual Materials, the Rekihaku Film Festival, three screenings in the Rekihaku Film Series, numerous exhibition explanations, and various other family-oriented programs. Through the debates and responses generated by the publication of these research findings, the NMJH identifies challenges for further research.

Staff Member in Charge of Museum Activities  
SAWADA Kazuto

### III-2. Cooperation with Schools and the Public

The public relations and outreach activities conducted by the NMJH are designed to introduce the

research activities conducted at the NMJH and the museum activities based on that research to the wider public, as well as to expand visitors' understanding of Japanese culture and history.

Since its inception, the NMJH has accomplished these goals in various ways. In recent years, we have particularly strived to work in cooperation with schools to enable teachers to use the museum more frequently, and thereby enhance the educational support system. The NMJH has become more involved in educational programs for foreign students at universities through its involvement in educational activities for international university students.

Our "NMJH Seminar for Teachers" and the "Museum School Liaison Study Group," both of which target teachers at elementary, junior high, and high schools, represent the core of our projects oriented to collaboration with schools, and this year marked the end of the third term of our "Museum School Liaison Study Group" sessions. We are on track with the operation of our "Terakoya Rekihaku" experience corner, which is operated by volunteers and open on a permanent basis. This year, we also held off-site training in the form of fact-finding visits to learn about the state of volunteer programs at other museums. Our updating of worksheets has continued to match with the usage requirements of schools when visiting the museum. The Permanent Exhibition in Gallery 4 (Folklore) was reopened at the end of fiscal 2012, and we have also created a new hands-on space with "Taiken Rekihaku," which accordingly brings us in the position to steadily expand our new experiential learning programs. We are planning to continue researching the existing usage statistics while exploring directions for better cooperation between the NMJH, society, and schools.

Staff Member in Charge of Museum Activities

KUDO Yuichiro

### III-3. Publications

The NMJH produces several publications as a means of publicizing its research activities to a wide audience. These communicate the outcomes of various activities, not only to the research community but also to the general public. These activities include surveys and research conducted jointly with Japanese and foreign researchers in the museum's capacity as an inter-university research institute as well as community programs conducted at the NMJH.

In the 2013 fiscal year, we published eight research reports, three exhibition catalogs, one catalog of resource materials, one document inventory, and six issues of our general history journal REKIHAKU. Moreover, as the outcome of international exchanges and collaborative research projects with the NIHU, we respectively created proceedings that compiled the content of various symposia and research meetings. Furthermore, to publicize the achievements of past Rekihaku Forums, researchers from within and outside the NMJH compiled some of the forums in an anthology and published them through a publishing house (four volumes in fiscal 2013).

The museum also publishes the series "Front Line of Historical Research," which is mainly a compilation of the contents of lectures held annually by the graduate school (The Department of

Japanese History in the School of Cultural and Social Studies in the Graduate University for Advanced Studies) (two publications in fiscal 2013).

Staff Members in Charge of Publications  
YAMADA Yasuhiro and KAWAMURA Kiyoshi

#### IV Graduate Education

The Department of Japanese History in the School of Cultural and Social Studies in the Graduate University for Advanced Studies, a university graduate school curriculum spread across different inter-university research institutes nationwide, is based at the NMJH. The Department of Japanese History specializes exclusively in three-year doctoral programs (second stage), and the enrollment is limited to three students.

The department offers a research environment that is home to various leading-edge collaborative research projects, providing an education that capitalizes on the museum's abundant resources and excellent facilities, which are both an advantage and a characteristic in its role as a home institution.

The department's educational policy aims to train researchers in the field of Japanese history with a broad perspective, an international outlook, and the ability to engage in advanced research in specialized fields utilizing available resources. Therefore, the department desires students who have a keen interest in Japanese historical research topics and adjacent fields in a broad sense, and who are also willing to become self-disciplined researchers through continuous and self-motivated research. Enrollment by mature students is also welcomed as a recognition that their research achievements are probable to contribute to specific societal needs.

On the basic principle of deriving an image of history from historical materials, classes are divided into "Research on Materials" and "Research on Social History," with one professor, in principle, assigned to each class.

In addition, an intensive curriculum, "Methodology of Research on Japanese History," consisting of three courses, is offered in the summer: Research on Materials (A), Field Research (B), and Museum Research (C). These courses are open to all students in the university and also to students outside the university as the "Sokendai Lecture Series."

In the academic year of 2013, five students (including two from other departments) were enrolled in course (B) and three students were in course (A). In addition, continuing our last year's Nagasaki initiative, we held a public seminar for university graduate and undergraduate students and a public lecture for general public in Kochi, both of which were held under the title "Methods of Researching Japanese History B—Methods for Local Research". This effort to raise awareness about the department outside the metropolitan area was wellreceived, with favorable reviews in local newspapers and elsewhere.

Doctoral theses are prepared under the guidance of a principal supervisor and a co-supervisor. Moreover, all professors are responsible for conducting sessions on "Basic Practices" three times a year, at which students submit papers as a means of improving their presentation skills. Academic guidance is

also provided at the museum as a venue for research studies on a day-to-day basis.

Additional PR activities included a summer graduate school orientation held in Tokyo in July, led by five professors and one alumnus, as well as an autumn orientation led by eight professors, one current student and an alumnus, held at the NMJH in October. The contents of the summer orientation session were published in a graduate school booklet as Volume 16 of the Front Line of Historical Research Series, *History through the Lens of Material Culture: Paintings and Apparel* (edited by OKUBO Jun'ichi, SAWADA Kazuto, and HAYAMA Shigeru), a summary of which is posted on the NMJH website.

As of April 2013, there were nine students registered with the department, including five adult students. In the 2013 academic year, one student earned a degree by completing a doctoral course of study, receiving a PhD in Literature.

Chair, Department of Japanese History  
NITO Atsushi

#### V Salvage Operations for Materials Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

The NMJH has been conducting salvage operations for historical and cultural materials affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami.

Salvage and conservation activities for old houses and everyday items with folkloristic value that were washed away by the tsunami were conducted in the Kesennuma city district of Kogoshio. This region had been subject to a survey before the disaster as part of the renovation of a Permanent Exhibition in Gallery 4 under the theme "Folk Cultures of the Japanese Archipelago," along with the Motoyoshi area of Kesennuma, which filed a request for support in conducting salvage work.

The NMJH also became an affiliated member of the Committee for Salvaging Cultural Properties Affected by the 2011 Earthquake off the Pacific Coast of Tohoku and Related Disasters (Salvage Committee) founded by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and has participated in the committee's salvage operations.

Participation by the NMJH in numerous salvage operations for historical and cultural materials affected by the disaster necessitated the establishment of the Office for Salvage Operations for Materials Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami, with members including the museum's deputy director (in charge of external affairs), the director of the Museum Resource Center, and the administration manager. In addition, instructors and facility researchers were dispatched to disaster-stricken areas, and research support staff for salvage operations was hired to help with the efforts on the field.

While the focus of operations in fiscal 2011 was on salvaging materials affected by the disaster, operations continued in the fiscal 2012 with a stronger emphasis on research and exhibitions based on these items.

Meanwhile, it became apparent from this disaster just how much of a role museum networks between institutions concerned with nature, art, and wildlife played in rescue operations of museum materials.

Considering that history museums had no national network in place, despite the obvious need to construct such an organization, the National Committee for History and Folklore Museums was established as a response to the NMJH's call for more interconnectivity between the nation's history museums and the NMJH had a management role.

Director of the Office for Salvage Operations for Materials Affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

OKUBO Jun'ichi