

Historical Background



George Ernest Morrison



Emblem of Morrison's Collection



IWASAKI Hisaya

The origin of The Toyo Bunko, a library and research institute specializing in Asian studies, dates back to 1917 when IWASAKI Hisaya (1865-1955), former third president of the Mitsubishi, purchased the private library of George Ernest Morrison (1862-1920).

Morrison, an Australian by birth, went to China as the special correspondent for *The London Times*, and later served as political advisor to the Office of the President of the Republic of China. During this time he amassed a vast collection of books in European languages on China and its neighbors.

After the purchase, IWASAKI improved on this collection of western language materials by increasing number of classical Chinese, Japanese and western language books. This marked the beginning of the first library and research institution in Japan devoted exclusively to Asian Studies.

Since its inception in 1924, The Toyo Bunko has greatly contributed to the development of Asian Studies both at home and abroad through the acquisition of books and other source materials, the publication of research by Japanese scholars, the dissemination of knowledge about Asian Studies and international exchange.

To overcome the financial difficulties in the aftermath of World War II, in 1948 a branch of the National Diet Library was established to take over some of the services previously conducted by The Toyo Bunko Library, and from 1947 The Toyo Bunko began to receive financial assistance from the Ministry of Education, as well as private and foreign sources.

With the setting up of the Centre for East Asian Cultural Studies for Unesco as an affiliated organization in 1961, at the request of UNESCO, The Toyo Bunko, in co-operation with other Asian countries, was able to

participate more and more in the task of introducing Asian cultures to the world.

Also, in 1994 The Tokyo Centre of the Ecole française d'Extreme-Orient was set up within The Toyo Bunko to provide a research facility for scholars dispatched from France and promote academic exchange between the two countries.

As the largest library and research institute dealing with Asian studies in Japan and one of the five largest in the world, The Toyo Bunko continues to build on its tradition of academic excellence in the pursuit of a better understanding of Asian culture and society.

Director General

INOUE, Junnosuke	1924.11.19 - 1932. 2. 9
KIRISHIMA, Shoichi	1932. 2.18 - 1932. 5. 28
HAYASHI, Gonsuke	1932. 6. 3 - 1939. 6.27
SHIRATORI, Kurakichi	1939. 7.10 - 1939.11.25
SHIMIZU, Akira	1939.11.25 - 1947. 9.25
SHIDEHARA, Kijuro	1947.10. 9 - 1951. 3.10
HOSOKAWA, Moritatsu	1951. 3.23 - 1970.11.18
TUJI, Naoshiro	1974. 4. 1 - 1979. 9.24
ENOKI, Kazuo	1985. 6. 4 - 1989.11. 5
KITAMURA, Hajime	1990. 4. 1 - 2001. 6. 5
SHIBA, Yoshinobu	2001. 6. 5 - 2007. 6. 5
MAKIHARA, Minoru	2007. 6. 5 -

Chronology

1917 Aug	Purchase of Morrison Library by IWASAKI Hisaya.	1967 Oct	Exhibit held commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the acquisition of the Morrison Collection.
1924 Nov	1st Exhibition of the Morrison Collection held. Establishment and inauguration of The Toyo Bunko Foundation. Publication of <i>The Toyo Bunko Ronso Series</i> commences.	1969 Aug	New Building (present Annex) completed.
1924 Dec	Reading Room opened to readers.	1976 Oct	Awarded Japan Foundation Prize for its long term contributions to international exchange.
1926 May	Inauguration of the Oriental Studies Lecture Series was held.	1983 Apr	New stack wing No.1 and main office building completed.
-June		1994 Apr	Tokyo Centre of the Ecole francaise d'Extreme-Orient set up in The Toyo Bunko.
1932	IWASAKI Hisaya donates his personal collection to The Toyo Bunko.	Oct	Exhibition held at the Metropolitan Edo Tokyo Museum to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of The Toyo Bunko Foundation.
(1936,43)			
1939 Nov	Publication of <i>Toyo Bunko JugonenShi</i> (A Fifteen Year History of The Toyo Bunko).	1999 Sep	Scholarly exchange agreement concluded with the Ecole francaise d'Extreme-Orient.
1947 Oct	The Ministry of Education begins government subsidization of The Toyo Bunko activities.	2003 Mar	The Centre for East Asian Cultural Studies for Unesco closes.
1948 Aug	Contract concluded establishing The Toyo Bunko Branch of the National Diet Library and reopening reading room services.	2003 Dec	Special Exhibit "Treasures of the Toyo Bunko" opened to celebrate the 80 th anniversary of the Library's founding.
1953	A Japanese committee for research in Far East Studies inaugurated with a subvention from the Harvard-Yenching Foundation.	2006 Feb	Scholarly exchange agreement concluded with Academia Sinica (Taiwan)
1954	The Committee for Research on Modern China inaugurated with a subvention from the Rockefeller Foundation.	2006 Oct	Documentation Center for Islamic Area Studies set up in conjunction with the National Institutes for the Humanities and participating universities.
1955 Jun	Participation in the international Project to edit the Manuals for Song Studies.	2007 Apr	Documentation Center for China Studies set up in conjunction with the National Institutes for the Humanities and participating universities.
1958 Apr	Oriental Studies Advisory Council set up.		
1959 Apr	Organization of The Society for the Support of The Toyo Bunko.		
1961 Jul	The Centre for East Asian Cultural Studies for Unesco founded within the Toyo Bunko.		



Maoshi : Fragment from Vol. 6 of the Tang Period manuscript (Japanese National Treasure)