

The First Year of the First Archival Science Course in Japan

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Abstract: Gakushuin University in Tokyo started a course of Archival Science at Graduate School of Humanities in April of 2008. It offers a master's course training archivists and a doctoral course for researchers. This is brand- new in Japan. The presenter is one of eight master candidate students, who joined all classes given in the first year, including the two-week internship featured the course. She introduces the archival studies' classrooms of five professors and eight instructors. She refers to other disciplines of Gakushuin in Humanities, Political Studies, and Library Science. She also experienced some training workshops. Along with the faculty, the students enjoyed the study tours granted by a foundation to Okinawa and Korea where they learned about advanced archival systems of actual repositories.

On June 24, the bill on management of public records was enacted by the National Diet of Japan. The Government prepared this bill on the basis of the final report of the expert panel titled "Ideal Management of Official Documents as Records Passing through Time – Now we Tackle the Issue as a National Project – ". Both Houses of the Diet pass additional resolutions dealing with the archival profession. Students closely watched this movement. Reviewing a brief history of the archival science in Japan, expectation and significance of this new course under such circumstances will be discussed.

About the author:

Yayoi Tsutsui is a student of Master's course of Archival Science at Gakushuin University as well as a homemaker with three children. She received her BA from International Christian University in 1980 and Certificate of Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension School in 2001. She had been a resident of the Town of Lexington, Massachusetts during 1996-2000. She experienced a part time staff of the University Museum, the University of Tokyo and Shibusawa Memorial Foundation. Recently she gave a presentation for Japan Art Documentation Society titled "Thinking of Museum Archives".

Her master thesis will deal with the ancient Greek archives system, especially the establishment of *Metroon* in Athens as collecting archives. She would like to learn more about this subject from SAA people.