

# Introduction to *Shiryō-kan Records*' Documents, which Shed Light on its Expansion Scheme of Functioning as the National Archives in Occupied Japan

YAYOI TSUTSUI

**Abstract:** *Shiryō-kan* —the Historical Documents Institution, the Ministry of Education—started as the archives to custody the ordinary people's historical materials which were scattered and lost in the chaotic times after WWII. *Shiryō-kan* was officially established in May 1951, however, had set to collect the historic documents in 1947.

*Shiryō-kan Records* is the institutional archives of *Shiryō-kan*, which later became the Department of Historical Documents, National Institute of Japanese Literature, and closed in 2004. National Institute of Japanese Literature still provides 8-week “Archives college” course to train people as archivists. *Shiryō-kan Records* has been made open to public since 2006, though access to some documents is restricted. Examining the documents in *Shiryō-kan Records* leads us to the fact that *Shiryō-kan* operated with the consciousness that it should function as the National Archives, using the Euro-American Archives as its model. Some English documents remind us that the early *Shiryō-kan* was carried on under the strong influence of General Headquarters, the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers.

In this poster presentation, I will show the documents relevant to establishment of *Shiryō-kan* and indicating its expansion scheme for functioning as the National Archives.

- Aug, 1947 Call for the meeting on preserving historical documents
- Nov, 1947 Establishment of the Archives (Ministry of Education)
- Mar, 1949 Petition for Institute of Historical Materials
- Apr, 1949 Fact-finding Conference on Archives in the world
- Nov, 1949 Greetings for opening ceremony of the Historical Documents Institution by the Minister of Education

and so on ...

**About the author:**

*Yayoi Tsutsui* is provisionally Certified Archivist and Registered Archivist of the Japan Society for Archival Science. She is also a part-time lecturer of Hitotsubashi University as well as a part-time student of Gakushuin University.

She earned the degree of Master of Arts in Archival Science from Gakushuin University, the first graduate school of Archival Science in Japan, in March 2010. She has served on staff at the University Museum of the University of Tokyo, and the Shibusawa Memorial Foundation. She has been involved in the construction of a number of exhibitions and databases. Yayoi Tsutsui received her Certificate of Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension School in 2001 and her Bachelor of Arts from International Christian University in 1980. She joined SAA in 2009 and attended the annual conferences in Austin, Washington D.C. , Chicago, and San Diego. She is a member of the Archival History Roundtable and the Museum Archives Section.