## **Japan Culture Group**

Project Leader

Ryo Akama

(Professor, Graduate School of Letters, Ritsumeikan University)

## Systematic Research on Haikai Archival Materials

## 1. Compiling Complete Works of Hanakuyo

Hanakuyo is an anthology of haiku poems published annually on a nation-wide scale by Bashodo in Higashiyama, Kyoto. From the 6th year of the Tenmei period (1786) and on, Takakuwa Ranko held Basho-e, an annual haiku gathering in commemoration of Matsuo Basho, and published haiku poems presented there under the title of. *Hanakuyo*. This research project sheds light on one chapter of the history of haikai during and after the Kansei era through examining *Hanakuyo*.

Since Hanakuyo has been given partial treatments only, this project aims to reprint the entire *Hanakuyo* volumes (from the 6th year of the Tenmei through the 3rd year of the Meiji), making them public, along with bibliographic research. Among the volumes, the ones owned by the Art



Research Center and its related researchers will be available online.



## 2. Sakurai Haikai Colection on Global View

The Art Research Center's collections include the Sakurai Library, haiku-related materials previously owned by the late Mr. Takejiro Sakurai, a haikai researcher. This collection provides a rare overview into the entire history of haikai, and thus making it public can contribute greatly to haikai research and scholarship.

To start with the whole project, we are planning an exhibition of Edo-era haiku poems written on *tanzaku* (long strips of card board). The exhibition will show not only tanzaku poems from the Sakurai Colection but also privately owned, never-before-seen ones. In addition, a guidebook for tanzaku research, the first of its kind, will be published under the title of *Haijin tanzaku-fu*. We hope this guidebook will also be a scholar catalogue to illustrate historical changes in both paper designs and calligraphic styles.

By Gekkyo