

Annual Report for Joint Research with Research Fund in FY2016
The Digital Archive Research Center for Japanese Cultural Resources,
Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

Date (2017/06/14): _____

1. Title of the Research Project	
Frederick Gookin (1853-1936) and His Roles in the Western Receptions of Japanese Woodblock Prints	
2. Research Leader	
Name	Organization and title
Hans Bjarne Thomsen	Professor, University of Zurich
3. Co-researcher (Total: persons)	
Name	Organization and title
Janice Katz	Curator of Japanese Art, Art Institute of Chicago
Ryo Akama	ARC, Ritsumeikan
Alina Martimyanova	Assistant, Section of Eastern Art, University of Zurich

4. Overview of the Research Project (About 150 words) Note: If you have changed your project since the time of application submission, please write clearly where you made changes.
<p>Frederick W. Gookin was a tremendously influential scholar, curator, and consultant on Japanese woodblock prints. There are traces of his writings and activities in a large number of archives and public institutions. He was one of the earliest promoters of prints, and together with the architect Frank Lloyd Wright (a close collaborator of Gookin) helped to form and direct many of the leading collections of the early 20th century. He was, for example, a leading voice in the collection of Clarence and Kate Buckingham and the Spaulding Brothers (now in the Chicago Art Institute and the Boston MFA, respectively). His network of contacts spread across the world, there exists, for example, a collection of his correspondence with the kabuki scholar Ihara Toshiro, the author of <i>Kabuki nenpyo</i>. He was a born letter writer and educator and his letters are very informative and tell much about the state of woodblock print studies and research in the beginning of the 20th century. In short, he was important in the exhibition, the collection, dealing, and the conservation of Japanese prints, and helped to educate entire generations of collector and museum professionals.</p> <p>The project aims to gather the letters and unpublished materials left by Gookin and his correspondence and to gather them into a database in order to facilitate understanding and future research on this key figure in the Western reception of Japanese woodblock prints. The creation of a special homepage for the above information gathered proved not to be possible - this will be a project for the future.</p>

5. Overview of the Research Results

The project was initiated by asking a large number of institutions in USA, Europe, and Japan whether they had letters or information on Frederick Gookin in their archives. It turned out that a relatively large number of museums had such objects, proving the importance of the project. It became clear that Gookin was an extraordinarily connected person who had created a network of museum specialists, collectors, and dealers across the world, who engaged in an exchange of knowledge and information transfer through letters.

6. Research Activities

- (1) Books
- (2) Articles
- (3) Presentations
- (4) Symposiums and/or research meeting you organized
- (5) Other research activities (Lectures to the general public, and appearances in/contributions to mass media)
- (6) Academic awards
- (7) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI
- (8) Competitive grants other than KAKENHI
- (9) Other achievements

None of the above. The research project was an ongoing process of finding and gathering materials - the dissemination via conference, articles, books, etc. will take place, once the materials has been gathered, digitalized, read, and understood.