

**Topic-Setting Program to Advance Cutting-Edge
Humanities and Social Sciences Research
(Global Initiatives)**

**Progress Report
(Summary of Final Report)**

[The Universal Values of E-monogatari (Illustrated Tales) Media
Designated as Cultural Heritage : from the perspective of International
Research]

Core-Researcher: ABE Yasuro

Institution: Nagoya University,

Academic Unit: Institute for Advanced Research

Position: Visiting Professor

Research Period: FY 2016 –FY 2019

1. Basic information of research project

Research Area	Topic-Setting Program to Advance Cutting-Edge Humanities and Social Sciences Research		
Project Title	The Universal Values of E-monogatari (Illustrated Tales) Media Designated as Cultural Heritage: from the perspective of International Research		
Institution	Nagoya University		
Principal Investigator (Name, Academic Unit & Position)	ABE Yasuro (Visiting Professor, Institute for Advanced Research)		
Project Period	FY 2016 - FY 2019		
Appropriations Plan (\)	FY 2016	6,341,400	JPY
	FY 2017	7,406,100	JPY
	FY 2018	4,711,200	JPY
	FY 2019	4,914,000	JPY

2. Purpose of research

Illustrated books and scrolls are one of the most esteemed parts of Japanese culture in the world, and many of them are kept not only in Japan, but also abroad. This main goal of this research project was to conduct a global study of these materials, understanding them as a cultural heritage, part of a larger media called “E-monogatari.” This includes illustrated biographies and images of setsuwa tales, as well as the art of picture commentary, “e-toki,” which allows a transmission of this visual and textual world. In this process, the project did not only organize fieldwork in collaboration with the curators of overseas museums, but it also strived to showcase the latest progress of research in Art history to the general public. The second aim was to clarify the value and signification of the works, through an analysis of their transmission and the historical context of their production. All the research was shared between the participants, which allowed us to establish the foundations of an international academic group dedicated to the study of “E-monogatari” in the future. We also dedicated ourselves to the education of young scholars who will become the leaders of this field, both in Japan and overseas.

3. Outline of research (Including study member)

The project concretely accomplished these goals in three ways. 1. Uniting specialists of several disciplines, such as Literature and Art History, we conducted concrete fieldwork with researchers and curators from America, France and Germany (Chester Beatty Library, Harvard Museum, Freer Gallery of Art...). We shared the results of our study of the works (both textual and material) and presented our latest results in international symposiums. 2. This allowed us to organize events for students and the general public, in Strasbourg (France) and Heidelberg (Germany), which gave them opportunities to gain a better understanding of Japanese iconography and writing system. 3. We also contributed in a broader context to society as a whole, by organizing international talks, workshops and forums discussing the creation and transmission and creation of popular cultural items such as e-toki. This happened in Paris and Strasbourg, at Harvard University, in Talin University (Estonia)...

Principal Investigator, Co-Investigators	Name (Family Name, First Name)	Institution• Academic Unit•Position	Role in this Project
Principal Investigator	ABE Yasuro	Nagoya University, Institute for Advanced Research Visiting Professor	Coordinator. Leader of two research Groups.
Group Leader	KOBAYASHI Kenji	National Institute of Japanese Literature, Honorary Professor	Leader of the Group “E-monogatari and Artistic Knowledge”
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	SAITO Maori	NIJL, Professor	Artistic Networks and Illustrated Scrolls and Books
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	UNNO Keisuke	NIJL, Professor	Epistheme of Medieval Art and Overseas fieldwork
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	KOIDA Tomoko	NIJL, Associate Professor	Illustrated scrolls in Japan and abroad
Group Leader	ISHIKAWA Toru	Keiō University, Grad. School of Literature, Professor	Leader of the International Fieldwork Research Group “E-monogatari”.
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	SASAKI Takahiro	Keiō University, Institute of Oriental Classics, Professor	Bibliography and Paleography of Scrolls and Books.
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	TAKAHASHI Yusuke	Keiō University, Inst. of Oriental Classics, Ass. Professor	Texts and Images in Religious Art
Group Leader	TAKAGISHI Akira	University of Tokyo, Grad. School of Humanities and Sociology, Associate Professor	Leader of the group “Illustrated Scrolls and Anecdotes (Setsuwa)”
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	YAMAMOTO Satomi	Waseda University, Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Professor	Images of Medieval Religious Anecdotes and Illustrated Scrolls
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	KASUYA Makoto	Kyoto City University of Arts, Archival Research Center, Visiting Researcher	Images of Medieval Religious Anecdotes
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	TAKASU Jun	Aichi University of Education, Fac. of Education, Professor	Images of Medieval Religious Anecdotes

Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	ABE Mika	Nagoya University, Grad. School of Humanities, Collaborative Researcher	Religious Art, Engi Literature
Group Leader	ABE Yasuro	Nagoya University, Inst. for Adv. Research, Vis. Professor	Leader of the group “Illustrated Scrolls and E-monogatari”
Co-Investigator (renkei-kenkyusha)	SUEMATSU Misaki	Nagoya University, Grad. School of Humanities, Postdoctoral Researcher	Illustrated Scrolls and Books
Co-Investigator (renkei-kenkyusha)	EGUCHI Keiko	Toyota National College of Technology, Lecturer	Illustrated Scrolls and Books
Co-Investigator (renkei-kenkyusha)	SHIKATANI Yuko	Mokpo National University, Invited Researcher	Monogatari (stories) at the Medieval Imperial Court
Co-Investigator (renkei-kenkyusha)	HATTORI Yuka	Aichi University of Education, Faculty of Education, Lecturer (part-time)	Waka, monogatari
Group Leader	ITO Nobuhiro	Sugiyama Jogakuen Univ., Int. Communication Dep., Professor	Leader of the group “Int. Fieldwork on Iconographic Works in Museums”
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	TAKAHASHI Toru	Nagoya University, Honorary Professor	Genji’e, Monogatari
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	RYUSAWA Aya	Kinjo Gakuin University, Fac. of Humanities, Professor	Profane Images, Illustrated Scrolls
Co-Investigator (renkei-kenkyusha)	HATA Yuki	Nagoya University, Grad. School of Humanities, Researcher	Nishiki-e, Monogatari
Co-Investigator (renkei-kenkyusha)	MATSUYAMA Yuko	Nagoya University, Grad. School of Humanities, Collaborative Researcher	Anecdote (setsuwa) literature, Archives study
Group Leader	ABE Yasuro	Nagoya University, Inst. for Adv. Research, Vis. Professor	Leader of the group “Culture and Transmission of the Etoki”
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	HARAGUCHI Shizuko	Nara University, Fac. of Humanities, Professors	Images of the Lotus Sutra

Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	MURAMATSU Kanako	Ryukoku Museum, Curator (Japanese Art)	Medieval illustrated biographies, Etoki
Co-investigator (kenkyu-buntansha)	TSUCHIYA Takahiro	Tokyo National Museum, Special Exhibitions Dep., Chief Researcher	Medieval setsuwa Illustrated Scrolls. Illustrated Biographies of Prince Shotoku.

4. Research results and outcomes produced

This project greatly expanded our knowledge on Japanese illustrated scrolls and books kept in overseas libraries and museums, such as the “Umi no e” of the Chester Beatty Library. Our research on this particular scroll led, in turn, to the organization of an exhibition on the subject at the Umi no Mieru Mori Museum of Art, where items from all over Japan were showcased, and a catalogue was printed. Such events show that the project led to increased interest in works kept overseas. We also organized an international workshop at the Freer Gallery of Art and will publish a collaborative book on the various items on its collection, in English. This publication will be an occasion to showcase the level of excellence of Japanese overseas. In Switzerland, we are currently contributing to the organization of a large-scale exhibition on “monogatari-e” held in Europe, and, if it happens, it will be a great opportunity to display the results of this project. We also established an international team which translated the entries dealing with Art in the “Kanmon nikki.” The translation is now complete.

Research on individual works has also led to great results. A presentation, made for the general public, of the illustrated scroll “Chigo imamai” has been published. We also took digital pictures and created facsimiles of more than 20 works, including the “Shōtoku taishi eden” and the “Yuzu nenbutsu engi emaki.” Our work on e-toki has also led to the organization of eight international workshops both in Japan and abroad (China, France, America). As a whole, we have strived to both give access to high-quality digital reproductions of the works and also to disseminate our results. All these efforts, along with the organizations of talks on e-toki by the actual inheritors of this tradition, lead to an increased awareness, in society as a whole, of the importance of “e-monogatari” as a major source of cultural production. This project was able to showcase high-level scientific results in both the academic world and to the general public, through the organization of 95 talks, conferences, symposiums, and the publication of 44 articles, as well as 25 books.

This project, through our research on the works of “e-monogatari” and our reconstitution of their dynamic function in actual society, shed new light on their value and importance as “cultural heritage media.” All the groups structuring the project closely collaborated with each other, as well as with foreign researchers. This allowed us to build relationships based on trust with the curators of the institutions holding the works. The results of our research were also shared among all members. This led to the preparation of collaborative books and catalogues, in English, as we are currently, for example, with the Freer Gallery of Art. Such publications, if all goes well, will lead to a greater diffusion of our collaborative research, which will in turn further benefit the field of Humanities as a whole, and allow our project to have an importance influence in an international context. Moreover, this project provided the groundwork for the organization of a global exhibition on Japanese e-monogatari overseas, by researchers from France and Germany, as well as the curator of the Kunsthaus Zürich (Switzerland). As shown by the fact that the assistance of our research group has been requested, there is clearly a demand for further collaborative, international research on Japanese culture through the study of e-monogatari.