

# The building of the Marega Collection

**Around 1950**

Father Marega sends Japanese objects and books to the Salesian Headquarters in Torino (Valdocco) probably for the Missionary Exhibition held in 1953.

**1973-1974**

Father Raffaele Farina (at that epoch Dean of the Theology Faculty) sends all the Japanese books from Torino to Rome, including them in the material of the Centre of Salesian Missionary History (CSSMS).

**After 1974**

Other books possessed by Father Marega and left in Meguro (Tōkyō) after his return to Italy are amassed in a room on the third floor of the building of the Nursery School.

**Around 1990**

The material which was part of the CSSMS in Rome is transferred to the Central Library of the Pontifical Salesian University (UPS).

**1996**

Father Juan Picca (Head of the UPS Library) allows the National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL, Tōkyō) to do the inventory of the material in Rome.

**1997-2002**

There follow in five years five intensive weeks to complete the inventory; a task force to which both members of the NIJL and Italian specialists on Japan cooperate.

## **Partecipants:**

**Prof. Robert Campbell (NIJL) – Professor in charge**

**Prof. Suzuki Toshiyuki**

**Prof. Tanikawa Keiichi (NIJL)**

**Prof. Wada Yasuyuki (NIJL)**

**Prof. Yamashita Noriko (NIJL)**

**Mr. Sergio Levi (Istituto Giapponese di Cultura, Roma)**

**Dr. Laura Moretti (Università Ca' Foscari, Venezia)**

**Dr. Roberta Strippoli (Università degli Studi di Napoli "L'Orientale")**

For details about these weeks see:

Yamashita Noriko, "Mario Marega bunko shozō Nihonkotenseki no chōsa to seiri" (An investigation of the Japanese rare books in the collection of Mario Marega and their reordering), *Kokubungaku kenkyū shiryōkan hō*, n. 59, pp. 4-5.

**2002**

Publication of the inventory of the Japanese rare books that were in Rome at that date: *Kokubungaku kenkyū shiryōkan bunken shiryōbu hen*, "Sarejio daigaku Mario Marega bunko shozō Nihon shoseki mokuroku", *Chōsa kenkyū hōkoku*, vol. 23, 2002, pp. 1-74.  
Birth of the "**Mario Marega Collection**", identified as a collection of Japanese rare books.

**2002**

The new Biblioteca Don Bosco is built and the Mario Marega Collection is transferred to the fourth floor of the new Library.

- 2002** Prof. Robert Campbell makes a survey of the material kept in Meguro (Tōkyō).
- 2003** Father Francesco Cereda (Consigliere Generale per la formazione della Congregazione Salesiana) takes a glance at the material in Rome and foresees the possibility to reunite all the material at UPS.
- 2003-2005** Father Joseph De Witte proceeds with an inventory of the same material.
- August 2005** Dr. Laura Moretti makes a survey of new materials belonged to Father Marega and kept in the Salesian house of Chōfu (Tōkyō); that material was left there by the bishop Mizobe Osamu and it was including *komonjo* of the 17th century about the Christian persecutions of that epoch. Together with this material Dr. Moretti recognizes a huge number of manuscripts, notes, proof-readings written by Father Marega himself, that were kept in the archives of the “Father Cimatti Museum”.
- September 2005** The Salesian highest decisional organ in Japan (Consiglio Ispettorale del Giappone) decides to send to Rome UPS all the material belonged to Father Marega and still in possession of a Salesian institution.
- October 2005** Father Joseph De Witte sends fourteen boxes containing around three-hundred pieces which had been kept in Meguro to date.  
(the boxes arrive in Rome between December 2005 and January 2006)
- October–November 2005** Three Salesian Fathers are in charge to transfer the ancient *komonjo* which had been kept in Chōfu to date.
- December 2005** Father Joseph Mitsugi Matsuo sends the personal material of Father Marega which had been kept in Chōfu to date.  
(the pieces arrive in Rome on 21 December 2005)
- January 2006** Father Joseph De Witte sends other pieces found in Meguro.
- January 2006** Birth of the new “**Marega Collection**” (in Italian “Fondo Marega”; in Japanese “Marega bunko”) which is founded on a conception different from the previous “Mario Marega Collection”: it is no more a collection of Japanese rare books, as much as a collection which includes three kinds of materials — Japanese rare books, *komonjo* of the Edo period and Father Marega’s posthumous manuscripts and personal notes.
- March 2006** Inauguration of the Marega Collection Project which aims at making a descriptive catalogue of all the three sections of the collection and at promoting its use. Dr. Moretti is appointed as supervisor of the project and students of the Department of East Asian Studies of Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia are included as official members of the project. From

**2006 to 2007 Mr. Marco Lazzaro, Mr. Alessandro Bianchi and Mr. Alessio Compagnucci have been actively working as members of the project.**

**April 2006**

**Father Marega's parents donates photos and objects to the Marega Collection. They are included as part of the third section of the collection.**

**December 2006**

**Publication of an analytical description of the new Marega Collection: Laura Moretti, "Il Fondo Marega: contenuti, potenzialita e significati della collezione di un singolare missionario nipponista", in *Salesianum*, n. 4, ottobre-dicembre 2006, pp. 745-782.**

**April 2008**

**Homepage and first catalogues, conceived by Dr. Laura Moretti, Mr. Alessandro Bianchi and Mr. Alessio Compagnucci, are rendered available online.**