

# Rare Japanese Collection Collection Development Policy

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L. Tom Perry Special Collections  
Harold B. Lee Library  
Brigham Young University

## I. Introduction

The Harold B. Lee Library's collection of rare Japanese materials was originally assembled by Bay Area collector Harry F. Bruning, Jr. in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection was acquired by the Harold B. Lee Library through the auspices of dealer David Magee in the 1970s. The original acquisition consisted of approximately 250 items, including printed books, manuscripts, maps, and scrolls.

## II. Position Responsible for Collecting Decisions

The Curator of Rare Books is responsible for collecting the material contained in the Rare Japanese Collection.

## III. Scope and Focus of Collecting

The Rare Japanese Collection is comprised of pre-20<sup>th</sup> century primary source printed works from Japan. The collection supports teaching and research in Japanese language and literature and Japanese history, art history, and culture.

## IV. Priorities and Limitations

### a. Priorities

#### i. Areas of Specialization

Major areas of specialization within the collection include Japanese depictions of foreigners, visits to foreign nations, foreign relations, and foreign learning; warrior history and education; tourism and descriptions of ports and famous places in Japan; cartography; and Japanese illustrated books and early printing technologies.

#### ii. Major Faculty Research Interests

The Rare Japanese Collection supports current faculty research interests in Japanese history, culture, literature, and art.

### b. Limitations

The Rare Japanese Collection is considered a subset of the History of Printing Collection and as such, consideration is given to acquiring items which exemplify developments in non-Western book history as well as meeting the general selection guidelines of this collection development policy.

## V. General Selection Guidelines

### a. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections seeks to collect for and maintain the Rare Japanese Collection at a level which supports undergraduate teaching and research.

### b. Specific Delimitations

#### i. Type

Collected at a teaching level: Primary source works on foreign relations, especially portraying Japanese views of foreigners and the outside world; illustrated books and maps; primary source works on literati history and warrior history and education; primary source works on tourism and descriptions of famous places in Japan.

#### ii. Physical Format

Collected at a teaching level: Printed books, manuscripts, maps, scrolls.

Excluded: Microform, secondary works.

#### iii. Date

Collected at a teaching level: 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

#### iv. Geographical focus

Collected at a teaching level: Japan

#### v. Subject Emphasis

Collected at a teaching level: Japan – description and travel; foreign relations; history; cartography. Japanese art and literature.

#### vi. Languages

Collected at a teaching level: Japanese

## VI. Deaccessioning Guidelines

In accordance with current deaccession policies, the Curator of Rare Books will make proposals to deaccession materials to the L. Tom Perry Special Collections Coordinating Committee. Materials may be deaccessioned if they do not comply with the Rare Japanese Collection collecting policy or if they are duplicates of material already in the collection.

VII. Cooperation with other Collections and Individuals

The Curator of the Japanese Rare Books Collection works closely with the Curator of the History of Printing Collection and the Asian Studies Librarian to collect and maintain the Japanese Rare Books Collection.

VIII. Revisions

Rare Japanese Collection Collecting Policy, Nov. 2010.