



International Symposium and Workshop

**JAPANESE EMBROIDERED SCREENS:
ISSUES OF RESTORATION**

Slovene Ethnographic Museum (19–20 March 2024)

Celje Regional Museum (21 March 2024)

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024

Symposium and Workshop at Slovene Ethnographic Museum

(Metelkova ulica 2, Ljubljana)

9:00–11:00 Symposium

11:00–11:30 Coffee break

11:30–13:00 Symposium

13:00–14:00 Lunch (Buffet)

14:00–15:00 Textile conservation: Introduction (Howard Sutcliffe)

15:00–15:20 Coffee break

15:20–17.00 Workshop (Howard Sutcliffe)

WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH 2024

Workshop at Slovene Ethnographic Museum

(Metelkova ulica 2, Ljubljana)

9:00–10:30 Workshop: Japanese screen from the Maritime Museum
Piran (Howard Sutcliffe)

10:30–10:45 Coffee break

10:45–12:00 Workshop: Japanese screen from the Maritime
Museum Piran (Howard Sutcliffe)

12:00–13:00 Lunch (Buffet)

13:00–14:30 Workshop: Japanese screen from the Maritime
Museum Piran (Howard Sutcliffe)

14:30–15.00 Coffee break

15:00–17.00 Workshop: Japanese screen from the Maritime
Museum Piran (Howard Sutcliffe)

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY, 21 MARCH 2024

**Tour of the exhibition “Taken Into Protection”
and Workshop
at Celje Regional Museum**
(Trg celjskih knezov, Celje)

9:30–10:00 Guided Exhibition (Davor Mlinarič)

10:00–11:30 Workshop (Howard Sutcliffe)

11:30–11:45 Coffee break

11:45–13:00 Workshop (Howard Sutcliffe)

13:00 Lunch

Acknowledgements

The international workshop and symposium are part of the project *Orphaned Objects: Examining East Asian Objects outside Organised Collecting Practices in Slovenia* (J6-3133), which is led by dr. Nataša Vampelj Suhadolnik (Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana) in cooperation with the Science and Research Centre Koper and the Celje Regional Museum. The Maritime Museum “Sergej Mašera” Piran and the National Museum of Slovenia are also participating in the project. The project is financed by the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (ARIS).

The international workshop and symposium are organized by Department of Asian Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana, Slovene Ethnographic Museum, Celje Regional Museum, Science and Research Centre Koper, Maritime Museum “Sergej Mašera” Piran, Centre for Restoration and Conservation of Archival Materials, Archive of Republic of Slovenia.

Howard Sutcliffe

Howard Sutcliffe is a graduate of the Textile Conservation Centre/ Courtauld Institute of Art in London. He is the principal conservator and director of River Region Costume and Textile Conservation, a private practice based in Arley Alabama and Nashville Tennessee. River Region provides collection management advice, collection surveys and conservation treatment services for individual and institutional clients throughout the US. Howard has previously worked as the Head Textile Conservator at the Detroit Institute of Arts and in the textile conservation studios at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and American Textile History Museum in the US, and at The National Trust and National Museums Liverpool in his native UK. He is a Fellow member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, and a board member of the North American Textile Conservation Conference.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 19 MARCH 2024

9:00–9:20

Japanese Embroideries: from Buddhist Icons to Western Exports

Hans Bjarne Thomsen (University of Zurich)

9:20–9:40 *Discussion and Q&A*

9:40–10:00

Elevated Embroidery in Meiji Period Screens

Katherine Anne Paul (Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama USA)

10:00–10:20 *Discussion and Q&A*

10:20–10:40

Japanese Embroidered Screens in Slovenia:

Production, Distribution and Marketing

Nataša Vampelj Suhadolnik (University of Ljubljana)

10:40–11:00 *Discussion and Q&A*

11:00–11:30 *Coffee and Tea Break*

11:30–11:50

The Conservation of the byōbu “Scenes along the Shijō Riverbank”

Juliana Polte (Saxon State and University Library Dresden)

11:50–12:10 *Discussion and Q&A*

12:10–12:30

The Conservation of East Asian Silk Textiles in American Collections

Howard Sutcliffe (River Region Costume and Textile Conservation)

12:30–13:00 *Discussion and Q&A*

ABSTRACTS

(in alphabetical order)

Elevated Embroidery in Meiji Period Screens

Katherine Anne Paul

(Birmingham Museum of Art, Alabama USA)

This illustrated talk will discuss the late nineteenth and early twentieth century trends that popularized embroidered screens for both Japanese and international consumers. These trends include but are not limited to advances in synthetic dyeing, industrial spinning, increased women in the workplace, steam powered transportation by land and sea, as well as the sales platforms of international expositions, mail orders, and global tourism. While Japanese screens will be the focal point, a brief contextual setting for embroidered Chinese and Korean screens during this same time period will be referenced.

The Conservation of the *byōbu* “Scenes along the Shijō Riverbank”

Juliana Polte

(Saxon State and University Library Dresden)

The conservation of the *byōbu* “Szenen an der Shijō-Straße nahe des Flussufers” (Scenes along the Shijō Riverbank/*Shijō kawaba yūrakuzu*) was a project at the conservation department of the State Ethnographic Collections of Saxony (SES) in 2016. The detailed drawing on the *byōbu*-front (*honshi*), dated early 17th century “Edo period”, shows various scenes of life on the Shijō-Street of Kyōto.

The object showed a contamination of the surface layers, tears and cracks especially close to the paper hinges, the link between the two *byōbu* panels. The complex *byōbu* construction resulted in a challenging conservation project, which was only possible with the help of background information provided by the Tokyo National Research Institute for Cultural Properties. The aim of the conservation work was to find a sensitive approach to the object having the traditional Japanese handcraft and the European conservation ethics in mind.

The Conservation of East Asian Silk Textiles in American Collections

Howard Sutcliffe

(River Region Costume and Textile Conservation)

Degraded silk is one of the most problematic materials that can be encountered in heritage collections. It is the natural fiber that is most susceptible to accelerated deterioration from numerous environmental influences and external factors that can be part of its manufacture both in East Asia and the West.

Its conservation and continued preservation can be challenging. With objects from East Asia the challenges presented are often compounded as the silk is only one part of composite objects such as screens and robes, where access and other associated materials can act to impede its treatment. This presentation will explore some of the issues through the recent treatment of objects in both private and public collections in the United States.

Japanese Embroideries: from Buddhist Icons to Western Exports

Hans Bjarne Thomsen

(University of Zurich)

Japanese embroideries have been exported in large numbers to the West before and after 1900, in formats such as multi-panel screens, standing single-panel screens, and wall hangings. As such, they exist in a wide range of museum and private holdings. They have in the past been seen as being merely decorative objects and have not been a subject of academic inquiry, despite containing important cultural, technical, and material information. In recent years, Japanese museums such as the Kiyomizu Sannenzaka Museum have been purchasing outstanding examples in the West and, after careful restoration, have been staging exhibitions of exported (and now returned) embroideries. Research into such objects has been taking place, especially on the Japanese side, and careful considerations of the exported objects, as well as the historical background Japanese embroidery prior to such exports will surely become important academic topics for the future. After examining a few key objects in Western collections, this talk aims to survey the historical background of embroidery in Japan and will suggest topics for future research.

Japanese Embroidered Screens in Slovenia: Production, Distribution and Marketing

Nataša Vampelj Suhadolnik

(University of Ljubljana)

This talk will present Japanese embroidered screens kept in various museums and castles in Slovenia. In addition to some physical analyses, the question of the market will also be examined. It is interesting to note that the two screens from Snežnik Castle in the south of present-day Slovenia are very similar to the screens in the Celje Regional Museum in north-east Slovenia. While the screens from Snežnik were brought here by the German noble family Schönburg-Waldenburg from Hermsdorf near Dresden, it is difficult to identify the previous owners of the screens in Celje, as they were confiscated after the Second World War. However, we can assume that they too were part of the aristocratic heritage that once adorned their manor houses and castles. The talk will therefore also raise the question of the production, distribution and marketing of such screens in this part of Europe.



East Asian Collections
in Slovenia



Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency



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SLOVENE
ETHNOGRAPHIC
MUSEUM



Pokrajinski
muzej
Celje



POMORSKI MUZEJ - MUSEO DEL MARE
"SERGEJ MAŠERA" PIRAN - PIRANO



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