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As I am a relatively new member in the CIETA, may I use this space to introduce myself? I received my PhD from Princeton with a dissertation on Ito Jakuchu, an 18<sup>th</sup>-century Japanese painter. During my doctoral studies, *in situ* research on actual objects in museum archives and related documents was a key emphasis of our education. These studies were, however, focused on paintings, sculpture, and architecture. In 2007, I received the chair for East Asian art history at the University of Zurich and started a program of research into Swiss museum collections. My emphasis was to research objects in museum collections, and to involve my students in every step of the surveys, as a key part of their education.

Swiss museums contained, however, few object types that I had researched both during and after my doctoral years. Instead, there were multitudes of textile-related objects from East Asia. As a result, I ventured out into new, unfamiliar areas, accompanied by experts from East Asia, mostly Japanese colleagues. In the last decade, textile-related projects of my department have included:

An archival research project at the St Gallen Textilmuseum (2010-2014) of the hundreds textile samples and stencils from China and Japan, mostly collected in Japan during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This culminated in an exhibition and catalog in 2014: *Kirschblüte & Edelweiss: Der Import des Exotischen*.

An ongoing project on katagami fabric stencils from Japan, which we found in huge numbers in Swiss and European collections. Here we had the indispensable help of Yuki Ikuta, who helped us to catalogue katagami in various collections. This culminated in a large international symposium in March 2016, with speakers from across the globe.

<https://www.khist.uzh.ch/de/chairs/ostasien/archiv/eventsarchiv/Katagami.html>

My team is in the process of editing the papers for a publication on collections of katagami in the west.

One of the stable survey projects in the last years (2007-present) has been on Korean objects in Swiss collections. Here we have found a number of Korean textiles in museum archives – these were displayed with other Korean objects in the Historical and Ethnographic Museum of St Gallen in the Spring of 2018.

[http://www.hmsg.ch/dateien/ausstellungen/korea2017/hvm\\_korea2017\\_flyer\\_web.pdf](http://www.hmsg.ch/dateien/ausstellungen/korea2017/hvm_korea2017_flyer_web.pdf)

A joint publication is in the planning stages together with Korean colleagues.

Together with Prof. Kazuto Sawada from Japan and Prof Birgitt Borkopp-Restle from Bern we have been researching the comprehensive textile sample collection at the University of Reutlingen. On the Japanese side, there is a world-class collection: that of Erwin Baelz ( ). 2019 will see the last step in the research of the 800-odd Japanese textile samples, and further long-term events are planned to publicize this collection, in book and Internet formats. We hope to have the collaboration of the CIETA in this project.

Finally, since 2015 we have been engaged in the study of textiles from The Ryukyu Kingdom (present-day Okinawa). This project is centered on the Ryukyu/Okinawa textiles in the Museum der Kulturen Basel, which stems in part from a royal collection. An international symposium on the arts of Ryukyu Kingdom was completed in December 2018, and the survey of the Basel collection by specialists from Okinawa was completed in the same month. We are now looking for other Ryukyu/Okinawa textiles in European museums. <https://www.khist.uzh.ch/de/chairs/ostasien/Aktuelles/Ryukyu.html>

Part of the collection will be shown in three major Japanese museums before coming back to an exhibition in Basel. Publications are also planned.

In this way, my team and I have been bringing collections of east Asian textiles from museum archives into the public awareness. The projects have had success through the collaboration of Swiss and East Asian colleagues and with the active participation by Swiss students. We hope to continue into the future and look forward to working with CIETA colleagues on future projects.

Sincerely yours,  
Hans Bjarne Thomsen