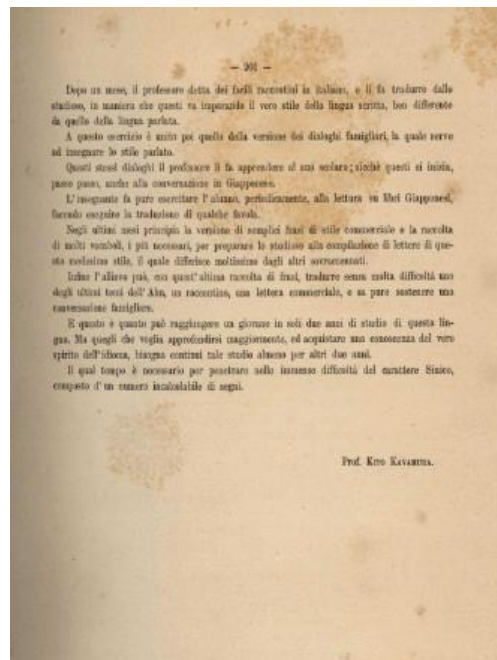
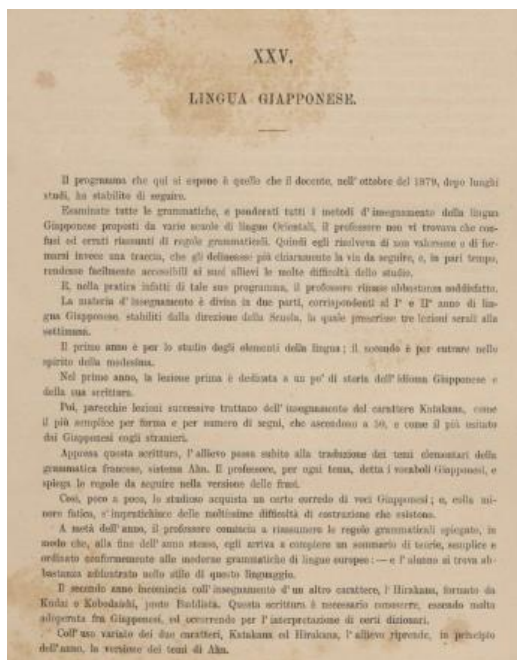


Ca' Foscari and Japan: 1868-1945

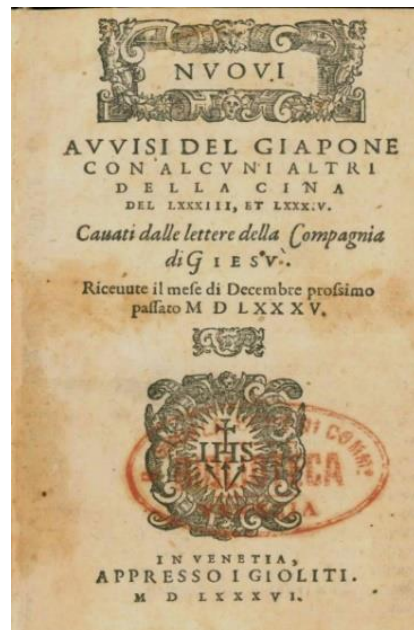
As far back as 1971 the Regia Scuola Superiore di Commercio (Royal High School of Commerce) of Venice foresaw the possibility of establishing a Japanese language course in the general program of the courses. This was connected both to the reopening of Japan to the West, formalized in 1868, and to the interest of Italy, recently united as a single Kingdom, in establishing trading relations with the Land of the Rising Sun. For these reasons it was necessary for students to start new diplomatic and commercial careers and, therefore, the study of the new international partner's language. The course actually began on November 23rd 1873, shortly after the establishment of the General Consulate of Japan in Venice (May 9th, 1873), which took place as part of the Japanese diplomatic mission headed by Ambassador Iwakura Tomomi (1825-1883). The ceremony was attended, among others, by Japanese ministers who had been accredited in Rome and Vienna, and the school director, Francesco Ferrara, who gave the inaugural speech. The course was entrusted to the interpreter of the Consulate General in Venice, Yoshida Yōsaku (1851-1927). Since then, documents and volumes bear witness to the constant commitment of the School to the realization and development of this ambitious project.

1. The Japanese Language teaching program of 1881, lecturer Kawamura Kiyō.

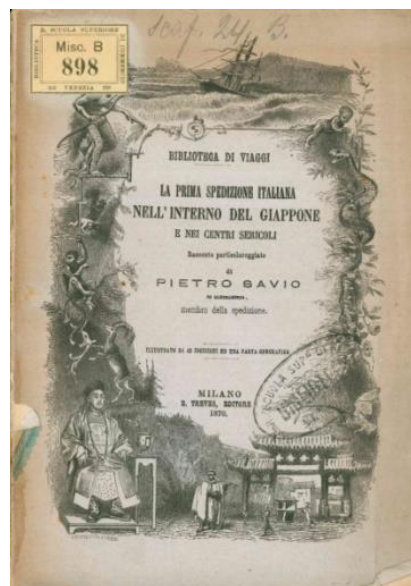


In 1881, on the occasion of the National Exhibition of Milan, Professor Kawamura Kiyō (1852-1934), one of the first native Japanese professors, set forth a study program to set up the study of the language which was still in its infancy, without any grammar compendiums and without any valid and comprehensive cultural manuals.

2. L. Frois, 1586: letters from Jesuit missionaries from Japan and China.

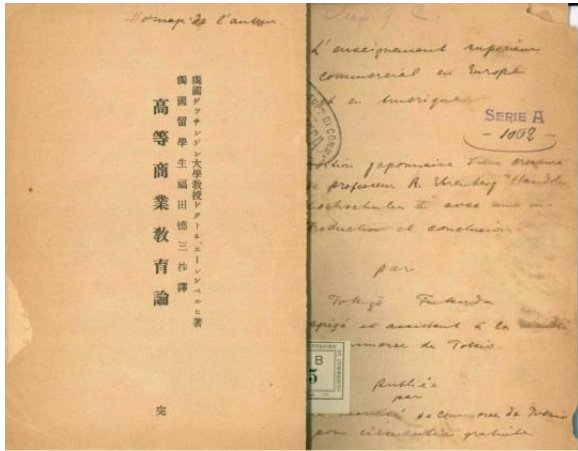


3. P. Savio, 1870: report of the first Italian expedition to centres of silk production in Japan.



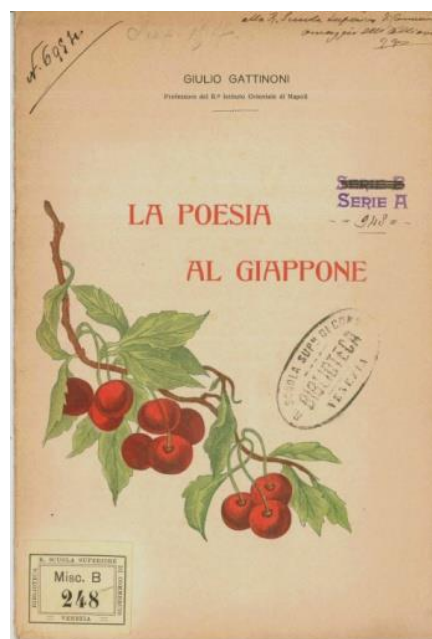
Ca' Foscari's interest in East Asia, and in particular Japan, is borne out by the presence in the old Library of the School of numerous volumes related to these themes. These include a 16th-century volume that aimed to spread knowledge of the Far East in Italy through the letters of the Jesuit missionaries (Luigi Frois, *Nuovi auvisi del Giappone con alcuni altri della Cina... Cauati dalle lettere della Compagnia di Giesù...*, Venezia, Gioliti, 1586) and one from the 19th century that refers to the Italian project of commercial expansion within Japan, in particular with reference to the production and trade of silk with the aim of making direct commercial agreements with Japanese silk-screeners (Pietro Savio, *La prima spedizione italiana nell'interno del Giappone e nei centri sericoli...*, Milano, Treves, 1870).

4. Fukuda Tokuzō, 1898: translation into Japanese of an essay on Higher Commercial teaching, by R. Ehrenberg; the Tokyo School of Commerce (1921).



In 1899 Fukuda Tokuzō (1874-1930) came to Venice to participate in the "International Congress of Commercial Teaching" held in the Ca' Foscari Palace in May 1899. On that occasion he gave the School a volume he had translated into Japanese relating to Commercial teaching in Europe and the Americas: Ehrenberg Richard, Fukuda Tokuzō (trad.), *Kōtō shōgyō kyōikuron 高等商業教育論 (On Higher Commercial Teaching), Kōtō shōgyō gakkō, Tōkyō 1898*. Fukuda Tokuzō was one of the pioneers of modern economics in Japan, and following his visit to Venice he began an exchange between Ca' Foscari and the then High School of Commerce of Tokyo (Tōkyō Kōtō Shōgyō Gakkō 東京高等商業学校), now Hitotsubashi University, the organization of which Fukuda modelled on the School of Commerce of Venice.

5. Giulio Gattinoni, 1906: anthology of Japanese poetry translated into Italian.



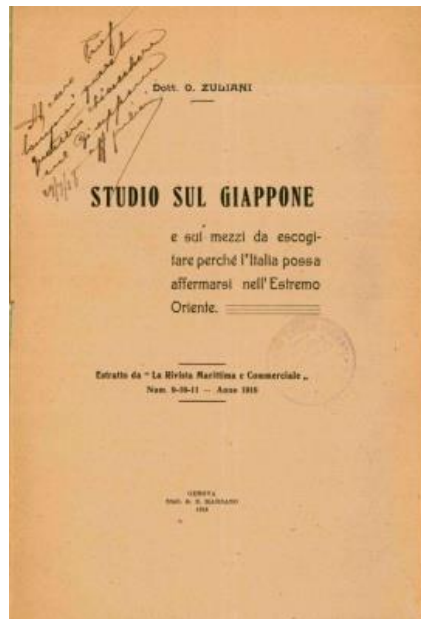
Giulio Gattinoni, one of the first Venetian students of Japanese, who became a professor of Japanese at the Circolo Filologico di Venezia (Philological Circle of Venice) and later at the Istituto Orientale di Napoli (Oriental Institute of Naples) and author in 1890 of *Grammatica giapponese della lingua parlata* (*Japanese Grammar of spoken language*), published an anthology of Japanese poetry translated into Italian in 1906, *La poesia al Giappone* (*The poetry of Japan*). The idea was to combine linguistic knowledge as a tool of pure commercial interest with an approach to Japanese literary culture.

6. Terasaki Takeo: grammar of the Japanese language (1911) and a photographic portrait of the author (1921).



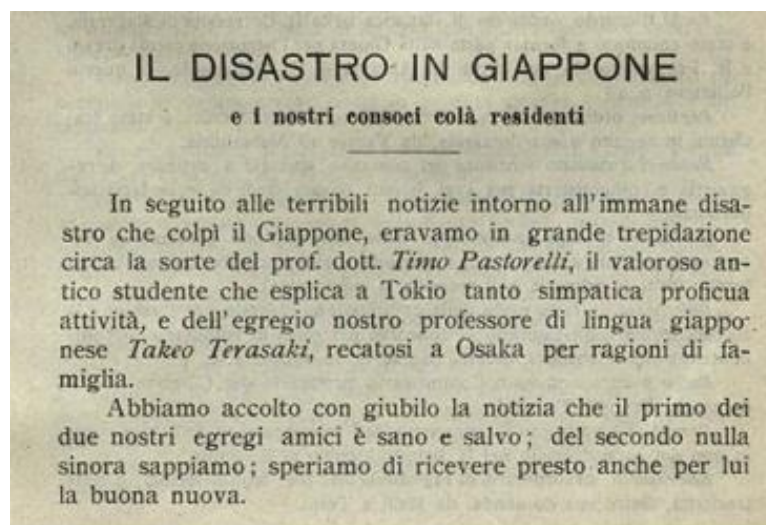
An important contribution to the development of Japanese language teaching in Venice was made by Terasaki Takeo, a native speaker who taught Japanese at the School during various spells from 1908 to 1922. His work *Grammatica teorico-pratica della lingua giapponese parlata* (*Theoretical and practical grammar of the spoken Japanese language, 1911*) is of great importance. In the preface we find the names of the first Japanese professors of the School of Japanese: Yoshida Yōsaku in 1873-1875 (who was interpreter of the Japanese consulate general in Venice and then official of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Tokyo), Ogata Korenao in 1876-1877, the painter Kawamura Kiyō in 1878-1881, the sculptor Naganuma Moriyoshi in 1881-1887, Itō Heizō in 1887-1888 (formerly a Ca' Foscari student, he then became a lecturer and returned to Japan to teach Italian literature in Tokyo) lastly Terasaki Takeo from 1908 to 1922.

7. Ottaviano Zuliani, 1918: an essay sent from Kobe (Japan) in July 1917.

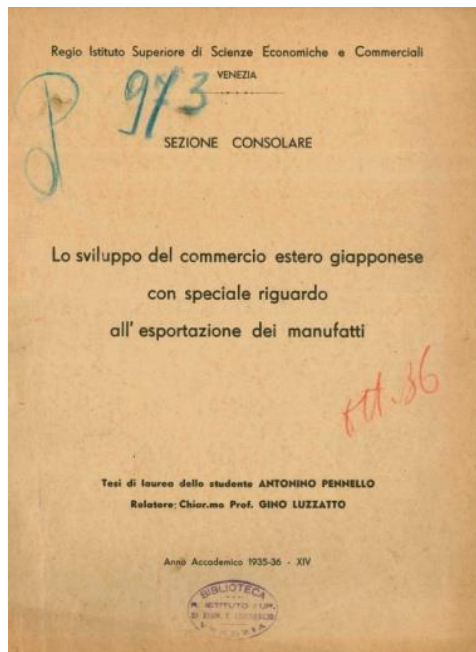


Ottaviano Zuliani (1876-1922), who graduated in Commerce at Ca' Foscari in 1898, worked for various shipping companies for whom he also went to Japan to establish business relations. It is from Kobe, Japan, that he wrote in July 1917, with publication in 1918, *Studio sul Giappone e sui mezzi da escogitare perché l'Italia possa affermarsi nell'Estremo Oriente* (*Study on Japan and the means with which Italy can succeed in the Far East*); on the title page there is a dedication to Prof. Primo Lanzoni, president of the Associazione Antichi Studenti (Old Students Association).

8. 1923: news of the disastrous earthquake in the Kantō area, in Japan (Bollettino Antichi Studenti; Old Students Bulletin, n. 81).



9. Antonino Pennello, thesis, 1936.



On September 1st, 1923, Japan was hit by a disastrous earthquake in the Kantō area. The Bollettino dell'Associazione Antichi Studenti (Old Students Bulletin) immediately reported the news, providing information about Timo Pastorelli and expressing concern for Prof. Terasaki, who were both in Japan at the time. Timo Pastorelli, a graduate in Commerce from Ca' Foscari in Commerce (1906) and in Accounting (1907), had gone to teach Italian at the Foreign Languages School of Tokyo. Prof. Terasaki, who was in Osaka, was never return to Italy, thereby interrupting his long teaching period in Venice as well as his teaching of the Japanese language at Ca' Foscari, which only resumed in the 1960s.

10a. 1938, 7th June: chronicle of the visit of Japanese students to Ca' Foscari (Bollettino Antichi Studenti; Old Students Bulletin, n. 125).

STUDENTI GIAPPONESI A CA' FOSCARI

Accompagnati dal dr. Tetsutaro Ariga, professore di Storia del Cristianesimo nell'Università Bosciscia di Kyoto, un gruppo di studenti giapponesi, nella divisa delle loro organizzazioni politiche giovanili, ha visitato Ca' Foscari, sede della più antica Università commerciale italiana.

Hanno ricevuto la comitiva il Direttore amministrativo cav. dr. Samuele Fusco, il prof. Mario Brunetti, il prof. T. Giacalone-Monaco, il prof. Sullman della R. Scuola superiore di architettura, e un gruppo di studenti del GUF che facevano da interpreti.

Dopo una visita ai diversi laboratori scientifici e all'aula magna, sotto la guida del cav. Fusco, la comitiva si è soffermata nell'aula delle conferenze ed è stata pregata di accettare un rinfresco.

Al brindisi, il prof. Tetsutaro ha offerto un'artistica pergamena, scritta in giapponese, della quale diamo la traduzione: « Il Presidente dell'Università di Baschisha a Kyoto Giappone, ha l'onore di far sapere al Rettore del R. Istituto superiore di Economia e Commercio di Venezia che la sua Università ha inviato in Italia, per rendere ancor più strette le relazioni intellettuali fra i due Paesi alleati contro il Comin-

tern, il prof. Tetsutario Ariga con sei studenti, i quali esprimeranno alla R. Università commerciale di Venezia i cordiali ed amichevoli saluti della loro Università ».

Il messaggio porta la data del 7 giugno u. s.

Dopo la lettura del messaggio si sono levati i bicchieri inneggiando alla gloria del Giappone e dell'Italia.

Il cav. Fusco ha quindi distribuito delle pubblicazioni in ricordo della visita.

10b. 1938, 7th June: Japanese students from Kyōto visiting Ca' Foscari.



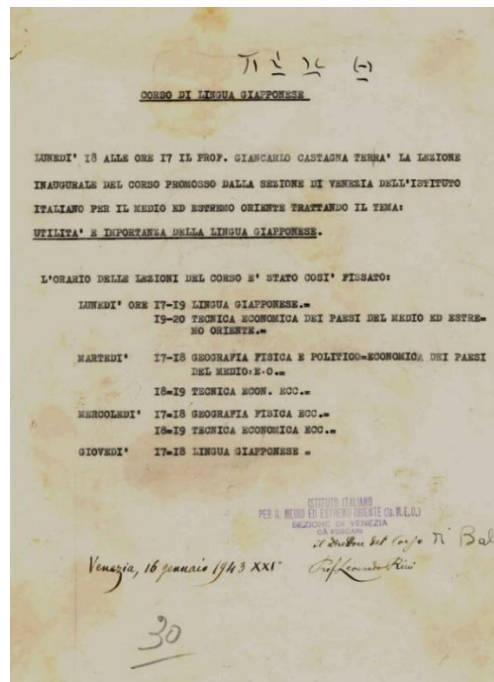
Relations between Japan and Ca' Foscari continued: in the summer of 1938 some Japanese students from the Doshisha University of Kyōto, led by Prof. Ariga Tetsutarō (1899-1977), visited the School. It was an important moment in terms of keeping alive the relationships, not only were Ca' Foscari graduates going to Japan, but now Japanese students were also coming to Ca' Foscari. Japan was also keen on the process of consolidating relations.

11. 1941, leaflet of the Società Amici del Giappone (Friends of Japan Society).



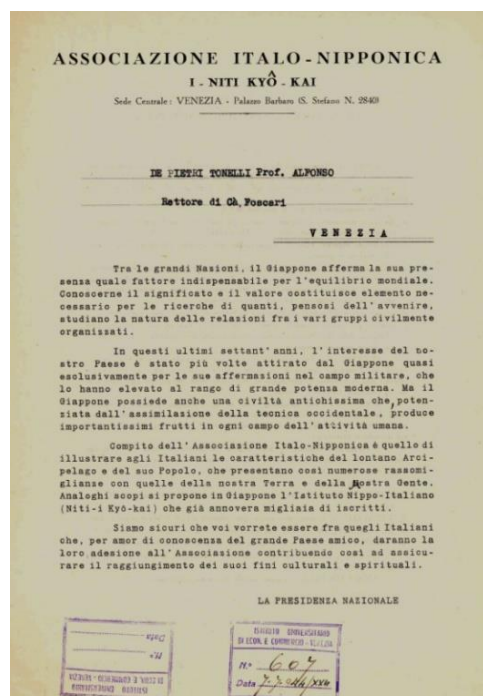
In the 1940s Ca' Foscari continues to spread the Japanese language and culture through Italy including through their participation in "Società Amici del Giappone - Nippon-Tomo no Kai" (Friends of Japan Society), which opened its own section in Venice. The "Friends of Japan Society", which also had its equivalent in Tokyo's "Società Amici dell'Italia" (Friends of Italy Society), was established at the end of 1937 at the Istituto italiano per il Medio ed Estremo Oriente (Italian Institute for the Middle and Far East; IsMEO) with the aim of "promoting relations between Italy and Japan to develop mutual understanding between the two peoples and friendship between the two nations".

12. 1943, 16th January: Japanese language course organized by IsMEO at Ca' Foscari, Professor Giancarlo Castagna.



In 1943 Ca' Foscari was home to the Japanese language courses promoted by IsMEO, which therefore covered the absence of internal Japanese language courses which were only resumed in 1965, by Paolo Beonio Brocchieri and assisted by Matsui Masatoshi.

13. 1944: the Associazione italo-nipponica (Italian-Japanese Association) sends Rector Alfonso De Pietri Tonelli an invitation to join the Association.



The rector of Ca' Foscari, on 2nd August 1944, following a resolution by the Board of Directors, enrolled the University in the "Associazione Italo-nipponica" (I-niti Kyōkai; Italian-Japanese Association), an evolution of "Società amici del Giappone" (Friends of Japan Society), which had established its headquarters in Venice on 26nd March 1944 with a significant establishment of the cultural institute in the city which had previously been the first seat of the Consulate General of Japan in Italy.