

**DONATELLA FAILLA**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE ET STUDIORUM**  
**AND COMPLETE LIST OF PUBLICATIONS**

Updated May 2022

[Name] **Donatella Failla**

[Nationality, Birth]

email:

[CV summary]

After serving until 31 December 2017 as Director of the ‘Edoardo Chiossone’ Museum of Oriental Art in Genoa, Italy, Donatella Failla has also served as Honorary Curator and Consultant at the same museum (2018-2021). She has received several research grants from the Japan Foundation as well as from other Japanese institutions. Over the years 1998-2017, Failla has obtained from various Japanese Foundations and State Institutions the sum of € 860,000.00, destined for the restoration and re-qualification of the Chiossone Museum’s art patrimony.

She has conceived and organised more than 30 exhibitions and authored over 200 publications in Italian, English, French, Japanese and Spanish.

From the Academic Year 2012-13 until this day, she teaches the History of Art of Eastern Asia at the University of Genoa.

- 1980** Obtained PhD in Oriental Studies, Scuola Orientale, University of Rome ‘La Sapienza’.
- 1982** Employed at the ‘Edoardo Chiossone’ Museum of Oriental Art, Genoa.
- 1995** Become Director of the Chiossone Museum.
- 1995** Received a Japan Foundation Research Fellowship Grant for three months at Kyōto Nichibunken.
- 2012** Received a Japan Foundation Research Fellowship Grant for twelve months at Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University, Kinugasa Campus, Kyōto.
- 2012-13** Starts teaching the History of Art of East Asia at the University of Genoa.
- 2014** Received from the MIUR (Italian Ministry of the University and Scientific Research) the National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as Associate Professor in the History of Art of East Asia.
- 2015** Received from Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs a commendation and special mention on the part of the Minister “*for her cultural activity in the field of Japanese Art and the mutual understanding between Japan and Italy*”.
- 2016** Invited to become a member of Accademia Ambrosiana, *Classis Asiatica*.
- 2016** Received from His Majesty Akihito, Emperor Heisei of Japan, the ‘Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette’, “*for her activity in the divulgation of Japanese art in Italy, as well as for her contribution to the development of research in the field of Japanese art*”.
- 2017** Retired on 31 December from her position as Director of Chiossone Museum.
- 2018-21** Appointed Honorary Curator and Consultant at the Chiossone Museum.

[Main Research Fields]

- History of Japanese art from the late Muromachi up to the Edo period and the Meiji era (iconography, painting, woodblock prints, decorative arts, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries);
- Chinese arts imported into Japan (bronze, lacquer, painting, porcelain, textile) and their influence on Japanese art and culture (aesthetics, decoration and display, tea ceremony);
- Animals in Japan’s culture, image and religion;
- Research study of *yōgakusha* paintings of Japan, late 18<sup>th</sup>–mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

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## EDUCATION

2012	Japanese Language Course and private lessons, Kyoto Japanese Language School, February-November 2012 (147 hrs)
1995	Japanese Language Course, Institute of Japanese Language, Tokyo, September-November 1995.
1993	Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa University. <i>Informatica e beni culturali</i> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> level advanced course (1 week).
1989	Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa University. <i>Informatica e beni culturali</i> , 1 <sup>st</sup> level advanced course (1 month).
1980	PhD in Oriental studies, Scuola Orientale, Università di Roma 'La Sapienza'. Dissertation: <i>Garuda e i Nāga: immagini, forme e simboli di antiche storie di ratto</i> . Marks 70/70 (published 1982).
1975	Laurea in Lettere Moderne, University of Genoa. Dissertation: <i>Comparsa del Nāga nell'Arte buddhista dell'India preclassica</i> . Marks 110/110 <i>cum laude</i> .
1970	Maturità Classica, Liceo Classico Statale "Lorenzo Costa", La Spezia.

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## PROFESSIONAL MUSEUM EXPERIENCE

### 1995 –2017 Director, Museo d'Arte Orientale 'Edoardo Chiossone'

- Re-conceived, reorganized and re-structured storage, logistics and exhibition preparation spaces (2004-2007).
- Re-conceived and helped designing new installation cases and spaces for special exhibition (galleries 3-4, 2001).
- Re-conceived permanent exhibition galleries and renewed didactic apparatus (1998-2000).
- Researched sponsors and raised funds for the aims described above (1996-2017).
- Planned conservation and restoration of lacquer, paintings and prints (1996-2017).
- Acquired Japanese and Chinese art through cultivation of donors.
- Developed international relations with museums, universities, research institutions, foundations and cultural associations in Italy, Europe and Japan:
  - Comprehensive digitization programme of Ukiyo-e prints, woodblock printed books, and *katagami* (ARC, Ritsumeikan University, prof. Akama Ryō and his staff, in collaboration with Venice University, Prof. Bonaventura Ruperti: [started in 2010, to be completed in 2017](#)).
  - Specialised catalogue of the Chinese Book Collection (by scholars from Kyōto and Naples Universities: *completed in 1998*);
  - Specialised catalogue of the Japanese Book Collection of the Edo e Meiji Periods (by prof. Peter Kornicky, Cambridge University, UK - Tōkyo University, Prof. Robert Campbell and National Institute of Japanese Literature, Tōkyo, Prof. Yamashita Noriko: [started in 1999, published in 2016](#)).
  - Participation of the present writer in international cooperation programs for the conservation and restoration of Japanese art abroad (National Research Institute of Cultural Properties, Agency for Cultural Affairs, and The Japan Foundation: [1997-98, 2004-2005, 2007-2009](#));
  - Restoration program funded by the Sumitomo Foundation for the conservation of Japanese paintings and prints ([yearly grant program, started 1999, still in progress](#)).
- Manage collections and administrate loans.
- Manage Personnel.
- Manage special programs for classification and cataloguing campaigns sponsored and carried out by Japanese Institutions, Museums, Universities, and individual scholars:
  - Prof. Akama Ryō, Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University, Kyōto ([institutional research](#)): digital photography campaign and production of database of woodblock sheet prints, prints bound in volume, illustrated books, and *katagami* (2010 – 2017);
  - Prof. Yamashita Noriko, National Institute of Japanese Literature, and Professor Robert Campbell, University of Tokyo: catalogue of Japanese woodblock printed books in the Chiossone Museum (1999 – [to be published in 2016](#));
  - Prof. Takata, National Institute for the Research in Humanities, Kyōto University: catalogue of Chinese woodblock printed books in the Chiossone Museum (1998);
  - Prof. Hoshino, Hōsei University, Tokyo ([individual research](#)): study of Nō masks in the Chiossone Museum (2005);
  - Dr Iwata Shigeki, Nara National Museum ([individual research](#)): study of Buddhist sculpture in the Chiossone Museum (2003);
  - Prof. Inoue Yōichi, Tokyo National Museum ([individual research](#)): study and chemical analysis of important archaeological bronzes (1994, 2002).
- Facilitated participation of the Chiossone Museum in international cooperative programs for the conservation and restoration of Japanese art, organised by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo (1997-

1998, 2004-2005, 2006-2008, 2008-2009). Thanks to this program, seven paintings and a lacquer cabinet were restored with Japanese funds. The restoration work was performed by highly specialised conservators under Tōbunken's and the present writer's joint supervision.

- Facilitated participation of the Chiossone Museum in international grant programs funded by the Sumitomo Foundation for the conservation of Japanese paintings (yearly program, 1999- in progress). Thanks to this program, 43 paintings, including 3 folding screens, and 60 *nishikie* prints have been restored with full funding from the Sumitomo Foundation. The restoration work was performed by highly specialised conservators under the present writer's supervision.
- Participated in numerous international Conferences on Japanese art and culture.
- Conceived, organized and prepared catalogues and didactic materials for museum exhibitions.
- Rotated and installed temporary exhibition galleries using the permanent collections.
- Conceived, organized and supervised special cultural activities and programs for the general public (lectures, gallery talks, Nō dance, *ikebana* and *chanoyu* performances and courses, poetry competitions, concerts, Japanese Gosekku festivals).
- Conceived, organized and directed didactic programs for children and teen-agers from primary to higher intermediate school (museum's guided tours, entertainments and mini-courses relating to Japanese popular traditions, such as Gosekku and *origami*).
- Conceived and organized, in cooperation with the Genoa Conservatorium of Music and other musical associations of Northern Italy, the spring and autumn concert seasons at the Museo Chiossone, including the performance of Japanese traditional and contemporary music.
- Trained university students and doctoral candidates for dissertation research, didactic and exhibition programs (2013-2017 as museum director and university teacher, 2017-present as university teacher).
- Trained graduated students at the Chiossone Museum for didactic and exhibition programs (1997-2017).
- Trained graduate students at the Chiossone Museum under special programs funded by the Regional Government (Cantiere Scuola-Lavoro 1997-2000), the Provincial Government (2008-2009), the Central Government (National Civil Service 2015-2016), and the University of Genoa (2012-present).
- Administrate financial planning, activities and all programmes listed above.

### **1993 –1995 Curator of Japanese Art and Acting Director, Museo Chiossone**

- Facilitated comprehensive reorganizing of the collections.
- Planned conservation and restoration of bronze and Japanese helmet (*kabuto*) collections.
- Conceived exhibitions, produced catalogues and didactic apparatus of special shows (museum collections).
- Conceived, organized and produced catalogues and didactics for exhibitions both at the Chiossone Museum and other venues.
- Managed collections and loans.
- Established and cultivated Museum's international relations.

### **1982 –1993 Assistant Curator and Research Scholar, Museo Chiossone**

- Reorganized, classified and wrote catalogue descriptions of unpublished collections of Japanese textiles and costumes, *katagami* and lacquer ware in the Museo Chiossone.
- Planned conservation and restoration projects (textiles).
- Conceived and produced catalogues and didactics for unpublished museum collections.
- Studied new methodologies for art-metadata analysis, documentary description and data management.
- Constructed specialized multilingual micro-thesauri (Japanese, Italian, English) and definitions of controlled terminologies.

### **1985-2017 Special exhibitions of Japanese Art and Culture organised in, Italy and abroad**

- 2019 D. Failla, *Splendore e Purezza: il Tibet nell'Arte di Han Yuchen*. 大美至纯 – 韩玉臣的西藏油画艺术. *Splendour and Purity: Tibet in the Art of Han Yuchen*, Sala Munizioniere, Palazzo Ducale,
- 2017-19 D. Failla, *Food for the Ancestors, Flowers for the Gods: Transformations of Archaistic Bronzes in China and Japan* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)), March 2017 – January 2019.
- 2017-18 D. Failla, *Ponte di Luce: Vetri di Ōki Izumi* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)), March 2017 – 4 March 2018.
- 2016-17 D. Failla, *Antologia della Pittura Giapponese*, 30 September 2016 - 12 February 2017 ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2016-17 D. Failla, F. Gammino, M. Di Vita, *Edo Timeless. C'era una volta Edo*, 15 September 2016-19 March 2017 ([special photographic exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2016 D. Failla, R. Demarchi, A. Paolucci, *Haiku, pitture astratte di Roberto Demarchi*, 10 March-10 July 2016 ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).

- 2015-16 D. Failla, 食物の美 *Tabemono no bi: bellezza gusto immagine dei cibi giapponesi*, 30 October 2015 – 04 september 2016, Museo Chiossone ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2015 D. Failla, in collaboration with the Hindu Gitananda Ashram, Amrta, *il nutrimento del cuore*, 25 Feb.-6 Sep. 2015, Museo Chiossone ([special photographic exhibition on the consecration of an Hindu temple, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2015 D. Failla, in collaboration with the National Museum of Oriental Art, Rome, *Alla scoperta del Tibet: Giuseppe Tucci e la Pittura Tibetana*, 3 April – 5 July 2015, Museo Chiossone ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum, G. Tucci's collection of Tibetan painted scrolls](#)).
- 2014-15 D. Failla and Chiossone Museum, in collaboration with the Japan Foundation, *Sgargiante Sobrio: artigianato artistico del Giappone contemporaneo*, Museo Chiossone, Nov. 19, 2014 – January 11, 2015 ([Japan Foundation, international touring exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2014-16 D. Failla, *La Grande Onda di Hokusai e i paesaggi di Hiroshige*, Sep. 27, 2014 – January 11, 2015 ([Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2014 D. Failla, *Incenso Luce Fiori: suppellettili giapponesi in bronzo dei periodi Edo e Meiji*, special exhibition, 25 July – 12 Nov, 2014 ([special exhibition, 76 works, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2014 Mori Mika & Donatella Failla, *Bambole artistiche del Giappone: sculture figurative di Ōno Hatsuko della Collezione Mori Mika*, March 5 – July 27, 2014 ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2014 Donatella Failla, *La Rinascita della Pittura Giapponese: vent'anni di restauri al Museo Chiossone di Genova*, February 27- June 29, 2014 ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2012-13 Donatella Failla, *Porcellane Cinesi e Giapponesi nelle Civiche Collezioni Genovesi*, Museo Chiossone
- 2011 Donatella Failla, *Fiori d'Oriente, Arte e Poesia, metafore e simboli nella cultura artistica e letteraria del Giappone* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2010-11 Donatella Failla & Fabio Massimo Fioravanti, *Zuiganji, la vita dei monaci Zen* (photography) ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2010-11 Donatella Failla, *Animali dello Zodiaco Giapponese* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2008-10 Donatella Failla, *Animalia Japonica: l'immagine giapponese degli animali* ([five special exhibitions in eight sections, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2007 Donatella Failla & Herend Manufacture of Hungary, *Herend e la Via della Porcellana: Chinoiserie e Japonisme*, Museo Chiossone ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2005 Donatella Failla, *Dipinti e Stampe del Mondo Fluttuante: Capolavori Ukiyoe del Museo Chiossone di Genova*, Palazzo Ducale, Genoa ([special exhibition, Palazzo Ducale, Genoa](#)).
- 2004-07 Donatella Failla, *Acqua Fuoco Luce Fiori: Bronzi Cinesi e Giapponesi dall'Antichità al secolo XIX*, ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2003-04 Donatella Failla & Takahashi Shu, *L'Anima d'Oro di Shu Takahashi* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 2001-02 Donatella Failla, *Ukiyoe masterpieces from the Chiossone Museum Collection, Genoa*, The Kobe Shinbunsha, Japan ([special touring exhibition, 5 venues at public museums, Japan](#)).
- 2001 Donatella Failla, *Masterpieces of Japanese Art from the Edo Period to Modernisation* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 1997 Donatella Failla, *Kabuto, l'elmo giapponese* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 1996 Donatella Failla, *Lacche dal Giappone, magnificenza e splendore della collezione Chiossone* ([special exhibition, Palazzo Ducale, Genoa](#)).
- 1996 Donatella Failla, *La perla e la Farfalla: stampe policrome di Ligustro Berio* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 1996 Donatella Failla, *Poesia dei Fiori d'Oriente* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 1996 Donatella Failla, *Edoardo Chiossone, un collezionista erudito nel Giappone Meiji*, second edition, ([special exhibition, Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale "Giuseppe Tucci", Roma](#)).
- 1995 Donatella Failla, *Edoardo Chiossone, un collezionista erudito nel Giappone Meiji*, first edition ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).
- 1985 Donatella Failla, *Tessuti Preziosi del Giappone* ([special exhibition, Chiossone Museum](#)).

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## FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS RECEIVED FROM JAPANESE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND MUSEUMS FOR SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS, RESEARCH AND RESTORATION PROJECTS

- 2016 Invitation by the Tōkyō National Museum to a symposium and workshop on the collections of Japanese Art in Europe and the USA, Jan. 30 – Feb. 5, 2016.
- 2012-13 Japan Foundation Research Fellowship Grant, 12-month research project, ARC, Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto.
- 2011 Ritsumeikan University, Art Research Center (ARC): short-term grant (1-week, December) to attend a special course on 3-D digitization and give a lecture on the future projects of digitization at the Chiossone Museum.

- 2009 Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties: short-term grant (2-week, January) to supervise, in cooperation with Tobunken, the restoration of a Japanese painting from the Chiossone Museum.
- 2007 Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties: short-term grant (3-week, May) to supervise, in cooperation with Tobunken, the restoration of a Japanese lacquer cabinet from the Chiossone Museum.
- 2005 Nihon Keizai Shinbun: two short-term grants (4-week in total) to install and dismantle paintings and prints lent by Chiossone Museum for the special exhibition *Hokusai the Immortal* at the Tokyo National Museum.
- 2005 Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties: short term grant (3-week, May) to supervise, in cooperation with Tobunken, the restoration of Japanese paintings from the Chiossone Museum.
- 2001-02 The Kōbe Shinbunsha: two short term grants (6-week in total) to install and dismantle the special *satogaeri* exhibition *Ukiyo-e paintings and prints from the Chiossone Museum*, Hyōgo Prefectural Museum of History (first venue) and Sendai City Museum (last venue).
- 1999 Tokyo National Research Institute of Japanese Literature: short-term grant (3-week, December) for researching Rinpa figurative sources.
- 1997-98 Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties: three short-term grants (6-week in total) to supervise, in cooperation with Tobunken, the restoration of Japanese paintings from the Chiossone Museum.
- 1997 Tokyo National Museum: 1-month grant to carry out research on Japanese metalwork.
- 1997 Tokyo National Research Institute of Cultural Properties: 1-month grant to establish bilateral cooperation between Tobunken and Chiossone Museum and to study the legal aspects of such cooperation regarding restoration projects.
- 1996 Tokyo National Museum: 1-month grant to give a lecture on the Chiossone Museum at the Tokyo National Museum, complete research in the Foreign Office Archives and prepare the catalogue for the exhibition of the Chiossone lacquer collection at Palazzo Ducale, Genoa.
- 1995 Japan Foundation Research Fellowship: 3-month fellowship grant for carrying out research on Japanese archival sources of Chiossone's life in Japan and study the context and original environment of his Collection.
- 1994 International Research Centre for Japanese Studies (Kyōto Nichibunken): 10-day grant and invitation to present a paper on multilingual *thesauri* of Japanese lacquer techniques and lacquered furniture at the International Conference of Japanese Studies, Kyoto.

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## RECENT RESEARCH AND STUDIES IN PROGRESS

- Research study: animals in Japan's history of culture, image and religion (2008-ongoing)
- Research study: western-style Japanese painters (*yōgakusha*), late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (2013-ongoing).
- Research study: tea consumption and importation of Chinese and Japanese tea porcelain export ware in the milieu of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Genoese aristocracy (2015-2019).
- Research study: Chinese art imported in Japan and their influences on Japan's art and culture (1982-ongoing)
- Research study: later Chinese and Japanese bronze and metalware collections in the Chiossone Museum, with special regard to Japanese flower vases, *karamono* and *meibutsu* works imported in Japan from Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing China (12<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century) (2012-ongoing).
- Comprehensive research study of the traditional Japanese documentary and printed sources used by Mr Edoardo Chiossone to form his art collections (1985-ongoing).
- Research study: integrated interpretation of the sources, historical context and iconographic contents of Japanese paintings in the Chiossone Museum (1985-ongoing).
- Research study: transformation of the Japanese 'celebrated places' (*meisho*) in Japanese figurative arts, literature, theatre, with special regard to Yatsunami (1995-ongoing).
- Construction of multilingual thesauri: Japanese lacquerware, forms and techniques; Japanese textiles, decorative patterns and weaving techniques (1982-1993).

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## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

### TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2012-2021/22 Professor in the History of Art of Eastern Asia, University of Genoa.
- 2003\* Lecturer in the History of Chinese and Japanese textile traditions and weaving techniques at:  
 (A) Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Milan;  
 (B) State Polytechnic, University of Milan, Como Branch;  
 (C) FAR, Fondazione Antonio Ratti & Textile Museum, Como.

\* The same year, I taught a course in the History of Japanese Art at the Ligurian Society of Art and Museum Friends, Genoa.



## INTERNATIONAL LECTURES

Between 1976 and 2021, I have delivered over 450 amongst speeches, lectures, papers, seminars, and gallery talks on Asian Art (especially Japanese and Far Eastern Art) at various academic institutions, cultural associations, museums and universities in Italy and abroad, including the Tōkyō National Museum, the Monash University of Melbourne, the Sainsbury Institute, Norwich, the SOAS, London University, the Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Marco Polo', Venice and the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

## CONSULTATIONS GIVEN TO CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND MUSEUMS OTHER THAN THE CHIOSSONE MUSEUM

I have also been a Consultant to Peripheral and Central Offices of the Ministero per i Beni Culturali and many other cultural institutions and museums in Italy and abroad on various matters (advice on new acquisitions of lacquer and textiles, documentary techniques, instalment of exhibition, collaboration to the organisation and instalment of special exhibitions, essays, articles, catalogue descriptions, etc.).

- 2018-20 Museo delle Culture del Mondo 'Castello D'Albertis', Genoa: specialized study of a Japanese Meiji-period ornamental shelf (*kazaridana*) made in the Hakone *yosegi zaiku* technique;
- 2018-20 Museo delle Culture del Mondo 'Castello D'Albertis', Genoa: specialised catalogue description of Chinese, Japanese and South-Asian musical instruments, flower bronzes, and other East-Asian pieces.
- 2005 Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Giuseppe Tucci', Roma: specialized catalogue description of the Chinese, Korean and Japanese lacquer collections.
- 2005 Monash University, Melbourne, Australia: two lectures on the history of lacquerware and special consultation on the Gandel Collection of Japanese Lacquer.
- 2004 Centro de Documentación y Museo Textil, Terrassa, Barcelona, Spain: Advisor and Consultant on the collection of Chinese and Japanese textiles.
- 1993 Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Pitti, Gabinetto delle Carte, Firenze: advisor on the preliminary research and study of China trade wallpapers and export paintings of the 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 1992-94 Dipartimento di Studi Orientali, Rome University / CNR, Ministero della Ricerca Scientifica: participation in a research project on the Silk Road.
- 1992-93 Museo Nazionale Preistorico Etnografico 'Luigi Pigorini', Rome: advisor on the preliminary reorganisation and installation of the Ragusa Collection of Japanese Art.
- 1991-93 Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Marco Polo', Venice: Specialized catalogue description of the Chinese collection of Qing court costumes.

## COLLABORATIONS FOR LOANS AND LOAN EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZED BY VARIOUS MUSEUMS, INSTITUTIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN GENOA, ITALY AND ABROAD

- 2018 Van Gogh Museum, Amsterdam: *Van Gogh and Japan*, Feb.-June 2018 (loan of Japanese paintings).
- 2017 Comune di Roma, MondoMostre: *Hokusai, sulle orme del Maestro*, Ara Pacis, Oct. 2017- Jan. 2018 (loan of paintings and prints by Hokusai and his pupils; authorship of essay on paintings and prints by Hokusai and his pupils in the Chiossone Museum).
- 2016-17 Museo di Santa Caterina, Treviso: *Le Storie dell'Impressionismo*, Oct. 2016-Apr. 2017 (loan of Japanese prints).
- 2016 Museo Chiossone, Genoa: *Haiku, pitture astratte di Roberto Demarchi* (loan exhibition).
- 2015 Museo Chiossone, Genoa: *Bambole artistiche del Giappone: sculture figurative di Ōno Hatsuko della Collezione Mori Mika* (loan exhibition; essay in post-exhibition volume)
- 2013 Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Marco Polo', Venezia: *La grande onda di Hokusai: toccare il sentimento della forma* (loan of Hokusai's print *The great wave*; authorship of essay in exhibition catalogue).
- 2013 Palazzo Ducale, Genoa: *Geisha e Samurai* (loan of Japanese metalware of the Meiji era).
- 2007 Museo Chiossone, Genoa: *Herend e la Via della Porcellana* (loan exhibition from the Herend Museum and from Genoese municipal collections of porcelain; authorship of exhibition catalogue).
- 2005 Tōkyō National Museum: *Hokusai the Immortal* (loan of Hokusai's paintings and prints).
- 2005 Palazzo Ducale, Genoa: *Dipinti e Stampe del Mondo Fluttuante: capolavori Ukiyo-e del Museo Chiossone di Genova* (loan exhibition of Japanese Ukiyo-e paintings and prints; authorship of exhibition catalogue).
- 2004 Museo Chiossone, Genoa: *L'Anima d'Oro di Shu Takahashi* (loan exhibition; authorship of essay in exhibition catalogue).
- 2004 Palazzo Reale, Milano: *Ukiyoe. Il mondo fluttuante* (loan of Japanese Ukiyo-e prints).
- 2001-02 Kōbe Shinbunsha, Japan: *Ukiyo-e Masterpieces from the Chiossone Museum of Genoa* (loan exhibition of Japanese Ukiyo-e paintings and prints; authorship of exhibition catalogue).

- 1998 Palazzo Reale, Milano: *Hokusai, il vecchio pazzo per la pittura* (loan of paintings and prints by Hokusai).
- 1998 Pinacoteca Nazionale, Bologna: *Riflessi del Sol Levante* (loan of Japanese Ukiyo-e prints; authorship of essay on Edoardo Chiossone as a collector of Ukiyo-e prints).
- 1996 Palazzo Ducale, Genoa: *Lacche Orientali del Museo Chiossone* (loan exhibition; authorship of exhibition catalogue).
- 1994 Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Università di Roma, Comune di Roma: *La Seta e la sua Via*, (loan of Chinese and Japanese costumes and textiles; authorship of essay on official court costume in China).
- 1990 Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale, Venezia, Soprintendenza per i Beni Artistici e Storici, Venezia: *Arte Giapponese. Motivi decorativi del periodo Edo (1603-1868)*, Arezzo, Venezia (loan of decorative arts; authorship of essay on textile and costume decoration of the Edo period).
- 1989 Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale: *Antichi Costumi del teatro Nō - La Collezione della Famiglia Kongō*, Milano, Firenze (essay on Japanese weaving and decoration techniques).
- 1989 Museo Nazionale del Bargello: *Arti del Medio Evo e del Rinascimento. Omaggio ai Carrand 1889-1989*, Firenze (authorship of catalogue entries on Chinese textiles).
- 1987 Comune di Chiavari: *La Chiesa di San Francesco e i Costaguta. Arte e Cultura a Chiavari dal XVI al XVIII secolo*, Chiavari (authorship of essay on Chinese canopy).
- 1985 Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale: *Arte Cinese in Collezioni Italiane Fine-Secolo*, Roma (authorship of essay and catalogue entries on Qing official and court costumes).
- 1982 Soprintendenza per i Beni Artistici e Storici del Piemonte: *Antichi Tessuti della Pinacoteca Civica. La Collezione G.B.A. Gerbo*, Asti (authorship of essay on Chinese and Japanese textiles).
- 1982 Soprintendenza per i Beni Artistici e Storici della Liguria / Comune di Genova / Provincia di Genova: *La Liguria delle Casacce*, Genoa (authorship of essay on Chinese canopy in the church of San Giovanni Battista, Chiavari).
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## SCIENTIFIC MEMBERSHIPS

Member of various associations of Japanese and Oriental studies, regularly participating in their activities and conferences, delivering papers at the conferences organised by **AISTUGIA** (1998, 1999, 2003, 2005), **ENJAC** (2003, 2004), **EAJRS** (2007, 2009, 2010, 2011), **Eajs** (2005, 2011, 2014), **IAJS** (2012, 2014). I have also served as Convenor of the Visual Arts Section at the EAJRS Conference in the 2008 venue in Lecce, Università del Salento, and have been a Board Member of EAJRS (2014-2017). Presently, I am a member of

- **Accademia Ambrosiana, Classis Asiatica**;
  - **AISTUGIA** (Associazione Italiana Studi Giapponesi).
  - **Eajs** (European Association of Japanese Studies);
  - **IAAS** (International Association of Asian Studies);
  - **IAJS** (International Association of Japanese Studies);
  - **ISMEO** (Istituto per l'Africa e l'Oriente)
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## ONGOING RESEARCH AND STUDIES IN PROGRESS

- Animals in Japan's history of culture, image and religion (2008-ongoing)
  - Later Chinese and Japanese bronze and metalware collection in the Chiossone Museum, with special regard to Japanese flower vases, *karamono* and *meibutsu* works imported in Japan from Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing China (2012-ongoing).
  - Chinese works of art imported into Japan and their influences on Japan's art and culture (1982-ongoing)
  - Western-style Japanese painters (*yōgakusha*), late 18<sup>th</sup> to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (2013-ongoing).
  - Tea consumption and importation of Chinese and Japanese tea porcelain export ware in the milieu of 18<sup>th</sup>-century Genoese aristocracy (2015-2019).
  - Japanese documentary and printed sources used by Mr Edoardo Chiossone to form his art collections (1985-ongoing).
  - Integrated interpretation of literary sources, historical context and iconographic contents of Japanese paintings in the Chiossone Museum (1985-ongoing).
  - Transformation of the Japanese 'celebrated places' (*meisho*) in Japanese figurative arts, literature, theatre, with special regard to Yatsunashi (1995-ongoing).
  - Construction of multilingual thesauri: Japanese lacquer, forms and techniques (1982-1993).
  - Japanese textiles, decorative patterns and weaving techniques (1982-ongoing).
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## **PUBLICATIONS**

I have about 200 publications, including books and catalogues, scholarly articles, essays and review articles. Although mainly in Italian, I have also published in English, French, Spanish and Japanese. Some of my articles were issued by international journals: *East and West*, *Artibus Asiae*, *Monumenta Nipponica*, *Bollettino d'Arte*, *FMR*. My publications can be classified into 7 sections, reflecting the main lines of my research studies as an art historian and scholar of Japanese and Chinese Art, whose career has been almost entirely developed in a 'museum environment'.

### **(1) EXHIBITION CATALOGUES OF THE CHIOSSONE COLLECTIONS AND HOSTED SHOWS**

Japanese and Chinese art collected in Japan by Edoardo Chiossone. - Twenty years of restoration of Japanese paintings in the Chiossone Museum. - Chinese and Japanese porcelain in Genoese Municipal Collections. - Chinese and Japanese export porcelain compared to Chinoiserie and Japonisme pieces by Herend. - Ukiyoe paintings and prints. - Contemporary Japanese crafts and painting. - Chinese and Japanese lacquerware. - Chinese and Japanese *meibutsu* textiles of Edo and Meiji periods. - Chinese archaic bronzes historically collected in Japan.

### **(2) ARTICLES ON EDOARDO CHIOSSONE, THE CHIOSSONE MUSEUM, ITS COLLECTIONS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

This section includes scholarly essays and articles concerning new research carried out at the Museum, as well as in Italy and Japan, on Edoardo Chiossone (Genoa 1833 - Tokyo 1898) as artist, collector and founder of the Museum, on his 23-year stay in Japan (1875-1898), on his cultural position and activities in the Meiji milieu; research studies on select works of art in the Chiossone Museum (bronze *karamono* and vases for *ikebana*; Buddhist monumental bronze sculpture; gifts received by the Museum; lacquer; textiles); articles on the protection of cultural properties in Japan; papers given at international conferences of Japanese Studies; explanatory essays on the Museum, its cultural activities and Japanese traditions. Some of my articles, issued in Italian, have been republished in English (one also in Japanese). In almost every case, while working on the English translation, I have substantially reorganized the text.

### **(3) MUSEUM GUIDEBOOKS AND DIDACTIC BOOKLETS FOR CHILDREN**

One of the aims of the Chiossone Museum is to develop and deepen its relationship with children and youth, to enhance their appreciation of the Museum and support their interest in the Far East, its artistic and cultural traditions, with special regard to Japan and China.

### **(4) METHODOLOGY FOR CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION IN THE FIELD OF JAPANESE ART**

In 1982, I won a public job competition at the Cultural Properties and Museum Division of the Ligurian Regional Government, and was appointed as a research scholar in the Museo Chiossone. My given task was to prepare the catalogue file description of the permanent collections, so I started developing a method for analysing and describing Japanese works of art, with special regard to the most neglected 'minor arts' – textiles, *katagami*, and lacquer.

My interest in the representational structure of the language used to describe Japanese works of art led me not only to a general comparison between the cultural object-systems of Japan and the West, but also to the evaluation of the relative incompatibility between the two object-systems. This relative incompatibility required to be fully clarified and represented in the form of conceptual structures featuring the classification and conventional equivalence of descriptive terms, that is, *thesauri*.

### **(5) VARIOUS WRITINGS ON INDIAN, TIBETAN, CHINESE AND JAPANESE ART**

In my early years as a scholar of Oriental Art (1972-1975) and in particular when I was doing my specialization (PhD, 1975-1980) in Rome with Professor Mario Bussagli, I developed a deep interest in Buddhist Iconography and Iconology. This has been for me a means to reach an overall knowledge and understanding of different Asian cultures. Another early field of research was the history of Far Eastern textiles. This kind of approach also led me to research and find oriental works of art in Liguria, my birthplace, a historical region of sailors with a talent for geographic discoveries, as well as of tradesmen of the highest skills. From 1982 to 1995, I carried out several research projects and exhibitions in collaboration with various public institutions, including Italian national and local museums, the University of Genoa, the University of Rome, the local and central offices of the Ministero per i Beni Culturali, the National Museums of Oriental Art in Rome and Venice. My collaboration with other Museums continues to the present.

### **(6) ARTICLES CONTRIBUTED TO MEDIA AND MAGAZINES**

It is very important to advertise the Chiossone Museum, its exhibitions and cultural activities in the field of Japanese Art whenever possible, thus reaching wider audiences.



## (7) PUBLICATIONS IN OTHER FIELDS

In the formative years before and during my first public employment, I contributed to other field of Western Art studies, mainly on historical textiles.

## COMPLETE LIST OF PUBLICATIONS IN DECREASING CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER

### 2022

D. FAILLA, “Otowasan Kiyomizudera 音羽山清水寺. Art imagery of a famous pilgrimage site in the late and final Edo period” ([article in elaboration](#)).

### 2021

D. FAILLA, “Animali e natura in Giappone”, *Civiltà e Religioni*, 7 (2021), pp. 289-330 ([article](#), 42 pp.) ISSN 2421-3152

D. FAILLA, “Chinese and Japanese Archaistic Bronzes in the ‘Edoardo Chiossone’ Museum of Oriental Art, Genoa”, in: *L’eredità umana e scientifica di Mario Bussagli* (Atti del Convegno, Roma, September 2017), Museo delle Civiltà, ISMEO, Scienze e Lettere 2021, pp. 383-402 (text), plates 1-7 ([article](#), 27 pp.) ISBN 978-88-6687-201-6

### 2020

D. FAILLA, “Collecting *karamono kodō* 唐物古銅 in Meiji Japan: Archaistic Chinese Bronzes in the Chiossone Museum, Genoa, Italy” [paper presented at the International Conference *Asia Collections outside Asia: Questioning Artefacts, Cultures and Identities in the Museum*, Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, June 2018], eds Iside Carbone and Helen Wang, *Kunsttexte.de/Transcultural Perspectives*, no. 4, 2020 ([article](#), 15 pp.). ISSN 1618-8101

D. FAILLA, “Lo ‘scaffale D’Albertis’, un mobile giapponese in mosaico ligneo di Hakone nel Museo delle Culture del Mondo di Genova”, in D. FAILLA, M. C. DE PALMA, eds, *Il kazaridana 飾り棚 D’Albertis, uno scaffale giapponese nel Museo delle Culture del Mondo di Genova*, Sagep Editori, Genoa 2020, pp. 14-46. ISBN 978-88-6373-703-5

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D. FAILLA, “Yōgakusha’s Landscape Views and Visions, Metaphors and Symbols in Late 18th-Century Japan”, *Art Research, Special Issue. Journal of ART RESEARCH CENTER, Ritsumeikan University, February 2020, vol. 1*. Collected Papers from the Kobe University-Ritsumeikan University-Freie Universität Berlin Joint Workshop on June 30 and July 1, 2017 at the Institute of Art History, Freie Universität Berlin, “*Landscape in Art, Theory and Practice across Media, Time and Place*”, pp. 11-14 ([article](#), 4 pp.). <http://www.arc.ritsumei.ac.jp/>

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### 2019

D. FAILLA, “The iris theme in the Rinpa painting of Kyōto and Edo: literary, pictorial and poetical interpretations and transfigurations”, in: Kuniko TANAKA, ed., *Bellezza in fiore: colori e parole nell’estetica asiatica, Asiatica Ambrosiana 9 / Accademia Ambrosiana, Classe di Studi sull’Estremo Oriente*, IX Dies Academicus in Classis Asiatica, Milano 2019, vol. 9, pp. 17-58 ([article](#), 42 pp.). ISBN 978-88-6894-440-7

D. FAILLA, “Sumitomo Zaidan’s long-standing support in favour of the Chiossone Museum for the preservation of Japanese paintings”, in: *New Life for Timeless Art: Commemorating 30 years of Conservation Projects by the Sumitomo Foundation*, special exhibition, autumn 2019 ([short article](#); [Japanese version](#) pp. 434-435, [English version](#) pp. 508-509).

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D. FAILLA, *Splendore e Purezza: il Tibet nell’Arte di Han Yuchen*. 大美至纯 – 韩玉臣的西藏油画艺术. *Splendour and Purity: Tibet in the Art of Han Yuchen*, exhibition catalogue, Sala Munizioniere, Palazzo Ducale, Sagep Editori, Genoa 2019. ISBN 978-88-6373-663-2

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D. FAILLA, F. SIMONETTI, eds, *Il Servizio Spinola: il tè tra Oriente e Occidente*, Museo di Palazzo Reale, Galleria Nazionale di Palazzo Spinola, Sagep Editori, Genoa 2019. ISBN 978-88-6373-615-1

### 2018

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- D. FAILLA, *Genoa, The Museo d’Arte Orientale ‘Edoardo Chiossone’. Guide to the visit*, Silvana Editoriale, Cinisello Balsamo 2017 (48 pp. ill. in colour) ISBN/EAN: 978-88-3663796.
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## 2011

D. FAILLA, *Fiori d'Oriente, Arte e Poesia: metafore e simboli nella cultura artistica e letteraria del Giappone*, exhibition catalogue, with a short essay by E. Franceschi, F. Locardi, Huang Min (3 pp.), Museo d'Arte Orientale 'Edoardo Chiossone', Comune di Genova 2011 ([exhibition catalogue, 176 pp., ill. col., bw](#)).

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## 1994-2021 PAPERS DELIVERED AT CONFERENCES AND LECTURES DELIVERED AT CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN ITALY AND ABROAD

### INTERNATIONAL LECTURES

Between 1976 and 2018, I have delivered over 450 amongst speeches, lectures, papers, seminars, and gallery talks on Asian Art (especially Japanese and Far Eastern Art) at various academic institutions, cultural associations, national and municipal museums, universities in Italy and abroad, including: Tōkyō National Museum; Monash University of Melbourne; Sainsbury Institute for Japanese Art and Culture, Norwich, UK; SOAS, London University; Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto; Scuola Italiana di Studi Orientali (ISEAS), Kyoto; Italian Institute of Culture, Osaka; National Museum of Korea, Seoul; International House of Japan; Accademia Ambrosiana, Milano; Istituto Giapponese di Cultura, Roma; Freie Universität Berlin; Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Marco Polo', Venice; Museo Nazionale d'Arte Orientale 'Giuseppe Tucci', Rome; Stony Brook University, Long Island, USA; Bologna University.

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  - D. FAILLA ([lecture](#)), *Japanese Art in the Heart of Genoa: the Chiossone Museum*. **Ōsaka, Italian Institute of Culture**, 3 October 2012 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).
  - D. FAILLA, *One-hour special interview on the Chiossone Museum's cultural and educational activities and policies*. **The National Museum of Korea, Seoul**, 14 September 2012 ([English, interview given upon request of the Korean Museum Association, and posted on their website](#)).
  - D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *A Strategy of cultural and didactic activities at the Chiossone Museum of Japanese Art, Genoa, Italy*. **General Conference of ASEMUS** (Asia-Europe Museum Consortium), National Museum of Korea, Seoul. 13 September 2012 ([PPT presentation, English](#)).
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  - D. FAILLA, *JSPS International Training Program (ITP). Global On-site Training Program for Young Researchers on the Protection of Cultural heritage and Art Work. Reports from Participants in FY 2010 (second half) and 2011*. Kyōto, Ritsumeikan University, Conference Hall, Rits-DMUCH, 11 February 2012 [Convenor and Commentator on the young researchers' reports, English. Concluding remarks in the form of a paper and PPT presentation \(English\)](#).



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- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), 御花入師 *Ohanairi-shi: Flower Vase Masters of the Edo period and their signatures as primary historical sources. Recently discovered bronze vases for rikka, chabana, nageirebana, and bunjinbana in the Chiossone Museum*. **22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of EAJRS** (European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists), University of Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, UK, 7-11 September 2011 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

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- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *La Villetta Di Negro oggi: il Museo Chiossone, una Risorsa Internazionale per gli Studi Giapponesi*”. **Giornata di Studi su Gian Carlo Di Negro**, Accademia Ligure di Scienze e Lettere, 30 June 2010 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).
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- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Connecting Europe and Meiji Japan: Edoardo Chiossone’s contribution to political imagerie, official representations of Japanese cultural heritage, and the internationalization of Japanese art*. **International Conference Orientalism / Occidentalism. Languages of Culture versus Languages of Description**, Russian Institute for Cultural Research, Moscow, 23-25 September 2010 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).
- [Participant](#), as Director of the Chiossone Museum and member of ASEMUS (consortium of Asian Museums in Asia and Europe in the Asia-Europe Foundation) in the **10-year Anniversary International Conference of ASEMUS** (Asia-Europe Museum Consortium), Musée di Quai Branly, Paris, 8-11 September 2010.
- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *The Chiossone Museum’s Historical Inventory of the Ukiyo-e Collection dated 1898*. **21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of EAJRS** (European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists), Chiossone Museum, Musei di Strada Nuova, Genoa, 1-4 September 2010 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

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- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *The ‘Iris’ Motif and Pictorial Interpretations of the ‘Eight Bridges’ Chapter of the Tales of Ise*. SOAS, University of London, 21 February 2009 ([lecture with PPT presentation](#), [English](#)).
- D. FAILLA ([lecture](#)), “*Japanese Art in the Heart of Genoa. The Chiossone Museum, an International Resource for Japanese Studies and Cultural Activities*”, Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Art and Culture, Norwich, 19 Feb. 2009 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).
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## 2008

- **12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of EAJS** (European Association of Japanese Studies), Università del Salento, Lecce, September 2008, [Member of EAJS and Convenor of Section 4a “Visual Arts”](#).
- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Sculture Buddhiste dei periodi Heian e Kamakura nel Museo Chiossone di Genova*. **Giornata di Studi Kongo Rikishi**, Venaria Reale, Turin, 11 April 2008 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

## 2007

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- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Ryūkyū Lacquerware in the Chiossone Museum of Oriental Art, Genoa*. **5th International Conference on Okinawan Studies. *Imagined Okinawa: Challenges from Time and Space***, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Department of East Asian Studies, 14-16 September 2006 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

## 2005

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- D. FAILLA ([member](#)), *Meeting of Working Group 4 ASEF for the preparation of the travelling exhibition "Self and Other. Portraits from Asia and Europe"*, Asia-Europe Foundation, Centro Scientifico-Cultural de Macao, Lisbon, Portugal.
- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Pitture di Falchi per lo Shōgun*, **29th Annual Conference of AISTUGIA** (Associazione Italiana Studi Giapponesi), Gabinetto Vieusseux, University of Florence, September 2005 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

## 2004

- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Building Multilingual Thesauri in the Field of Japanese Art*. **2nd International Conference of ENJAC** (European Network of Japanese Art Collections), National Museum of Decorative Arts, Prague, September 2004 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).
- D. FAILLA ([member](#)), *Meeting of Working Group 4 ASEF for the preparation of the travelling exhibition "Self and Other. Portraits from Asia and Europe"*, Asia-Europe Foundation, The British Museum, London, January 2004.

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- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Edoardo Chiossone e la Società Jounsha di Kyōto*. **27th Annual Conference of AISTUGIA** (Associazione Italiana Studi Giapponesi), University of Cosenza, September 2003 ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

## 1999

- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Edoardo Chiossone e Suzuki Chōōsai: una collaborazione documentata del 1886-1887*. **23rd Annual Conference of AISTUGIA** (Associazione Italiana Studi Giapponesi), Republic of San Marino (September) ([PPT presentation followed by questions and answers](#)).

## 1998

- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Edoardo Chiossone (1833-1898), artista incisore e grande collezionista d'arte nel Giappone Meiji*. **22nd Annual Conference of AISTUGIA** (Associazione Italiana Studi Giapponesi), Cortina d'Ampezzo City Council, September 1998 ([presentation of slides followed by questions and answers](#)).

## 1994

- D. FAILLA, *Japanese lacquer art and lacquered furniture*. **Kyōto Conference on Japanese Studies**, Kyōto Nichibunken, International Research Center for Japanese Studies, Kyōto, October 1994 ([individual paper with slides, English, followed by questions and answers](#)).
- D. FAILLA ([conference paper](#)), *Japanese lacquer art and lacquered furniture: two multilingual faceted microthesauri*. **3rd International Conference of ISKO** (International Society for Knowledge Organization and Quality Management), National School of Librarianship, Copenhagen, June 1994 ([presentation of slides followed by questions and answers](#)).

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