

# Banpakugaku: Expo-logy, Issue No. 4

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The Whole World Within the Smallest State: Mission Exhibitions at the Vatican Pavilion, Expo 1937 Paris

FURUSAWA Yuria

This paper focuses on the “Hall of the Missions” at the Pontifical Catholic Pavilion of Expo 1937 Paris, examining how mission territories were represented there. Expo 1937 Paris marked the Vatican City State’s first participation with its own pavilion, following its establishment by the Lateran Treaty of 1929. The exhibitions of the Vatican Pavilion reflected the dual character of the Vatican as both the smallest sovereign state and the center of the Roman Catholic Church, an international organization with believers worldwide. Unlike a typical national pavilion, which would showcase the culture or industry of a single country, the Vatican Pavilion contained within it a multitude of nations and cultures.

In the Hall of the Missions, artworks were gathered from regions that Catholics regarded as mission territories, including Asia, Africa, and Oceania. These were Christian artworks created in areas where Christianity had been introduced, but produced in local artistic traditions. They included paintings and sculptures of the Virgin Mary, represented with the dress and features of local people, as well as crafts employing traditional local materials and techniques. The exhibition of such works visually expressed the universality of Catholicism by embracing the individuality and diversity of local cultures. At the same time, however, it distinguished between Christian countries and mission territories, and had an underlying colonialist framework.

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# Nineteenth-Century Expos and the Travelogues of Nāṣer al-Dīn Shāh of Iran

TERADA Yuki

This paper examines how nineteenth-century expos shaped the worldview of Nāṣer al-Dīn Shāh (r. 1848–1896) of Iran, who traveled to Europe three times during his reign. Drawing on his travelogues, it focuses on Expo 1873 Vienna, Expo 1878 Paris, and Expo 1889 Paris, all of which he visited. I consider how Iran was positioned and represented at each of these expos, how he perceived his own country and others through viewing the exhibitions, and how these perceptions evolved over time. A close reading of his descriptions reveals that his visits to expos enabled him to grasp the world order structured around the Western powers and their colonies, while also establishing his self-understanding as someone close to the former. At the same time, the travelogues show that, despite Iran's vulnerability to the economic and political pressures of Britain and Russia, he observed expos from a standpoint that belonged neither to the Western powers nor to the colonized. Moreover, by recording favorable assessments of Iran's displays, he sought to project both his own image and the sovereignty of the state of Iran to an international audience.