

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 197, December 2014

Exhibition "Autograph manuscripts and original artwork of well-known people"

Committee for Exhibit

あの人々の直筆

国立国会図書館平成26年度企画展示

平成26年
10月18日(土)～
11月18日(火)
日・祝日休館

10:00～19:00
(土曜は18:00まで)

国立国会図書館
東京本館 新館展示室

入場無料

展示替え、展示場所の変更を行います。
前掲：10月18日(土)～11月1日(土)
後掲：11月4日(火)～11月18日(火)
アクセス：〒100-8901 東京都千代田区千代田1-1-1 国立国会図書館新館展示室にて開催されます。

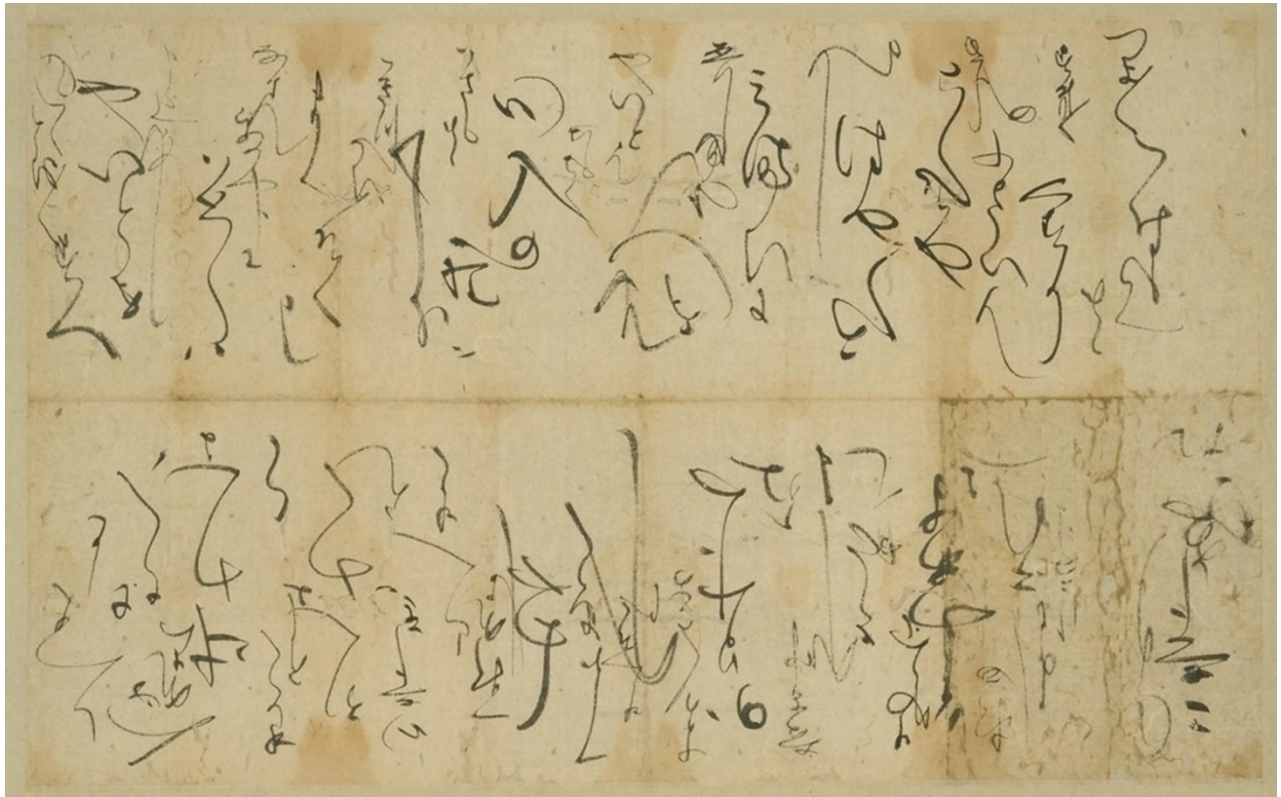
国立国会図書館

<<Poster of the exhibition>>

In addition to printed materials, the National Diet Library (NDL) owns a wide variety of original manuscripts. From October 18 to November 18, 2014, the NDL held an exhibition displaying autograph manuscripts and original artwork by 150 well-known people who played active roles in Japan during the time from the early modern period until the mid-20th century. What did the handwriting of well-known people featured on paper money or in school text books look like? The exhibition also included pictures or TV and radio scripts which became available this past spring. This article presents five selected autograph manuscripts and original artworks from the exhibition.

- HOSOKAWA Gracia, Letter [NDL call no.: WA25-35] *Special Exhibition

HOSOKAWA Gracia was a daughter of AKECHI Mitsuhide, who famously rebelled against ODA Nobunaga in 1582. At the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, her husband, HOSOKAWA Tadaoki sided with the forces of TOKUGAWA Ieyasu and the Eastern Army. Faced with capture by forces loyal to TOYOTOMI Hideyori and the Western Army commanded by ISHIDA Mitsunari, she instead chose to end her own life. One of the first people from a noble samurai family to convert to Christianity, "Gracia" was her Christian name.



<<Letter from HOSOKAWA Gracia to her handmaiden>>

In this letter, written to her handmaiden in an elegant calligraphy using kana characters, she expresses her characteristic consideration for those around her.

- KATSU Kaishū, Self-portrait with a poem [NDL call no.: KATSU Kaishū Papers 43]

KATSU Kaishū was a naval navigator and Japanese statesman from the end of the Edo period to the early Meiji period. After graduating from the Nagasaki Naval Academy, he successfully made the first passage across the Pacific to the United States as captain of the warship Kanrin-maru. After his return to Japan, he contributed to the establishment of the Tokugawa navy. He is also famous as a key person to successfully open Edo Castle through a bloodless surrender during the civil war called the Boshin War in Japan, from 1868 to 1869 between forces of the ruling Tokugawa Shogunate and those seeking to return political power to the imperial court.

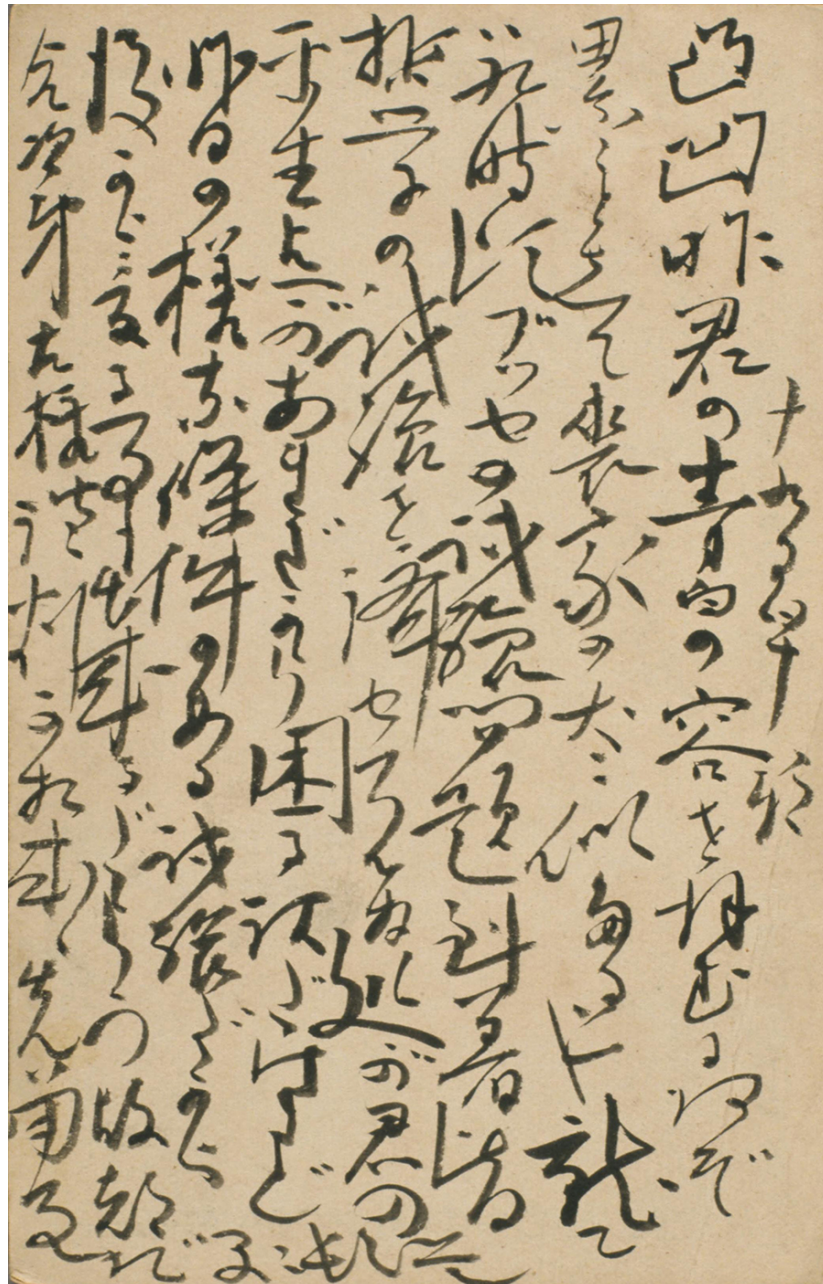


<<Self-portrait with words by KATSU Kaishū>>

This self-portrait is accompanied by a poem. The poem is an expression of his feelings after he had fallen from power: "It is not in my disposition to fuss over details. Whether I am a counselor to the Imperial court or an ordinary person outside of the government, in any situation, I see the world with an unclouded mind."

• NATSUME Sōseki, Postcard to MASAOKA Shiki [NDL call no.: Hon-betsu3-85]

NATSUME Sōseki, born Kinnosuke, was a Japanese novelist of the Meiji period and is often considered one of the greatest writers in modern Japanese history. He became friends with the famous haiku poet MASAOKA Shiki around 1889, with each giving the other criticism of his writing.

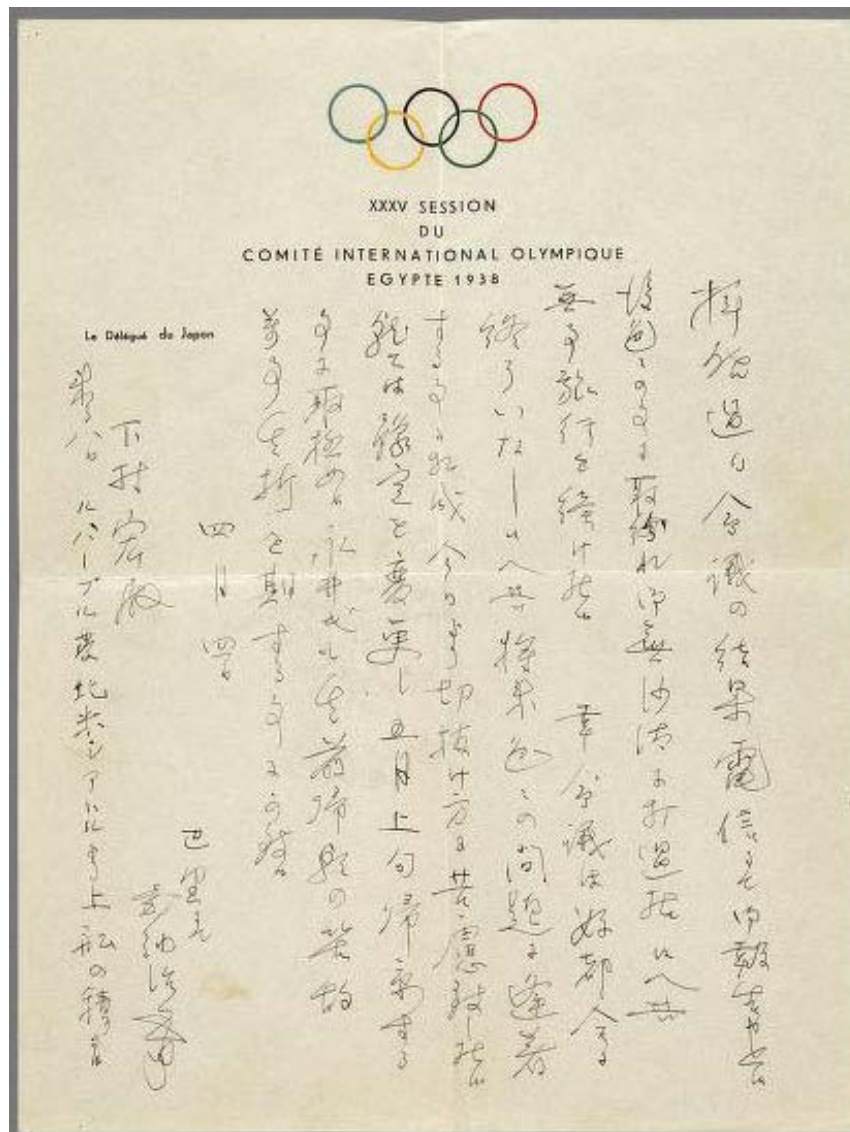


<<Postcard from Sōseki to Shiki>>

This is a postcard from Sōseki to Shiki postmarked June 19, 1892, when both were still at Tokyo Imperial University. Sōseki reports that he has finished a philosophy exam and recommends that Shiki, a low-ranking student, insist that the professor give him an opportunity to make up the exams. Shiki, however, did not take a re-exam and left the school, instead.

- KANŌ Jigorō, Letter [NDL call no.: SHIMOMURA Hiroshi Papers (1) 256]

KANŌ Jigorō was an educator and a judo expert during the Meiji and Shōwa periods. After graduating from Tokyo Imperial University, he founded a form of Judo based on Jūjutsu at the Kodokan Judo Institute. He contributed widely to the development of sports in Japan, and served as the first International Olympic Committee (IOC) member from Japan.



<<Letter from KANO to SHIMOMURA>>

In July, 1936, at the IOC Session in Berlin, Tokyo was selected to host the 1940 Summer Olympics. As the Second Sino-Japanese War became prolonged, however, the actual holding of the games became increasingly problematic.

This letter was written to SHIMOMURA Hiroshi, chair of the Japan Sports Association, in March 1938, after Kanō, who had made every effort during the campaign to host the Olympics in Tokyo, attended the IOC Session in Cairo. In this letter, he expresses his struggles with enormous difficulties. One month later, he died of pneumonia while sailing back to Japan. Tokyo officially declined to host the Olympics in July of that same year. You can learn more about the Lost Olympics in this article from the [195th issue of the NDL Newsletter](#).

- KAWANABE Kyōsai, Picture diary [NDL call no.: WA31-14]

KAWANABE Kyōsai was a Japanese painter. He received his artistic training in the Kanō school under UTAGAWA Kuniyoshi and is widely known for his brushwork, a humorous touch, and outstanding skill of depiction.



<<Kyōsai's picture diary>>

Kyōsai kept a picture diary every day until a month before his death. In this diary, he recorded his visitors, paintings he produced, and lessons he gave. His light and easy writing holds the reader's attention from beginning to end. This page depicts the British architect Josiah CONDER, who was apprenticed to Kyōsai in 1881, seated with his long legs stretched out, as if he felt cramped sitting in a low chair.



<<Display in the exhibition>>

Index of the exhibition and major figures

Part I: Early modern period

- Policymakers and people in the inner circle - TOKUGAWA Yoshinobu, TOKUGAWA Nariaki, NINOMIYA Sontoku
- Literary figures (Scholars of Kokugaku (Japanese philology and philosophy) and dramatists) - MOTOORI Norinaga, KYOKUTEI Bakin
- Men of science (Medicinal herb scientists, scholars of Rangaku (lit. "Dutch Learning")) -- Philipp Franz Balthasar von SIEBOLD, SUGITA Gempaku, TAKANO Chōei

Part II: Modern period

- Statesmen during the end of the Edo period and Meiji Restoration - SAIGŌ Takamori, YOSHIDA Shōin, KATSU Kaishū, ITAGAKI Taisuke, ŌKUBO Toshimichi, FUKUZAWA Yukichi
- Prime Ministers - ITŌ Hirobumi, HARA Takashi, YOSHIDA Shigeru, HATOYAMA Ichirō
- Diet members - OZAKI Yukio, ASANUMA Inejiro, ICHIKAWA Fusae
- Military officers in the Russo-Japanese War - AKIYAMA Saneyuki, NOGI Maresuke
- Industrialists in the Meiji period - IWASAKI Yatarō, SHIBUSAWA Eiichi
- Educators - TSUDA Umeko, KANŌ Jigorō
- Scholars and scientists - MAKINO Tomitaro, MINAKATA Kumagusu, NOGUCHI Hideyo, WATSUJI Tetsuro
- Literary figures - IZUMI Kyōka, MASAOKA Shiki, AKUTAGAWA Ryūnosuke, YOSANO Akiko, YANAGIWARA Byakuren, TANIZAKI Junichiro, SHIBA Ryōtarō
- Artists -- OKAKURA Tenshin, YOKOYAMA Taikan, KITAŌJI Rosanjin

(Various types of materials)

- Pictures -- KAWANABE Kyōsai, ASAI Chū, KAWASE Hasui, FUJITA Tsuguharu, KANŌ Hōgai
- Autographs - EDOGAWA Rampo, MISHIMA Yukio
- Letters to family -- MUTSU Munemitsu, SHIRASU Masako
- Diaries - SAITŌ Makoto, ASHIDA Hitoshi
- TV and radio scripts - KIKUTA Kazuo, FUJIMURA Shiho, MITA Yoshiko
- Others - SOEJIMA Taneomi

A complete list of names is available [here](#) (in Japanese). A list of the exhibited materials is available [here](#) (in Japanese).

The NDL provides information about the exhibition in the Tokyo Main Library and in the Kansai-kan on Facebook (in Japanese). Even those who do not read Japanese can still enjoy beautiful photos of the exhibited materials. Please visit our [Facebook](#).

Related articles:

- [Exhibition "The great match!"](#) (No. 193, April 2014)
- [Exhibition "Japan and the West—Intersection of Images"](#) (No. 188, April 2013)