

# How to use personal papers of prewar Japanese politicians: background knowledge for historical research

Fumi ASHINA

\*This paper corresponds to Part 3 of “How to use personal papers of Japanese politicians”(政治家の個人文書を使う)

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### Explanatory notes:

- (1) The titles of Japanese books, journals, articles as well as Japanese technical terms are romanized and written in italics before the Japanese words. English translations in parentheses are provisionally made by the author for readers' information.  
Ex. *Kingendai Nihon jinbutsu shiryō jōhō jiten* 近現代日本人物史料情報辞典 (dictionary of information on materials about persons in Japan of modern times and present day)
- (2) Names are written in this order: family name, given name  
Ex. Itō Hirobumi
- (3) Titles of materials or websites are described in this order: romanized Japanese, original Japanese and English translation in parentheses if it exists.  
Regarding the publications or website of Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan 国立国会図書館 (the National Diet Library), only its English name is used to avoid wordiness.

## Introduction

For those who are engaged in historical study of modern history in particular, preliminary knowledge and research methods to use private documents, collections of Modern Japanese political figures are introduced in this paper.

In general, when using unpublished materials, it is necessary to repeat the process back and forth to seek primary materials as the subject matter of research, read to grasp characteristics of the found materials, and study the context of the materials' background.

Shapes, styles, contents, printing techniques of private papers of modern politicians dealt with in this paper are various as they were written by people from diverse strata of society. Because of such variety, a certain amount of preliminary knowledge is required to find and read the materials other than knowledge related to each scholar's subject.

This paper is the revised edition of a handout presented at the conference of European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists of 2014<sup>1</sup>. It is intended for foreign users of personal papers of politicians of prewar period for the first time or librarians etc. To

<sup>1</sup> 25th European Association of Japanese Resource Specialists Conference at University of Leuven, September 19, 2014 : The title of presentation 近代の文書資料を使う—調査の予備知識とくずし字の読解: How to use original documents of modern Japan: background knowledge for historical research, methods of decipherment of *kuzushiji*.

support such usage, Japanese version is also carried this time as the content seems to be useful even for domestic users.

The object of this paper is mainly the personal papers of political figures in the collection of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (Kensei Shiryōshitsu), to which the author belongs, from Meiji to the prewar Shōwa period. In this paper, the term “politicians” is used in a broader sense because not only members of the parliament but also bureaucrats and military officers are considered to be politicians in a very wide definition, and their papers have been collected in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room.

As for reference books and research methods, there are some useful literature and websites<sup>2</sup>. This paper is aimed to be a practical and compact introduction to find and comprehend personal papers of politicians<sup>3</sup>. In this sense, this paper is an introduction to some clues of research methods rather than an annotated bibliography.

This paper is composed of 5 chapters. How to find personal papers of politicians etc. from the collection of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (Kensei Shiryōshitsu) is explained in chapter I; kinds of materials, such as letters, documents, diaries and printing techniques in modern times are introduced in chapter II; decipherment of *kuzushiji* (characters in cursive style) in modern times is mentioned in chapter III.

In addition, there are methods of survey of official positions of politicians, bureaucrats and military officers in chapter IV. To decipher any documents, it is necessary to comprehend the context and background information. In chapter V, one of the catalogues

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<sup>2</sup> Robert E. Ward., *A guide to Japanese reference and research materials in the field of political science*, University of Michigan Press, 1950. (Robert E. Ward and Hajime Watanabe., *Japanese political science: a guide to Japanese reference and research materials*, rev. ed. University of Michigan Press, 1961.); Kokusai Bunka Kaikan Toshoshitsu 国際文化会館図書室 (ed.), *Nihon Kenkyū no tame no sankō tosho* 日本研究のための参考図書 *A guide to reference books for Japanese studies*, rev.ed. Kokusai Bunka Kaikan Toshoshitsu 国際文化会館図書室, 1997.; Noriko Asato (ed). *Handbook for Asian studies specialists*, Libraries Unlimited, [2013] ; National Diet Libray “Refarensu tsūru shōkai (jinbun sōgōkei)” レファレンス・ツール紹介 (人文総合系) The introduction of reference tools (Humanities)

[http://dl.ndl.go.jp/view/download/digidepo\\_8385845\\_po\\_2012refer\\_06.pdf?contentNo=6](http://dl.ndl.go.jp/view/download/digidepo_8385845_po_2012refer_06.pdf?contentNo=6);

A useful work extensively introducing existing literatures for historical research extensively is:

-Nakamura Takafusa 中村隆英 and Itō Takashi 伊藤隆 (eds.), *Kindai Nihon kenkyū nyūmon* 近代日本研究入門 (introduction to study of Japan of modern times), *zōhoban, shinsōban* 増補版 新装版 (enlarged edition in new format), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2012. (first ed., 1977; enlarged ed., 1983.)

-Satō Yoshimaru 佐藤能丸, *Bunken Risāchi Nihon Kingendaiishi* 文献リサーチ日本近現代史 (Research on literature of Japanese modern and present day history), Fuyō Shobō Shuppan 芙蓉書房出版, 2000

-Tsuchida Hiroshige 土田宏成 “Kindai no shiryō” 近代の史料 (Modern Japanese historical materials) in *Nihonshi shiryōron* 日本史史料論 (Modern Japanese historical materials Japanese), Gomi Fumihiko and Sugimori Tetsuya 五味文彦・杉森哲也 (author and editor), Hōsō Daigaku Kyōiku Shinkōkai 放送大学教育振興会, Enu Eichi Kē Shuppan NHK出版, 2015.3. pp.209-278.

-The Website of Dr. Sven Saaler “JapaneseHistory.de” [http://japanesehistory.de/wordpress/?page\\_id=342](http://japanesehistory.de/wordpress/?page_id=342) in which useful materials for study of history are extensively covered.

<sup>3</sup> The websites cited in this paper were accessed September 30, 2016.

is introduced as an example for understanding archival descriptions related to legislation of the Meiji period.

## **I How to find personal papers of modern Japan politicians (1): chiefly documents in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room**

### **1. To research personal papers of modern Japan politicians**

#### **■ Personal papers of modern Japan politicians**

Are the documents of the specific politician you are interested in preserved in the archives or other places? Useful literature or website is as below:

\*Itō Takashi 伊藤隆 and Suetake Yoshiya 季武嘉也 (eds.), *Kingendai Nihon jinbutsu shiryō jōhō jiten* 近現代日本人物史料情報辞典 (dictionary of information on materials about persons in Japan of modern times and present day), 4 vols., Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 2004-2011.

As a sequel, “Kingendaishi no jinbutsu shiryō jōhō” 近現代史の人物史料情報 (information on materials about persons in Japan of modern times and present-day) is published serially in *Nihon Rekishi* 日本歴史 (Japanese history) 771 (2012.8.)～.

With regard to notable figures in the modern and present-day history of Japan, locations and state of disclosure of unpublished relevant materials such as primary sources, diaries and letters as well as progress of publication are explained. It is indispensable to refer to related articles to study specific persons.

\**Kyū kazoku-ke shiryō shozai chōsa hōkokusho* 旧華族家史料所在調査報告書 (report on the locations of documents of families of former peers), 5 vols., Gakushūin Daigaku Shiryōkan 学習院大学史料館, 1993.

With regard to 1,011 families of former peers, holding institutions of papers, diaries and letters, names of materials, numbers of materials, origins, catalogues etc. are presented.

\*[Website] Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryōkan 国文学研究資料館 (National Institute of Japanese Literature) “Siryō jōhō kyōyūka dētabēsu”

史料情報共有化データベース (National Archival Information and Network)

[http://base1.nijl.ac.jp/infolib/meta\\_pub/SKYDefault.exe?DB\\_ID=G0000004SKY&GRP\\_ID=G0000004&DEF\\_XSL=eng&IS\\_TYPE=meta&IS\\_STYLE=eng](http://base1.nijl.ac.jp/infolib/meta_pub/SKYDefault.exe?DB_ID=G0000004SKY&GRP_ID=G0000004&DEF_XSL=eng&IS_TYPE=meta&IS_STYLE=eng)

Keyword search by names of materials (documents) is possible, based on information provided by institutions nationwide holding historical materials.

\*[Website] “Kindai Nihon Siryō Kenkyūkai website” 近代日本史料研究会ウェブサイト (the website of Society for the Study of Modern Japan)

<http://kins.jp/seika.html>

Reports of achievements of studies by the society under the auspices of MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) subsidy are published: full text search of interviews of researchers who have extensive knowledge of historical materials is possible, it could be more efficient to research a certain theme if relevant remarks by researchers are found.

\*Nichigai Asoshiētsu Henshūbu 日外アソシエーツ編集部 (ed.), *Nikki shokanshū kaidai mokuroku* 日記書簡集解題目録 (Diaries and letters written by Japanese: an annotated bibliography), 2nd vol., *seijika shisōka* 政治家・思想家 (politicians and thinkers), Kinokuniya Shoten 紀伊国屋書店, 1998.

It covers bibliographic records and explanatory notes published up to 1997: diaries and collections of letters of 968 politicians and thinkers, diaries and collections of letters of 25 organizations.

■ Useful accounts or discussion about modern historical records on personal papers of politicians

\*Nakamura Takafusa 中村隆英 and Itō Takashi 伊藤隆 (eds.), *Kindai Nihon kenkyū nyūmon* 近代日本研究入門 (introduction to study of Japan of modern times) *zōhoban sinsōban* 増補版 新装版 (enlarged edition in new format), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2012.(first ed., 1977; enlarged ed., 1983.)

\*Katō Shūichi 加藤周一ほか (et al. eds.), *Kindai shiryō kaisetsu sōmokuji sakuin* 近代史料解説・総目次・索引 (commentaries of historical materials of modern times, tables of contents, index), Iwanami Shoten 岩波書店, 1992.

\*Matsuo Takayoshi 松尾尊兌, “Kingendai shiryōron” 近現代史料論 (historical materials of modern times and present day) in *Iwanami kōza Nihon tsūshi* 岩波講座日本通史 (Iwanami course Japanese history), Asao Naohiro 朝尾直弘 (et al.eds), Iwanami Shoten 岩波書店, 1995, pp.97-128.

\*Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆, “Kindai bunsho to seijishi kenkyū” 近代文書と政治史研究 (documents of modern times and study of political history), in *Rekishi to sozai* 歴史と素材 (history and materials), Ishigami Eiichi 石上英一 (ed.), Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 2004.

\*Mikuriya Takashi 御厨貴 (the author and editor), *Kingendai Nihon wo shiryō de yomu* 近現代日本を史料で読む (to read about Japan of modern times and present day by historical materials), Chūō Kōron Shinsha 中央公論新社, 2011.

■ Other method

\*Find contemporaries who wrote any articles related to the subject through NDL-OPAC, NDL digital collection, Kōseisha zasshi kiji sakuin shūsei dētābēsu “皓星社雑誌記事索引集成データベース” and check if any descriptions of relevant documents are included in the bibliographic information.

\*[website] National Diet Library “NDL-OPAC”

<http://ndlopac.ndl.go.jp/> (in Japanese)

<https://ndlopac.ndl.go.jp/eng/> (in English)

NDL-OPAC is a database for searching the collections of National Diet Library.

\*[website] National Diet Library “Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan dejitaru korekushon” 国立国会図書館デジタルコレクション (National Diet Library digital collections)

<http://dl.ndl.go.jp/> (in Japanese)

[http://dl.ndl.go.jp/?\\_\\_lang=en](http://dl.ndl.go.jp/?__lang=en) (in English)

The National Diet Library Digital Collections is a database in which you can search and view digitized images of the materials of NDL.

\*“Kōseisha zasshi kiji sakuin shūsei dētābēsu (Zassaku Purasu)” 皓星社雑誌記事索引 集成データベース (ざっさくプラス) (Database of magazine articles and index by Kōseisha) Combined index of magazine articles in Meiji, Taishō and the early period of Shōwa eras to the present. To use this database completely, prior contract is required.

## **2. How to find personal papers of politicians in Kensei Shiryōshitsu (Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room)**

■Kensei Shiryōshitsu (Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room)

Kensei Shiryōshitsu is one of the largest archives of personal papers of modern Japanese politicians; its collection consists of three types.

- (1)Kensei Shiryō 憲政資料 (Materials on Modern Japanese political history): personal papers of politicians, military officers and bureaucrats in modern Japan from the closing days of the Tokugawa shogunate to the present day.
- (2)Nihon Senryō Kankei Shiryō 日本占領関係資料 (Materials on the Allied Occupation of Japan): Collection of records of the U.S. Army and the U.S. Government, private papers and Japanese publications in microfilm concerning mainly the Allied Occupation of Japan in the post WWII period.
- (3)Nikkei Imin Kankei Shiryō 日系移民関係資料 (Materials on Japanese emigration): Collection of books and periodicals published in the Central and South American states, Hawaii, etc., private papers in original and in microfilm, and government documents in microfilm related to Japanese emigration.

■What are Kensei Shiryō (Modern Japanese Political History Materials)?

This paper focuses on the Kensei Shiryō: Personal papers of politicians, military officers and bureaucrats in modern Japan from the closing days of the Tokugawa shogunate to the present day, about 500 collections, approx. 370 thousand items including papers of political parties and materials of persons and organizations widely involved in politics. Former possessors are various: Sanjō Sanetomi (*Dajō Daijin* - the grand minister of State), Itō Hirobumi (the first prime minister), Ishibashi Tanzan (a critic, a prime minister), Ashida Hitoshi (a diplomat, a prime minister), Shin Jiyū Club (a political party), etc.

■The documents which you need to search have been specified already:

You are advised to check the pages of materials which you want to refer to:

“Kensei Shiryōshitsu no shozō shiryō” by National Diet Library where biographies

of the original owners, main contents of materials, relevant materials, the related other papers and literature etc., are introduced. Also includes the links to the PDF files of the catalogues.

\*[website] National Diet Library “Kensei Shiryōshitsu no shozō shiryō” 憲政資料室の所蔵資料 (the collection of Kensei Shiryōshitsu)  
<https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/>

\*[website] National Diet Library “Kensei Shiryō kyūzōsha gojū-on jun sakuin” 憲政資料 <旧蔵者> 五十音順索引 (The index by the name of papers of Kensei Shiryō in the kana order)  
<https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/entry/kensei-kyuzosha.php>

\*[website] National Diet Library “Kensei Shiryō no kensaku gaido” 「憲政資料」の検索ガイド (Research Guide for Kensei shiryō)  
<https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/entry/kenseiguide.php>

#### ■ To search texts of the catalogues

Though no system for cross-sectional search of the whole collection has been provided yet, it is possible to search 22 published catalogues and literature concerning the collections of materials related to Modern Japanese Political History Materials by Mokuji dētabēsu.

\*[website] National Diet Library “Mokuji dētabēsu” 目次データベース (database of contents of books)  
<https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/mokuji/>

Fill the checkbox “憲政資料細目” (specifications of Modern Japanese Political History Materials) at “分類” (classifications) in “詳細検索” (the advanced search.)

#### ■ Finding terms used at the time

If a search is done by any keyword which differs from the original term, whether in an on-line catalogue of private papers or in that of public documents, no record will be hit; such a mistake would occur more often than in a search on a paper catalogue.

For example, in the early Meiji period, 詞訟 (sishō) was often used in the meaning of lawsuit 訴訟 (soshō). Today, the term 詞訟 (sishō) is obsolete and a difficult word to hit on. How should we get to know the terms at that time? There might be a suitable approach for every field of study, for example:

\*“Gaikoku-mei no *kanji* hyōki oyobi ryakugo hyōki-rei ichiran” 外国名の漢字表記および略語表記例一覧 (list of examples of writing of foreign names in *kanji* and in abbreviated forms), in *Ateji gairaigo jiten* 宛字外来語辞典 (dictionary of loanwords in *kanji* used as phonetic symbols), Kashiwa Shobō 柏書房, 1997, p.299.

For names of places in particular, be cautious of keyword search: names of places are sometimes difficult to read.

\*Miki Masafumi 三木理史, *Kingendai kōtsūshi chōsa handobukku* 近・現代交通史調査ハンドブック (handbook of study of modern and present day history of transportation), Kokon Shoin 古今書院, 2004.

Research guide for modern history of transport and communications, also useful for choice of keywords to search modern documents or literature.

\*[website] Terms in the first half of the Meiji period are searchable in PDF files:

National Diet Library “Nihon Hōrei Sakuin (Meiji zenki hen)” 日本法令索引 明治前期編: *Yomigana Jisho* ヨミガナ辞書 (Dictionary of *Yomigana*)

<http://dajokan.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/documents/yomigana/yomigana.pdf>

Compiled by *iroha* syllabary index of *Hōrei Zensho* from 1867 (October Keiō 3) to 1884 (December Meiji 17); words found in preparation of the database are also added, 319 pages in total.

### ■ Databases of newspapers

In Databases of newspapers such as *Yomidasu Rekishikan* ヨミダス歴史館 etc., the related contemporary keywords are attached to the articles generally for the convenience of keyword search: even if a search is done by a modern word, materials then can be retrieved.

\*Also effective: Volumes of *sōsakuin* (general index) of *Meiji nyūsu jiten* 明治ニュース事典 (encyclopedia of news in Meiji era), *Taishō nyūsu jiten* 大正ニュース事典 (encyclopedia of news in Taishō era), *Shōwa nyūsu jiten* 昭和ニュース事典 (encyclopedia of news in Shōwa era), *Mainichi Komyunikēshonzu* 毎日コミュニケーションズ, 1986, 1989, 1994.

## 3. To Search Modern Japanese Political History Materials (Kensei Shiryō) by subject

### 3-1. To Search Kensei Shiryō by subject

If it is not possible to assume whose collection in Kensei Shiryō contains the subject of your study, there are several ways to choose:

- (1) to find from the citation of existing literature
- (2) to search “Kensei Shiryōshitsu no shozō shiryō” 憲政資料室の所蔵資料 (Collections of Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room) on website of National Diet Library: “Resāchi Navi” リサーチ・ナビ
- (3) to find persons assigned to the posts that are related to the subject of research

Ex. To study public policy on roads in the Meiji period:

Research the service of the Ministry of Home affairs 内務省; the Civil Engineering Bureau 土木局 was in charge; who were the directors of the Bureau 局長 in the Meiji period?; search “Resāchi Navi” by “内務省土木局長” and “憲政資料”; papers of Tsuzuki Keiroku, Nakashōji Ren, Arai Zentarō, Mishima Michitsune, Kobashi Ichita are hit; who evidently took the office among these in the Meiji period are Mishima, Tsuzuki, and Nakashōji; find relevant materials from catalogues of collections from



### 3-2. Literature or website to search Kensei Shiryō by subject

#### ■Guides by subjects

\*[website] National Diet Library “Kensei Shiryō: Syuyōna shiryōgun no shudaihetsu ichiran” 憲政資料 主要な資料群の主題別一覧 (Modern Japanese Political History Materials: list of main groups of materials by subjects)

[https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/tmp/kensei\\_shudaihetu\\_ichiran.pdf](https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/tmp/kensei_shudaihetu_ichiran.pdf)

Classifies by the subject; for example, Constitution, foreign Affairs, army and navy, national mobilization, Korea etc.

■From the past articles in *Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppō* 国立国会図書館月報 (Monthly Bulletin of the National Diet Library)

The state of library holdings of Kensei Shiryōshitsu has been changed since then; it is quite useful to know the achievement of research at those times.

	Titles	Pages	Number and date of publication	Authors
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (1)	History of Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (憲政資料室の沿革)	pp.17-18.	27(1963.6.)	Fujii Sadafumi (藤井貞文)
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (2)	Overview of the collection (当館所蔵文書概要)	pp.17-20.	28(1963.7.)	
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (3)	Materials of the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate/Meiji Restoration (幕末維新期の史料)	pp.23-24.	29(1963.8.)	
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (4)	Materials of the first half of the Meiji era (明治前期の史料)	pp.25-26.	30(1963.9.)	
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (5)	Materials of the Freedom and People's Rights Movement (自由民権運動に関する資料)	pp.15-16.	31(1963.10.)	Haraguchi Takaaki (原口敬明)
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (6)	Materials of enactment of Meiji Constitution (明治憲法制定に関する資料)	pp.29-30.	33(1963.12.)	Inada Masatsugu (稲田正次)
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (7)	Historical materials on diplomatic history (外交史関係の史料)	pp.19-20.	34(1964.1.)	Yamabe Kentarō (山辺健太郎)
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (8)	Political materials of the latter half of the Meiji era (明治後期の政治資料)	pp.21-22.	36(1964.3.)	Uno Shun'ichi (宇野俊一)
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (9)	Materials concerning education (教育関係資料)	pp.17-18.	38(1964.5.)	Okubo Toshiaki (大久保利謙)
Notes on Kensei Shiryō (10)	Round-table talk: materials of 憲政資料室 (座談会 憲政資料室の資料をめぐって)	pp.21-25.	42(1964.9.)	Round-table talk

■Materials concerning Korea, Taiwan and northeastern China in prewar period

\*Horiuchi Hiroo 堀内寛雄, “Kensei Shiryō chū no senzenki Chōsen, Taiwan, Chūgoku Tōhokubu kankei shiryō” 憲政資料中の戦前期朝鮮・台湾・中国東北部関係資料 (Materials on Korea, Formosa and Manchuria in the prewar period, held in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the National Diet Library), *Sankō Shoshi Kenkyū* 参考書誌研究 (Reference service and bibliography) 69, 2008.10, pp.1-24., 続 (Part 2) 78, 2016.12, pp.3-15.

■Materials concerning history of women in modern times

\*Yamaguchi Miyoko 山口美代子, “Kindai josei shiryō tanbō: Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan shozō Kensei Shiryō no naka kara” 近代女性史料探訪—国立国会図書館所蔵憲政資料の中から (firsthand information of materials of history of women in modern times) *Sankō Shoshi Kenkyū* 参考書誌研究 (Reference service and bibliography) 40, 1991.11, pp.10-18.

■Materials on historical materials on civil engineering of modern Japan

\*Tsuchida Hiroshige 土田宏成, “Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Kensei Shiryōsitsu de etsuran dekiru dobokushi kankei shiryō ni tsuite” 国立国会図書館憲政資料室で閲覧できる土木史関係資料について (An introduction of historical materials on civil engineering from the collection of Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the NDL), *Dobokushi kenkyū kōenshū* 土木史研究 講演集 (Historical studies in civil engineering : proceedings of the annual conference) 31, 2011, pp.111-114.

“no.2”(その2) (part 2) *Dobokushi kenkyū kōenshū* 33, 2013, pp. 251-255.

“no.3”(その3) (part 3) *Dobokushi kenkyū kōenshū* 34, 2014, pp. 169-172.

“no.4”(その4) (part 4) *Dobokushi kenkyū kōenshū* 35, 2015, pp. 115-120.

“no.5”(その5) (part 5) *Dobokushi kenkyū kōenshū* 36, 2016, pp. 293-296.

■Pamphlets and others

\*[website] National Diet Library “Kensei Shiryō chū no ichibu no tosho panfuretto ichiran: 2008.3”

憲政資料 資料群中の図書・パンフレット一覧 2008.3

(Books and pamphlets in some parts of materials of Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, 2008.3)

[https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/tmp/kensei\\_tosho.pdf](https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/kensei/tmp/kensei_tosho.pdf)

■Modern Japanese Political History Materials concerning oral history:

\*Fujita Sōsuke 藤田壮介, “Kensei Shiryōsitsu shozō no ōraru hisutorī kankei shiryō” 憲政資料室所蔵のオーラル・ヒストリー関連資料 (Materials on oral history held in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the National Diet Library) *Sankō Shoshi Kenkyū* 参考書誌研究 (Reference service and bibliography) 78, 2016.12, pp.16-36.

## ■Photographs

\*Ashina Fumi 葦名ふみ, “Ākaibuzu to shite no shashin shiryō: Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Kensei Shiryōsitsu no jirei kara” アーカイブズとしての写真資料—国立国会図書館憲政資料室の事例から (An archival study of photographs: a case of Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the National Diet Library), *Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryōkan kiyō* 国文学研究資料館紀要 (Bulletin of the National Institute of Japanese Literature), *Ākaibuzu kenkyū hen* アーカイブズ研究篇 (archival studies) 4, 2008.1, pp. 39-81.

## ■Diaries in modern times are extensively presented:

\*Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆, “Nikki” 日記 (diaries) in *Kindai Nihon kenkyū nyūmon* 近代日本研究入門 (introduction to study of Japan of modern times), zōhoban sinsōban 増補版, 新装版 (enlarged edition in new format), Nakamura Takafusa 中村隆英 and Itō Takashi 伊藤隆 (eds.), *Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai* 東京大学出版会, 2012.(first ed., 1977; enlarged ed., 1983.) pp.287-302.

\*“Nihon kindai wo yomu nikki taizen” 日本近代を読む 日記大全 (to read Japan of modern times, complete collection of diaries), *Gekkan Asahi* 月刊Asahi, rekishi hen tokushū kiji 歴史編 特集記事 (monthly magazine Asahi, history pt., cover stories), 1993.1/2, pp.19-107.

\**Nihon nikki sōran: nikki kara Nihonjin no seikatsu to rekishi wo saguru!*

日本「日記」総覧—「日記」から日本人の生活と歴史を探る!

(Complete guide of Japanese diaries: exploring the Japanese life and history in the diaries), Shin Jinbutsu Ōraisha 新人物往来社, 1994.

\*Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆, “Kindai bunsho to seijishi kenkyū” 近代文書と政治史研究 (documents of modern times and study of political history), in *Rekishi to sozai* 歴史と素材 (history and materials), Ishigami Eiichi 石上英一 (ed.), Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 2004.

\**Nikki ni yomu kindai Nihon* 日記に読む近代日本 (read about modern Japan in diaries) Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 2011-2012. 5 vols.

Variety of diaries by Ōkubo Toshimichi, Tanaka Shōzō, Shibusawa Eiichi, Yoshino Sakuzō and others are introduced as being connected with situations of the times.

\*Naraoka Sōchi 奈良岡聰智 “Nikki ga kataru kindaiishi” 日記が語る近代史 (History of modern Japan described by diaries), in *Nihonjin ni totte nikki to ha nani ka* 日本人にとって日記とは何か (What is Diary for the Japanese people?), Kuramoto Kazuhiro 倉本一宏 (ed.), Rinsen Shoten 臨川書店, 2016, pp.129-149.

## ■Online Gallery on the website of the National Diet Library related to a specific subject

\*[Website] “Shiryō ni miru Nihon no Kindai: Kaikoku kara sengo seiji made no kiseki” 史料にみる日本の近代 開国から戦後政治までの軌跡 (Modern Japan in archives:

political history from the opening of the the country to the postwar period)

<http://ndl.go.jp/modern/index.html> (in Japanese)

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/modern/e/index.html> (in English)

Notable materials concening political history of modern and present day Japan, mainly manuscripts and letters in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, are presented.

\*[Website] “Nihonkoku Kenpō no tanjō”

日本国憲法の誕生 (Birth of the Constitution of Japan)

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/> (in Japanese)

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/e/index.html> (in English)

Valuable materials concerning the process of establishment of the Constitution of Japan are exhibited and commented upon.

## II How to find personal papers of modern Japan politicians (2): types of materials

### 1. Types of materials

■ In the Kensei Shiryōshitsu (Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room), documents are classified by provenance, former owner, catalogued considering the conditions at the time of receipt, former owners’ careers, contents, forms, etc.; classification of forms are of the following types: letter, diary, telegram, letters of appointment, patents of decoration, career records, office papers, photographs, photo albums, articles, cuttings of articles, booklets, books, magazines, etc.

■ A useful literature about arrangements of catalogues

\*Katō Kiyofumi 加藤聖文 “Kingendai kojīn monjō no tokusei to hensei kijutsu” 近現代個人文書の特性と編成記述 (the feature and description of arrangement of personal papers of Japanese modern to the present), in *Ākaibuzu no kōzō ninshiki to hensei kijutsu* アーカイブズの構造認識と編成記述 (the recognition of archival structure and description of arrangement), Kokubungaku Kenkyū Shiryōkan 国文学研究資料館 (National Institute of Japanese Literature) (ed.), Shibunkaku Syuppan 思文閣出版, 2014, pp.181-199.

■ Types of Materials of historical materials of modern Japan

\*[Website] Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆 “Rekishi shiryō towa nani ka” 歴史史料とは何か (What are historical materials?), in “Shiryō ni miru Nihon no Kindai: Kaikoku kara sengo seiji made no kiseki” 史料にみる日本の近代 開国から戦後政治までの軌跡 (Modern Japan in archives: political history from the opening of the country to the postwar period.) by National Diet Library

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/modern/guidance/whats01.html> (in Japanese)

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/modern/e/guidance/whats01.html> (in English)

A guide of the types of materials such as diary, letter, official document, etc. The styles of handwritten characters are introduced through digitized images of the original letters.

## 2. Format and printing techniques

### ■ The forms of materials and condition

The forms and condition implies various information.

-*makimono* (scroll) or *orihon* (folding book)?

-letters: rolled letter paper, lettercard, picture postcard, envelopes attached/unattached

-letters, office papers: Is it possible to assume assignments and circumstances of persons? (Ex. a letterpad of a certain hotel or the ministry)

-Forms of diary: pocket notebooks, memo pads, diary for daily use, notebooks etc.

### ■ A means of communication

-Is it possible to find any specific features? (ex. military mail, censored)

-Is it possible to confirm whether the letters were passed through the postal service or not?

### ■ Various writing and printing techniques

\* The following ways of writing and printing techniques: writing with a brush in *sumi* (Chinese ink), pencil, pen, paint, typescript, printing (woodblock, hectograph, typography, mimeograph: typescript/handwriting, blueprint, carbon copy: typescript/handwriting), etc.; facsimile, printing by a printer in recent years.

-Approximate number and age of printed copies can be assumed from printing techniques.

\*[website] “Kokuritsu Kōbunshokan shiryō hozon taisaku manyuaru” 国立公文書館所蔵資料保存対策マニュアル (The National Archives’ manual for measures to preserve materials), 2002.3

[http://www.archives.go.jp/law/pdf/hourei3\\_09.pdf](http://www.archives.go.jp/law/pdf/hourei3_09.pdf)

This manual is edited for planning of measurements of preservation of materials in essence; it is easy to obtain and understand as a guide of printing technique.

\* A paper analyzing the forms of modern Japan documents, focusing on the printing techniques

Hirano Masahiro 平野正裕, “Kindai bunsho seiri-hō josetsu: bunsho no seiritsu yōshiki to shūseki bunsho ni tsuite” 近代文書整理法序説—文書の「成立様式」と「集積文書」について (introduction to the way of filing of modern documents: about the manners of formation of documents and accumulated documents), *Yokohama Kaikō Shiryōkan kiyō* 横浜開港資料館紀要 (bulletin of Yokohama Archives of History) 12, 1994.3, pp.45-64.

### III Deciphering a letter of modern times: an example written in *kuzushiji* (characters in cursive style)

#### 1. An example of a letter

Most letters in modern Japan are written in *kuzushiji* (characters in cursive style). Sometimes, secrets shared by the persons concerned are written; the meanings are difficult to understand, invaluable, subtle information might be contained. One example of letters of the official documents of the National Archives of Japan which is written in *kuzushiji* is as below: Figure 1.

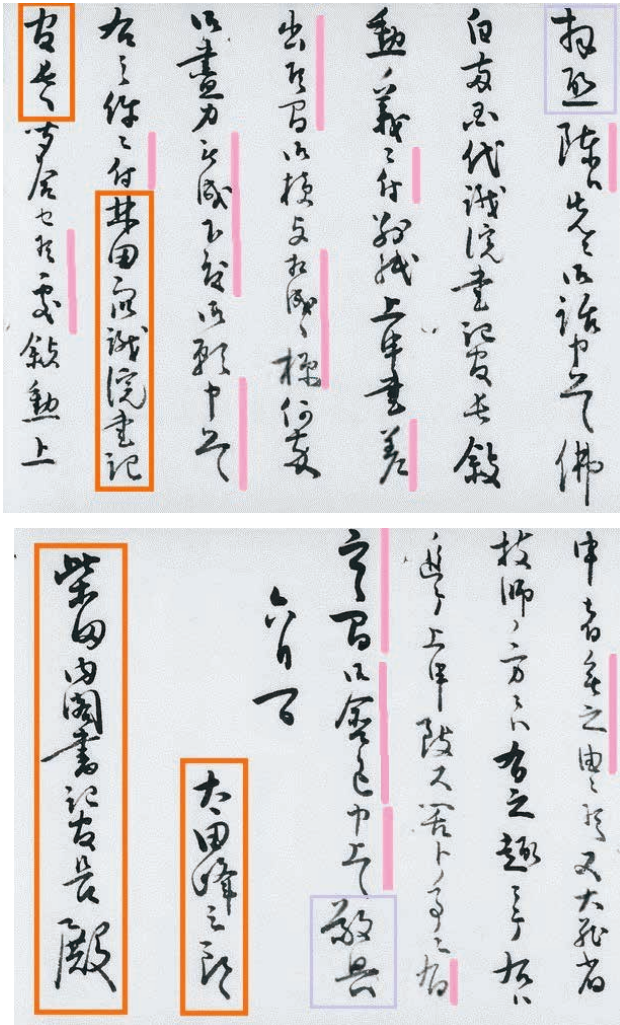


Figure 1 A Letter with regard to decoration of Eugène Pierre

### Source:

Japan Center for Asian Historical Records: A10112682300 ; National Archives of Japan 勲00249100 (held by the National Archives)

“仏国下院書記官長勲三等ユーゼース、ピエール叙勲ノ件” “叙勲裁可書・明治四十二年・叙勲卷四・外国人二止.” (With regard to decoration of Eugène Pierre, chief secretary of the Lower House of the Parliament of France with the Third Order of Merit)

Title of the file: sanctions of conferment of decoration, Meiji 42, decoration vol.4, foreigners no.2 [end]

### Note:

In Japan, it had been a longstanding question to construct fully fledged Diet buildings. Ōta Minesaburō 太田峰三郎, chief secretary of the House of Peers, Hayashida Kametarō 林田亀太郎, chief secretary of the House of Representatives and others travelled to countries in Europe to examine parliamentary buildings in 1908. During their travels, they met Eugène Pierre in France and Vital Pauwels in Belgium and were given helpful information. This letter was sent to Shibata Kamon 柴田家門, chief secretary of the Cabinet, to recommend Pierre and Pauvel for decorations and to consult about the procedure of conferment.

### transliteration

柴田内閣書記官長殿	六月一日	太田峰三郎	之候間、御含込申上候 敬具	追テ上申致ス筈トノ事ニ有	技師ノ方ニハ有之趣ニテ右ハ	申者無之由ニ候、又大藏省	官長へ開合セ候處叙勲上	右之件ニ付林田衆議院書記	御盡力被成下度御願申上候	出候間御授与相成候様何卒	勲ノ義ニ付別紙上申書差	白両国代議院書記官長叙	拝啓 陳ハ先ニ御話申上候佛
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## 2. The component of a letter

### ■ The component of a letter

A letter is composed of opening phrase, body, last phrase, date, sender's name, addressee, postscript, etc; not all of these components exist in a letter.

In the case of the above-mentioned letter:

- opening phrase of a letter: 拝啓 Haikei
- (body)
- last phrase: 敬具 Keigu
- date: 六月一日 June 1
- sender's name: 太田峰三郎 Ōta Minesaburō
- addressee: 柴田内閣書記官長 Shibata Naikaku Shokikanchō

### ■ To search a real name from a byname (*Gō* : pseudonym)

In this letter, the sender “Ōta Minesaburō” is his real name, the signature put in the letter can be a byname or *Gō*.

\*Kindai Jinbutsu Kenkyūkai 近代人物研究会 (ed.), *Kindai jinbutsu gō hitsumei jiten* 近代人物号筆名辞典 (A dictionary of *gō*, bynames, and penname of persons), Kashiwa Shobō 柏書房, 1979.



Includes a list of pseudonymous names of persons who played an active role at the end of Edo period and the beginning of the Meiji Restoration.

\*To find an autonym from another name or pseudonym:

*Gō betsumei jiten: kindai/gendai* 号・別名辞典 近代・現代 (dictionary of gō and bynames: modern times and present day), Nichigai Asoshiētsu 日外アソシエーツ株式会社 Nichigai Associētes, Inc. (editor and publisher), 2003.

■ Turns of phrase in this letter

Opening/last phrase	拜啓 haikai, conventional opening phrase of a letter 敬具 keigu, the closing phrase of a letter
Kanji frequently used	候(sōrō) 之(no/kore) 御(on/o) 致(itasu/itashi) etc.
Turns of phrases frequently used	陳ハ のおれば nobureba
	～二付 につき nitsuki
	差出候間 さしいだしそうろうあいだ sashiidashi-sōrō-aida
	相成候様 あいなりそうろうよう ainari-sōrō-yō
	被成下度 なしくだされたく nashi-kudasare-taku
	申上候 もうしあげそうろう mōshiage-sōrō
	候處 そうろうところ sōrō-tokoro 處=処
	無之由 これなきよし kore-naki-yoshi
	有之候間 これありそうろうあいだ kore-ari-sōrō-aida
御含込 お(おん) ふくみまで o/on fukumi-made 込=迄	

■ E-learning materials specializing in decipherment of letters of politicians

\*[Website] National Diet Library E-learning material “Kingendai seiji shiryō no gaiyō: shokan wo chūshin ni” 近代政治史料の概要—書簡を中心に (A survey of materials on modern Japanese political history: reading handwritten letters)

<http://training.ndl.go.jp/course/under.html?id=48> (in Japanese)

<http://training.ndl.go.jp/course/under.html?id=48&lang=en> (in English)

Prof. Dr. Suetake Yoshiya at the Department of Literature of Sōka University and visiting researcher at the NDL, makes comments on politicians’ letters from the point of view of a specialist. In the first half of his lecture, he explains why letters are important as historical materials and the different kinds of letters; in the latter half, techniques of decipherment are introduced with reading aloud Itō Hirobumi’s and some other politicians’ letters.

\*[Website] Imazu Toshiaki 今津敏晃, “How to use historical records” in “Shiryō ni miru Nihon no Kindai: Kaikoku kara sengo seiji made no kiseki” 史料にみる日本の近代: 開国から戦後政治までの軌跡 (Modern Japan in archives: political history from the opening of the country to the postwar period.) by National Diet Library

Using a certain letter (letter from Yamanashi Katsunoshin to Saitō Makoto, dated May 1st, 1930) as the lead, techniques to read letters to make assumptions about periods on the basis of a person’s job assignments, reading in combination with newspapers and diaries, etc. are explained concretely.

<http://www.ndl.go.jp/modern/guidance/how01.html> (in Japanese)



<http://www.ndl.go.jp/modern/e/guidance/how01.html> (in English)

■ Literature on communication of politicians by letters: elucidated in detail in a series of Prof. Sasaki's works.

\*Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆, "Meiji jidai no seijiteki komyunikēshon (1)(2)(3)" 明治時代の政治的コミュニケーション (1)(2)(3) (political communications in the Meiji era, pt.1, pt.2 and pt.3), *Tōkyō Daigaku Shinbun Kenkyūjo kiyō* 東京大学新聞研究所紀要 (The Bulletin of the Institute of Journalism), Tōkyō University, 32(1984), 33(1985), 35(1986).

\*Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆, *Itō Hirobumi no jōhō senryaku: hanbatsu seijika tachi no kōbō* 伊藤博文の情報戦略—藩閥政治家たちの攻防 (Itō Hirobumi's information strategy: struggles by the politicians of han cliques), Chūō Kōron Shinsha 中央公論新社, 1999.

### 3. Information of stamps, postcards, postmarks

■ To estimate periods by stamps and postcards

Postal charge is the one of the clues to assume the date of an original letter for its comprehension.

\*Postal charges for an ordinary sealed letter

Meiji 4.3.1. (solar calendar 1871.4.20)

100 mon for one letter

(the weight of an item up to 5 *monme*; the rate increases per 5 *monme*.)

1 *monme* = approx. 3.75 grammes)

Meiji 4.12.5. (solar calendar 1872.1.14)

Letter

(the rate increases by distance: 100 mon within 25 ri; 200 mon within 50 ri; 300 mon within 100 ri, 400 mon within 200 ri, 500 mon above 200 ri (1 ri = approx. 4 kilometres))

Meiji 5.1.23. (solar calendar 1872.2.28)

"New monetary system" introduced.

1873. 4. 1. Basic rate (2 *monmes*): 1 sen inside the city, 2 sen outside the city. 1 sen increased if the destination was inconvenient.

1883. 1. 1.	2 sen (2 <i>monme</i> )	1945. 4. 1.	10 sen (20g)
1899. 4. 1.	3 sen (4 <i>monme</i> )	1946. 7. 25.	30 sen (20g)
1931. 8. 1.	3 sen (15g)	1947. 4. 1.	1 yen 20 sen (20g)
1937. 4. 1.	4 sen (20g)	1948. 7. 10.	5 yen (20g)
1942. 4. 1.	5 sen (20g)	1949. 5. 1.	8 yen (20g)
1944. 4. 1.	7 sen (20g)		

\*Postage of an ordinary postcard

1873. 12. 1. Inside the city half sen (5 rin), outside the city 1 sen, 1 sen increased if the destination was inconvenient.

1883. 1. 1.	1 sen	1945. 4. 1.	5 sen
1899. 4. 1.	1 sen 5 rin	1946. 7. 25.	15 sen
1937. 4. 1.	2 sen	1947. 4. 1.	50 sen
1944. 4. 1.	3 sen	1948. 7. 10.	2 yen

ref. Currency unit: mon=文, 1 yen 円=100 sen 錢 1 sen=10 rin 厘.

■ Identification of stamps and postmarks

\*Yūseishō 郵政省 (Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications) (ed.), *Nihon yūbin kittle hagaki zuroku* 日本郵便切手・はがき図録—1871-1971 (catalogue of postage stamps and postal cards of Japan), Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 1971.

\*Nippon Yūshu Kyōkai 日本郵趣協会 (Japan Philatelic Society), *Nihon kittle senmon katarogu* 日本切手専門カタログ (specialist catalogue of Japanese postage stamps), Yūshu Sābisu Sha 郵趣サービス社.

Detailed information for philatelists is covered, prewar version is also published.

■ Treatises proposing application of philatelists' knowledge to file letters of modern times:

\*Motoi Harunobu 本井晴信, "Kinsei-kingendai shōjō no keitai ni tsuite" 近世～近現代「書状」の形態について (regarding shapes of letters in early modern to modern/present day periods), *Niigata Kenritsu Monjokan kenkyū kiyō* 新潟県立文書館研究紀要 (Bulletin of the Niigata Prefectural Archives) 3, 1996, pp.47-60.

\*Motoi Harunobu 本井晴信, "Kinsei-kingendai shōjō to mokuroku seiri" 近世～近現代「書状」と目録整理 (letters in early modern to modern/present day periods and their cataloging and arrangement), *Niigata Kenritsu Monjokan kenkyū kiyō* 新潟県立文書館研究紀要 (Bulletin of the Niigata Prefectural Archives) 5, 1998, pp.52-75.

#### 4. Dictionaries of *kuzushiji* / lecture in web-version

■ *Kuzushiji* in modern times

If *kuzushiji* are excluded completely, readable historical materials should be limited.

*Kuzushiji* in modern times range in style from one which resembles Oie-ryū<sup>4</sup> (a style of handwriting used in official documents in the Edo period) to an extremely simplified form.

(Without learning the skills to read *sōsho*, you will sink into a situation where you cannot use historical materials though they exist; you will hesitate to look

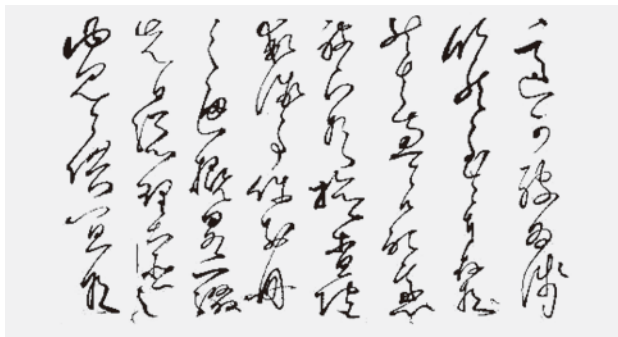
<sup>4</sup> *Oie-ryū* 御家流 is a school of Japanese calligraphy which was utilized for official documents of the shogunate as well as the education of commoners in the Edo period, created by Shōrenin Monzeki Son'en Nyūdo Shinnō 青蓮院門跡尊円入道親王.

for new materials; the subject of study will be restricted by yourself. How do you learn the skill? Neither good guidebooks nor training courses are available for the moment. Teaching yourself is not impossible but inefficient. It should be effective to learn by following a person who is capable of reading to some extent<sup>5</sup>.”

■ When a *kuzushiji* is not readable, there are the following ways to deal with it:

(1) to assume the letter to be a specific one and refer to dictionaries, (2) to dissolve the letter into radicals. It is a matter of course that unfamiliar characters and *kanji* compounds are indecipherable from the first.

■ A letter from Gotō Shōjirō written in severely cursive style



Source: Shinagawa Yajjirō Papers (1), 54-1, Kensei Shiryōshitsu, National Diet Library

■ Memorizing letters frequently used and examples of actual use

**-Inversion for Chinese passages: exclusively used in *sōrō* style**

有 無	有之 無之 無捩 無覺東 無御座 無相違 無恙 kore-ari/kore-nashi/yondokoro-nashi/obotsuka-nashi/goza-nashi/sōi-nashi/tsutsuga-nashi
被	被下 被遊 被思 被成下 被遊御座 被為入 被為在 被為御座在 kudasare/asobasare/obosare/nashi-kudasare/goza-asobasare/irase-rare/arase-rare/goza-arase-rare
可	可申 可致 可仕 可然 可申上 可被下 可成 可被成下 mōsu-beku/itasu-beku/tsukamatsuru-beku/shikaru-beku/mōshiagu-beku/kudasaru-beku/naru-beku/nashikudasaru-beku
不	不申 不致 不仕 不存 不殘 不惡 不斜 不淺 不申上 不被存 不被下 不過之 不得已(止) 不取敢 不拘 不相變 mōsazu/itasazu/tsukamatsurazu/zonzezu/nokorazu/ashikarazu/nanomenarazu/asakarazu/mōshiagezu /zonzerarezu/kudasarezu/kore-ni-sugizu/yamu-wo-ezu/toriaezu/kakawarazu/aikawarazu
乍	乍憚 乍併 乍存 乍去 乍縮 乍略儀 乍延引 乍輕少 乍慮外 乍不躑 乍御手数 乍失礼 乍他事 habakari-nagara/shikashi-nagara/zonji-nagara/sari-nagara/kyōshuku-nagara/ryakugi-nagara/en'in-nagara/ keishō-nagara/ryogai-nagara/bushitsuke-nagara/otesū-nagara/shitsurei-nagara/taji-nagara
為	為念 為後日 為御祝 被為在 nen-no-tame/gojitsu-no-tame/on'iwai-no-tame/ara-se-rare

<sup>5</sup> Itō Takashi 伊藤隆, “*Rekishi kenkyū to shiryō*” 歴史研究と史料 (study of history and materials), in *Kindai Nihon kenkyū nyūmon* 近代日本研究入門 (introduction to study of modern Japan), 1977, p.268, translated by the author.

奉	奉存 奉願 奉願上 奉希 奉申上 奉賀 奉恭賀 奉謝 奉感謝 奉冀 zōnji-tatematsuri/negai-tatematsuri/negaiage-tatematsuri/koinegai-tatematsuri/mōshiage-tatematsuri/ gashi-tatematsuri/kyōga-tatematsuri/shashi-tatematsuri/kansha-tatematsuri/koinegai-tatematsuri
兼	兼致 兼申上 itashi-kane/mōshiage-kane
如	如仰 如諭 如件 如此(斯·是) ōse-no-gotoku/yuno-gotoku/kudan-no-gotoku/kaku-no-gotoku
難	難有 難致 arigataku/itashigataku
以	以手紙 以御陰 tegami-wo-motte/okage-wo-motte
得	得拝顔 得貴意 不得要領 haigan-wo-e/kii-wo-e/yōryō-wo-ezu
及	及御通知 及御相談 及御見 及御照会 gotsūchi-ni-oyobi/gosōdan-ni-oyobi/otodoke-ni-oyobi/goshōkai-ni-oyobi
蒙	蒙御厚情 gokōjō-wō-kōmuri

**-Okurigana written in kanji**

而	追而 謹而 隨而 降而 依而 兼而 就而者 otte/tsutsushinde/shitagatte/kudarite/yotte/kanete/tsuiteha
者	候而者 陳者 候得者 然者 sōraiteha/nobureba/sōraeba/shikaraba
哉	候哉 否哉 sōryōya/inaya
半	候半 sōrawan
共	候得共 sōraedomo
敷	宜敷 間敷(間舗、間布) 悪敷 六ヶ敷 八釜敷 yoroshiku/majiku/ashiku/mutsukashiku/yakamashiku
度	致度 仕度 願度 itashitaku/tsukamatsuritaku/negaitaku
之	之程 之至 之段 之処(所) no-hodo/no-itari/no-dan/no-tokoro

**-Adjectives, verbs, auxiliary verbs written in kanji, used as phonetic symbols**

御機嫌克(能) 何々に預(預) 呉々  
gokigen-yoku/naninani-ni-azukari/kuregure  
目出度 折柄 最早 仕舞 見舞 鳥渡 屹度 兎角 折角  
medetaku/origara/mohaya/shimai/mimai/chotto/kitto/tonikaku/sekkaku

**-Okurigana omitted**

**-Sentences connected with each other by “a certain especial part of speech”, turn out to be a continuous long sentence without periods**

候間 候処 候付 候由 候趣 候砌 候際 候為 候次第  
sōrō-aida/sōrō-tokoro/sōrō(ni)tsuki/sōrō-yoshi/sōrō-omomuki/sōrō-migiri/sōrō-sai/sōrō-tame/sōrō-shidai  
候へば 候はば 候まま 候とも 候も  
sōraeba/sōrawaba/sōrō-mama/sōrō-tomo/sōrō-mo

**-Peculiar kanji compound**

壮栄 大賀 消光 放念 休神 參堂 拝眉 海容 笑納  
sōei/taiga/shōkō/hōnen/kyūshin/sandō/haibi/kaiyō/shōnō

**-Appended words (Soe-kotoba 添詞)**

差急 差出 差控 相願 相成 罷越 罷出 罷在  
Sashi-isogi/sashi-idashi/sashi-hikae/ai-negai/ai-nari/makari-koshi/makari-ide/makari-ari

### **-No use of past tense**

昨日御出被下候処

Past tense is not used in “候処”, but the situation means the past.

Source:

National Diet Library E-learning material “Kingendai Seiji Shiryō no gaiyō” 近代政治史料の概要 書簡を中心に (A survey of materials on modern Japanese political history: Reading handwritten letters). Excerpts from Prof. Suetake’s teaching materials (with his permission).

Note:

Romanized *furigana* beside kanji are only an example of pronunciation, actually there can be various kinds of pronunciation: *furigana* can be different accordingly.

Reference:

Kieda Masuichi 木枝増一, *Shokanbun Kōwa* 書簡文講話 (A lecture on the style of a letter) Nihon hōsō syuppan kyōkai 日本放送出版協会, 1939, pp.43-47.

Haga Yaichi 芳賀矢一, Sugitani Torazō 杉谷虎蔵 (eds.), *Syokanbun Kōwa oyobi Bunpan* 書翰文講話及文範 (Lecture on epistolary style and its examples), Fuzanbō 富山房, 1913, jō (上), pp.163-165.

### ■ Grammar, writing of *kanji* and *kana*

\*Sentences written in *sōrō-bun* (with a polite usage “候 sōrō” ≡ です, ます) ; a style once used in letters, official documents, requests, notifications.

\**Hentai kana* (anomalous *kana*, variant form of a *kana* character : a form of character which is different from those in regular use. In Japan, the standard of *hiragana* was stipulated by the Implementation Regulation of Elementary School Ordinance in 1900, though, *kana* of other kinds, which have different origins and were simplified in different style from the standard, continued to be used.

\*Old form of characters ex. 当→當、応→應、予→豫

\*Kotajima Yōsuke 古田島洋介 *Nihon kindashi o manabu tame no bungobun nyūmon: kanbun kundokutai no chihei* 日本近代史を学ぶための文語文入門—漢文訓読体の地平 (Introduction of literary style to study modern Japanese history: the horizon of the kanbun kundoku style), Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 2013.

Fully explicates the kanbun kundoku style frequently used in compositions written in literary style, modern Japanese vocabulary and grammar.

cf. Kanbun kundoku style: guiding marks for rendering Kanbun(Japanese prose literature) into Japanese and reading according to the Japanese grammar.

■ The dictionary which is widely used to read *kuzushiji* :

\*Kodama Kōta 児玉幸多 (ed.), *Kuzushiji yōrei jiten* くずし字用例辞典 (dictionary of illustrations of *kuzushiji*), Tōkyōdō Shuppan 東京堂出版, 1993.

\*The above is to be used when a conjecture “this letter could be” operates; it is not workable if there is no clue. In such cases, refer to:

Kodama Kōta 児玉幸多 (ed.), ascribed to Takahashi Sōseki 高橋蒼石, *Kuzushiji kaidoku jiten* くずし字解読辞典 (dictionary of decipherment of *kuzushiji*), *Mōhitsuiban* 毛筆版, Tōkyōdō Shuppan 東京堂出版, 1999.

\*[Website] Tōkyō Daigaku Shiryō Hensanjo 東京大学史料編さん所 (Historiographical Institute, The University of Tōkyō) “Denshi kuzushiji dētabēse” 電子くずし字データベース (Database of *kuzushiji*)

<http://r-jiten.nabunken.go.jp/>

An epoch-making electronic dictionary for deciphering *kuzushiji*; examples of usage registered are not of modern times.

### ■Self-teaching guide

Recently, self-teaching materials are published as follows:

\*Nihon Rekishi Gakkai 日本歴史学会 (ed.), *Ensyū komonjo sen* 演習古文書選 (practice in the selected historical documents), Jō 上 [1], Ge 下 [2], Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 1978-1979.

66 representative historical materials including *kuzushiji* are covered; photographs of the materials, interpretations and explanations are attached.

\*Iwakabe Yoshimitsu 岩壁義光, Kobayashi Kazuyuki 小林和幸 and Hirose Yoshihiro 広瀬順皓 (eds.), *Shiryō de tōshi suru Kindai Nihon: rekishi shiryō kaidoku nyūmon* 史料で透視する近代日本—歴史資料解説入門 (seeing through modern Japan by historical documents: introduction of deciphering historical materials), Yumani Shobō ゆまに書房, 2004.

\*Suzuki Jun 鈴木淳, Nishikawa Makoto 西川誠, and Matsuzawa Yūsaku 松沢裕作 (eds.), *Shiryō wo yomitoku* 史料を読み解く (reading historical materials deeply) 4, *Bakumatsu ishin no seiji to shakai* 幕末・維新の政治と社会 (politics and society of the closing days of the Tokugawa Shogunate and the Restoration), Yamakawa Shuppansha 山川出版社, 2009.

Photographs of documents are included according to specific themes such as the visit of M. C. Perry (US Navy commander), the Boshin Civil War, etc. Interpretations and modern translations of the original texts, explanation of terms, comments and reference materials are provided for reading comprehension, phonetic transcription in kana are extensively attached to aid in reading.

\*Rekishi Kyōikusha Kyōgikai 歴史教育者協議会 (ed.), *Komonjo nyūmon* 古文書入門 (introduction to historical documents), *kaitei sinpan* 改訂新版 (revised and new ed.), Kawade Shobō Shinsha 河出書房新社, 2000.

In Chapter 5, Treatises on historical documents of modern times are included: “Outline of documents of modern times”, “Documents of villages in the Meiji era”, “People’s rights movement and records concerning *Konmintō*”, “Letters of politicians in the time of Meiji Restoration”, “Records of lives”, “Letters of soldiers in the Russo-Japanese war”; methods of study rather than reading *kuzushiji* are mainly explained.

■Other electronic teaching materials

Below are materials which take documents of early-modern times as a subject in general; materials by the Archive of Hokkaidō and the Tōkyō Metropolitan Archives are recommended because many examples after the Meiji period are also treated.

\*[Website] Tōkyō-to Kōbunshokan 東京都公文書館 (Tōkyō Metropolitan Archives), “*Komonjo kaidoku charenji kōza*” 古文書解読チャレンジ講座 (challenging course for deciphering historical documents)

<http://www.soumu.metro.tokyo.jp/01soumu/archives/0703kaidoku.htm>

It is easy to understand for beginners as “hinshutsu suru tango nandoku moji ichiran” 頻出する単語・難読文字一覧 (list of words which frequently occur/letters that are difficult to read). Materials are selected from the Edo and early Meiji periods to attract interest from the public: “Meiji no maigo inu” (a missing dog in the Meiji period), an advertisement by the German legation to find a missing dog.

\*[Website] Hokkaidō-ritsu Monjokan 北海道立文書館 (The Archive of Hokkaido), “*Komonjo kaidoku jishū puroguramu*” 古文書解読自習プログラム (self-teaching programme for deciphering historical documents)

<http://www.pref.hokkaido.lg.jp/sm/mnj/d/jishuupuroguramu.htm>

Letters and *kuzushiji* in official documents of modern times are included. Examples are: A letter from Shima Yoshitake to Jūmonji Ryūsuke (島義勇から十文字龍介あて書簡); letters concerning the Emperor’s visit (御巡幸関係書簡.)

\*[Website] Saga Kenritsu Toshokan 佐賀県立図書館 (The Library of Saga Prefecture), “*Kusukusu-kun no web-ban komonjo nyūmon*” くすくすくんのWEB版古文書入門 (lecture course on the website by Kusukusu-kun: introduction of historical documents. Kusukusu-kun is the camphor tree mascot of the library.)

<http://www.tosyo-saga.jp/kentosyo/web-komonjo/oshirase.html>

Documents of early-modern times are mainly covered; the *sōrō-bun* style which was also used in modern times often can be learned in Chapter 3, for instance.

\*[Website] Shizuoka Kenritsu Chūō Toshokan 静岡県立中央図書館 (The Shizuoka Prefectural Central Library), “*Kuzushiji kaidoku kōza tekisutoichiran (komonjo kaidoku)*” くずし字解読講座 テキスト一覧 (古文書解読) (lecture course in deciphering *kuzushiji*: series of texts to decipher historical documents)

<http://www.tosyokan.pref.shizuoka.jp/contents/history/kuzushi.html>

Though documents of early-modern times are focused, unique ideas to decipher *kuzushi* during that period are introduced: “to read on assumptions”, “to distinguish any parts in which writings are flowing”, etc.

\*[Website] Gunma Kenritsu Monjokan 群馬県立文書館 (Gunma Prefectural Archives) “*Intānetto komonjo kōza*” インターネット古文書講座 (lecture course on antique documents on the Internet)

<http://www.archives.pref.gunma.jp/moyooshi/inter-koza/inter-koza.htm>

Documents ranging from ancient times to early-modern times are covered and introduced put in *Gunma no Komonjo*.

Gunma Kenritsu Monjokan 群馬県立文書館 (Gunma Prefectural Archives) (editor and author), *Gunma no Komonjo kaisetsu hen jō* 上 [1], ge 下[2]; *shashin hen* 写真編 jō 上 [1], ge 下[2].

## IV Link to research on persons: chiefly research on assignments

### 1. Research on persons for finding and deciphering primary historical materials

#### ■ Research on assignments

It is necessary to guess persons' names and their assignments, who were engaged in the subjects, to find relevant documents<sup>6</sup>. To decipher politicians' documents in particular, research on their appointments is often needed.

Ex.1: To which post was the author of the material assigned? Who were the author's superiors/colleagues?

Ex.2: In a diary, names of many people are mentioned. Only their family names are written down though; I need to know their occupations.

Ex.3: It is impossible to read a signature in *kuzushiji*, but the assignment to a certain post was recorded beside the name. I want to know who was appointed to the post at that time.

#### ■ To research on assignments

A lot of information can be obtained in the following cases: a detailed biography exists, the person is itemized in general dictionaries (i.e. *Kokushi Daijiten* 国史大辞典), a file of personal career documents remains. However, even if such a person's name is found in a certain historical material, neither general dictionaries nor biographies are enough to get precise information about the person's assignment at that specific point of time.

■ When surveying a person's assignment, it is usual to choose a suitable tool by considering various factors:

(1) whether or not the tool covers information of the person's assignments for a certain period

Ex. *Shokuinroku* (directory of government officials), *Kanpō* (official gazette, section of *Jonin* appointments and *Joi* investiture etc.), Retired list of Army, etc.

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<sup>6</sup> The following literature are useful for ideas to research specific personal names: Sasaki Takashi 佐々木隆 and Umezawa Fumiko 梅沢ふみ子, "Aru jinbutsu wo siru tameno hōhō" (measures to know a certain person), in *Kindai Nihon kenkyū nyūmon* 近代日本研究入門 (introduction to study of modern Japan), Nakamura Takafusa 中村隆英 and Itō Takashi 伊藤隆 (eds.), 増補版 新装版 (enlarged ed. in new format), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2012.

Some of the part IV of this paper was presented by the author: "The research of prewar Japanese politicians: as a clue to decipherment of historical documents" (戦前の政治家の人名調査—文書読解の手がかりとして), in-service training at National Diet Library, Reader Services and Collections Department, February 18, 2015.



(2) whether or not it covers the person's brief record comprehensively

Ex. curriculum vitae, dictionaries covering personal careers, chronological record attached to a biography

(3) described in narrative form

Ex. Narrative-like biography, historical novels

(4) whether or not surrounding people can be traced

Ex. staff directory, directory of a military unit, directory of a private company

## 2. Decisive tools for research on personal assignments

### ■ Basic literature for the research of persons' assignments

If possible, it is useful to choose a tool which enables you to find a person's assignment at a specific period as well as the person's whole career. The following series of books, which were compiled after scrupulous investigations, including surveys of official documents and interviews with the families and published by the University of Tōkyō Press, fulfill both requirements: it is the proper path to begin research from these titles.

#### **-politicians**

\*Hata Ikuhiko 秦郁彦編 (ed.), *Nihon kingendai jinbutsu rireki jiten* 日本近現代人物履歷事典 (encyclopedia of careers of people in modern and present day Japan), 2nd ed. 第2版, Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2013. (1st ed., 2002)

#### **-bureaucrats**

\*Senzenki kanryōsei kenkyūkai 戦前期官僚制研究会 and Hata Ikuhiko 秦郁彦 (eds.), *Senzen-ki Nihon kanryōsei no seido soshiki jinji* 戦前期日本官僚制の制度・組織・人事 (systems, organizations and personnel affairs of bureaucracy of Japan in prewar period), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 1981.

\*Hata Ikuhiko 秦郁彦 (ed.), *Nihon kanryōsei sōgō jiten: 1868-2000* 日本官僚制総合事典:1868-2000 (comprehensive encyclopedia of systems, organizations and personnel affairs of bureaucracy of Japan: 1868-2000), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2001.

#### **-officers of army/navy**

\*Nihon Kindai Shiryō Kenkyūkai 日本近代史料研究会 (ed.), *Nihon rikukaigun no seido soshiki jinji* 日本陸海軍の制度・組織・人事 (systems, organizations and personnel affairs of the army and navy of Japan), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 1971.

\*Hata Ikuhiko 秦郁彦 (ed.), *Nihon rikukaigun sōgō jiten* 日本陸海軍総合事典 (comprehensive encyclopedia of the army and navy of Japan), 2nd ed. 第2版 Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2005. (1st ed., 1991.)

Some persons cannot be fully identified by the above-mentioned tool; convenient tools to research on assignments of specific groups of people as members of the parliament, bureaucrats and military officers in the prewar period are introduced after Section 3.

### 3. Members of the Imperial Diet

#### 3-1. Members of the House of Peers, Members of the House of Representatives

■ In the following materials, year/date of birth, reading of names and brief personal records of all the people who were members of the Imperial Diet are covered.

\*Members of the House of Representatives:

*Gikai seido hyakunenshi Shūgiin giin meikan* 議会制度百年史 衆議院議員名鑑 (history of the parliamentary system for a hundred years: directory of the members of the House of Representatives), Shūgiin and Sangiin 衆議院・参議院, 1990.

\*Members of the House of Peers/ House of Councillors:

*Gikai seido hyakunenshi Kizokuin Sangiin giin meikan* 議会制度百年史 貴族院・参議院議員名鑑 (history of the parliamentary system for a hundred years: directory of the members of the House of Peers and the House of Councillors), Shūgiin and Sangiin 衆議院・参議院, 1990.

cf. composition of the House of Peers of the Imperial Diet: male members of Imperial family; princes and marquises (aged 30 and above); counts, viscounts and barons (elected by internal votes); imperial nominees; high taxpayers.

■ Besides, brief personal histories of Members of the Diet as well as of secretaries (executive officers of the secretariat) are covered in manuals of the House of Representatives (*Otsu* [2] part) and the House of Peers (*Hei* [3] part):  
*Shūgiin yōran* 衆議院要覧 (manual of the House of Representatives)  
*Kizokuin yōran* 貴族院要覧 (manual of the House of Peers)

\*The various politicians' biographical dictionary

Haga Noboru 芳賀登 [ほか] (et al. eds.), *Nihon jinbutsu jōhō taikai* 日本人物情報大系 (outline of information of people in Japan) 21-30 (kensei hen 憲政編1-10), Bekkan 別巻 (Kensei hen hidenkisha sakuin 憲政編被伝記者索引), Kōseisha 皓星社, 2000.

Includes not only the politicians' careers but also their political views.

#### 3-2. To use *Teikoku Gikai Kaigiroku Kensaku Shisutemu*

More briefly, it is convenient to use the Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet on the Internet. To designate speakers, it is conveniently searchable by *hiragana* (not by *katakana*) via *hatsugen-sha-kensaku* (Search by Speakers, 発言者検索) even if the *kanji* form is unknown.

\*National Diet Library "Teikoku Gikai Kaigiroku Kensaku Shisutemu" 帝国議会会議録検索システム (Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet)

<http://teikokugikai-i.ndl.go.jp/>



### 3-3. Parliamentary groups of the Diet

■Basic literature is:

\**Gikai seido hyakunenshi innai kaiha hen, Shūgiin no bu* 議会制度百年史 院内会派編 衆議院の部 (history of the parliamentary system for one hundred years: the factions part, the House of Representatives section), Shūgiin and Sangiin 衆議院・参議院, 1990.

\**Gikai seido hyakunenshi innai kaiha hen Kizokuin Sangiin no bu* 議会制度百年史 院内会派編 貴族院・参議院の部 (history of the parliamentary system for one hundred years: the factions part, the House of Peers/Councillors section), Shūgiin and Sangiin 衆議院・参議院, 1990.

\*Sakeda Masatoshi 酒田正敏 (ed.) *Kizokuin kaiha ichiran* 貴族院会派一覧 (A list of factions of Japanese House of Peers), Nihon Kindai Shiryō Kenkyūkai 日本近代史料研究会, 1974.

\**Kenkyūkai shozoku Kizokuin giinroku* 研究会所属貴族院議員録 (Directory of members of House of Peers belonging to Kenkyūkai), Shōyū Kurabu 尚友倶楽部, 1978.

\**Kayōkai shozoku Kōseikai shozoku Kizokuin giinroku* 火曜会所属・公正会所属貴族院議員録 (Directory of members of House of Peers belonging to Kayōkai, and Kōseikai), Kasumi Kaikan 霞会館, 1985.

ref. Kayōkai, Kōseikai, and Kenkyūkai are factions of the Japanese House of Peers of the Japanese Imperial Diet.

\**Kizokuin no seiji dantai to kaiha* 貴族院の政治団体と会派 (political organizations and factions in the House of Peers), Shōyū Kurabu 尚友倶楽部, 1984.

## 4. Bureaucrats in prewar period

### 4-1. Basic concepts

To search bureaucrats' personal careers throughout central governmental institutions, fundamental materials are: (1) *Shokuinroku* (roster of government personnel), (2) *Kanpō* (Official Gazette), (3) collections of the National Archives of Japan (document files concerning bureaucrats' careers, appointments and investitures.)

In recent years, large parts of the main body of such materials have become available on the Internet. Thanks to these developments, the inconvenience of research has been solved considerably; they turned out to be convenient tools.

These three tools have both merits and demerits. It is efficient to choose the appropriate one depending on the circumstances: if no clue about a person is available, search Kanpō first to guess which department the person belonged to, and then examine Shokuinroku and/or files of documents at the National Archives for details.

#### 4-2. *Shokuinroku* (roster of government personnels)

■*Shokuinroku* 職員録 (roster of government personnel)

*Shokuinroku* is a series of directories showing the assignments and names of bureaucrats in every department from the prewar period (1886-) to the present day. For volumes published in the prewar era, it is possible to read in the “National Diet Library Digital Collections”.

\*[Website] National Diet Library “Kōmuin(kanri) no jinbutsu-jōhō o shiraberu: senzen hen” 公務員(官吏)の人物情報を調べる(戦前編) (Research guide for searching personal information on Japanese officials: prewar Japan)  
[http://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/research\\_guide/entry/post-771.php](http://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/research_guide/entry/post-771.php)

\*[Website] National Diet Library “Nihon: Kanchō shokuin (Kōmuin) no meibo” 日本-官庁職員(公務員)の名簿 (Research guide for the directory of Japanese officials)  
<http://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/politics/entry/JGOV-meibo.php>

\*Transition of the contents of *Shokuinroku*

Years	Contents
As of 1886 ~	<i>Kō</i> 甲 [1]: central government, <i>Otsu</i> 乙 [2]: local government Contents slightly vary: officers of Army and Navy were transferred to 甲 *October 1923 Only the list of officials ranked above <i>sōninkan</i> (officials appointed with the emperor's approval) was published supplementally in December. *October 1924 The list of <i>kōtōkan</i> , higher officials and <i>hanninkan</i> , junior officials was amalgamated and published in one.
As of 1925	Published twice a year: <i>kōtōkan</i> in January, above <i>hanninkan</i> in July; the version of July covered officials of lower ranks
As of 1940-1943	<i>Kōtōkan</i> only 1940: published twice a year, February version and August version 1941-1943: published once a year
As of 1944-1948	excerpts only “ <i>Kakuchō shokuin shōroku</i> ” 各庁職員抄録 is published in 1944, 1946, 1947, 1948.

■Note:

A *Shokuinroku* contains lists of personnel by every institution and department. Keyword search by personal names is impossible in the Digital Collection of the NDL.

After the Grand Kantō Earthquake of 1923, the composition of volumes was changed from dividing the central government and local government to classifying the officials according to their rank. To search the holdings by the title, it is recommended to combine “印刷局(Insatsukyoku)” and “職員録(*Shokuinroku*)”

\*The list was made up at specific points of time: once or twice a year, the precise dates of reassignments are not available.

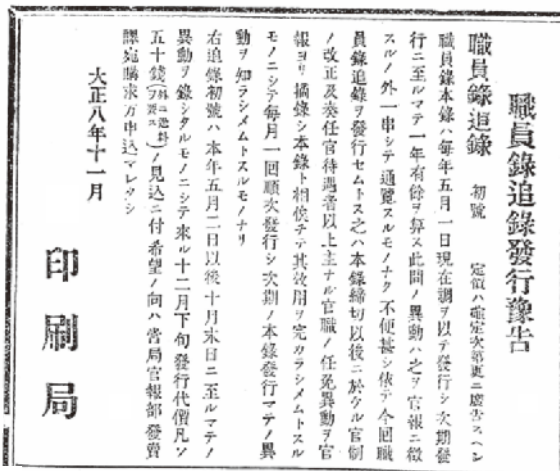


Figure 2 Announcement of publication of supplements

Announcement of publication of supplements.  
To make up for low frequency of publication,  
supplements were published for certain periods.  
Source: *Kanpō* no.2192, November 24 of 1919

■Ranks of officials in prewar period

In general, ranks were composed as below in a simple sketch. Officials at *yatoi* rank, lower than *hanninkan*, tend not to be identified by either *Shokuinroku* or *Kanpō*. (classification after about 1886)

Ministerial rank	Kōtōkan	親任官 <i>shinninkan</i> (officials personally appointed by the Emperor)	勅任官 <i>chokuninkan</i> (officials appointed by the Emperor)
vice-minister, director of bureau level		一等 first rank	
		二等 second rank	
Under chief of department		三等～九等 third to ninth rank	奏任官 <i>sōninkan</i> (officials appointed with the Emperor's approval)
	Hanninkan	一等～四等 first to fourth rank	判任官 <i>hanninkan</i> (junior officials)
<i>Yatoi</i> 雇, etc.			

Source: Hata Ikuhiko (ed.), *Nihon kanryōsei sōgō jiten*, Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai, 2001, pp.383-384.



Figure 3 The chairs of chokuninkan, sōninkan, hanninkan in the office of the Ministry of the Imperial Household in the Meiji Period

Source: Chōdo-kyoku kankei sashu tsuzuri 調度局関係冊子綴り (the bound file related to Chōdo Bureau: Supplies section of the Ministry of the Imperial Household), Nagasaki Shōgo Papers 87, National Diet Library, Kensei Shiryōshitsu

■Officials before publication of *Shokuinroku* began (1886)

In the period before publication of *Shokuinroku*, *Kan'inroku* (directory) was issued by every organization; it is necessary to refer to each one. Titles of directories vary; it is necessary to specify the item by the following tools.

■How to find out possession of *Shokuinroku* and *Kan'inroku* at the NDL

\*Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Sankō Shoshi-bu 国立国会図書館参考書誌部 (National Diet Library, Reference Service and Bibliography Department) (ed.), *Kan'inroku*,

*Shokuinroku mokuroku: Meiji gan-nen Shōwa 22-nen Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan shozō* 官員録・職員録目録 明治元年～昭和22年 国立国会図書館所蔵 (catalogue of *Kan'inroku* and *Shokuinroku* from 1868 to 1947 in the NDL), Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan 国立国会図書館, 1980.

\*[Website] Images of the materials can be accessed in the Digital Collection of NDL  
<http://dl.ndl.go.jp/> (in Japanese)  
[http://dl.ndl.go.jp/?\\_lang=en](http://dl.ndl.go.jp/?_lang=en) (in English)

\*[Website] Digital archive of the National Archives of Japan  
1045 items can be consulted comprehensively at 内閣・総理府>第五類官員録・職員録  
(The Cabinet/The Prime Minister's Office, the 5th kind: *Kan'inroku*, *Shokuinroku*)  
<https://www.digital.archives.go.jp/>

■ Even after the issue of *Shokuinroku* was initiated, some organizations continued to compile directories under their own names; the contents overlap those of *Shokuinroku* published by the Printing Bureau (etc.) to a considerable extent.  
Ex. *Ōkurashō Shokuinroku* 大蔵省職員録, *Kunaishō Shokuinroku* 宮内省職員録

商															農																									
總務	工務	財政	司法	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍	陸軍	海軍			
10000	8000	6000	4000	3000	2000	1500	1000	800	600	400	300	200	150	100	80	60	40	30	20	15	10	8	6	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

勅任  
奏任  
判任

Figure 4 Shokkanhyō (salary scale),

Source: From the *Shokuinroku* of July 1, 1921, p.58.  
 To judge who was superior to others based on the official's position, refer to Shokkanhyō 職官表.  
*Shokuinroku* is a rich source of all kinds of information about the bureaucracy; it is quite a useful reference tool, as most of the organizational affairs are covered: e.g. locations of courts.

4-3. *Kanpō* (Official Gazette)

■ *Kanpō* (first published in July 1883)

\**Kanpō* is the Official Gazette of the state's activities; the item of *jonin* (appointment) and *joi* (investiture) is useful to know an official's career (assumption of a new position, transfer, resignation) at a specific time point.

-It is possible to search military officers (ranked above second lieutenant) and members of the Diet other than government officials.



\*[Website] “National Diet Library Digital Collections”

It is possible to refer comprehensively to the *Kanpō* main part, published in the prewar period:

http://dl.ndl.go.jp/search/detail?searchConditionParameter=&detailSearchTypeNo=T5

■Note:

- Keyword search of persons' name is possible as the tables of contents are included in the Digital Collection; people who belonged to the same section might have been described together under one name with “等” (and others). Even if no record is hit, some kind of the information in question would be found in the text.

○敍任及辭令	
○明治四十一年五月二十一日	
任山林技師	山林技師
欽高等官八等	井上重則
任山林技師	正木官次郎
欽高等官八等	
陸軍高等官五等	加藤 官吉
陸軍高等官五等	新納 謙助
陸軍高等官五等	三木壯太郎
陸軍高等官六等	陸島 謙太郎
陸軍高等官六等	田野 千兩
陸軍高等官六等	阿部 重太郎
陸軍高等官七等	久保田 兵助
陸軍高等官七等	
御用有之高知熊本鹿兒島ノ三縣へ出張ヲ命ス	柳田 國男
御用有之清國へ被差遣以上ノ功ニ内閣	服部 昭
土木局調査課勤務ヲ命ス(内務省)	小笠原 西三郎
(各通)	原田 親光
文官懲戒令ニ依リ二箇月間停職十分ノ一ヲ減ス(大藏省)	佐々木 富雄
(各通)	宇佐川 一正
御用有之陸國へ被差遣	長崎 甚三郎
久留米陸軍區司令部附勤務ヲ命ス	
高瀬縣隊區司令部附勤務ヲ命ス	加藤 勇次郎
大村縣隊區司令部附勤務ヲ命ス	壹岐 時映
佐賀縣隊區司令部附勤務ヲ命ス	小牟田 健吉
熊本職陸軍經理學校附被仰付	加藤 未彦
明治三十七八年戰役給養吏編纂委員ヲ命ス	松川 泰治郎
陸軍經理學校附被免	北條 恆造
陸軍經理學校附被免	
陸軍省經理局御用掛兼勤務ヲ命ス	陸軍一等主計 芝田 忠五郎
陸軍省經理局御用掛兼勤務ヲ命ス	陸軍一等主計 水津 武之進
陸軍省經理局御用掛兼勤務ヲ命ス	陸軍一等主計 北條 恆造
陸軍省經理局御用掛兼勤務ヲ命ス	
故海軍大尉勳五等大岩暢夫明治三十七八年戰役ノ功ニ依リ特ニ金四百五十拾圓ヲ賜フ	大岩 太喜夫

Figure 5 From the *Kanpō* (Official Gazettes) May 22, 1908 #7469

\*Outlines are added by the author: their names marked by outline are included in the table of contents of *Kanpō* May 22 1908 #7469 in the National Diet Library Digital Collections.

井上重則等 (内閣) / p.537
柳田國男等 (内閣) / p.537
小笠原西三郎 (内務省) / p.537
原田親光等 (大藏省) / p.537
宇佐川一正等 (陸軍省) / p.537
大岩太喜夫等 (海軍省) / p.537

\*Quite often only the first person of the organization was catalogued as contents on National Diet Library Digital Collections as the “table of contents” ; even if no record is retrieved by any search, a relevant record might be kept on the *Kanpō*.

#### 4-4. To search in the Digital Archive of the National Archives

■ Keyword search by person’s name is possible for collections of the National Archives.

-If no record is hit when searched by full name, it is more reliable to try another search by the person’s family name only.

-Quite often only the first person on the list on paper was catalogued; even if no record is retrieved by any search, relevant record might be kept on the file.

■ The collection is composed of various kinds of records as follows.

Documents of the careers of persons in the National Archives

Records series	Years stored	Ap- point- ment/ Dis- missal	Deco- ration	Rank	Content	Access status
Shokan Shintai	1871-1879	○	○	○	Officials above the rank of Sōnin	Open
Kōbun Roku	1879-1885	○	○	○	Officials above the rank of Sōnin	Open
Kanri Shintai	1886-1892	○	○	○	Officials above the rank of Sōnin	Access examination is required.
Ninmen Saikasho	1893-1954	○			Officials above the rank of Sōnin	Access examination is required.
Kōbun Betsuroku	1889-1947	○			Shinnin officials (Prime Ministers, ministers, etc.)	Open
Naikaku Jinji Kōbun	1955-1980	○			Cabinet-approved appointments	Access examination is required.
Jokun Saikasho	1893-1954		○		Including decorations for foreigners, etc. Medals of honor given after 1946	Access examination is required.
Tokubetsu Jokun Kunrei	1918-1946		○		Grand Cordon of the Order of Paulownia Flowers, etc.	Open
Kakushu Saikasho	1895-1947		○		Decorations for wartime achievement, Commemoration Medal, etc	Access examination is required.
Kōbun Zassan	1886-1945		○		Medals of Honor only	Access examination is required.
Naikaku Jinji Kōbun	1955-1992		○		Including Medals of Honor	Access examination is required.
Joi Saikasho	1893-1954			○	Including posthumous ranks	Access examination is required.
Naikaku Jinji Kōbun	1955-1988			○		Access examination is required.

Source: Information from the official website of the National Archives, FAQ 20 Q: If I want to look up the career of a famous person, what sort of documents does National Archives have?

For more details, refer to <http://www.archives.go.jp/guide/faq.html#Q20>

#### 4-5. Transition of organization and major positions

■If you try to find out which position a person once took up to investigate the person's profile, other new questions will follow: "What kind of people were in this position?" "This section had been in charge of this task before the organizational reform. To which new post was this task transferred after the reform?" As for the change of organizations and major positions, in addition to *Nihon Kanryōsei sōgō jiten*, various types of literature has already been published.

For examples:

\*Ijiri Tsunekichi 井尻常吉(ed.), *Rekidai Kenkanroku* 歴代顯官録 (directory of successive eminent officials), Hara Shobō 原書房, 1967. Reprint of Chōyōkai pub. 朝陽会 (1925)

\*Asakura Haruhiko 朝倉治彦 (ed.), *Meiji kansei jiten* 明治官制辭典 (dictionary of government organizations in Meiji era), Tōkyōdō Shuppan 東京堂出版, 1969.

\*Ōkurashō Kirokukyoku 大蔵省記録局 (ed.), *Kanrei enkaku-hyō* 官令沿革表 (table of historical transition of governmental orders), Kokusho Kankōkai 国書刊行会, 1974. (reproduction of combined volumes from 1879 to 1885, now available on "National Archives of Japan Digital Archive")

\**Meiji shokkan enkaku hyō: kanchō-bu, shokkan-bu* 明治職官沿革表 (官廨部・職官部) (assignments and posts of public servants in Meiji era: governmental organization part, assignments part), Naikaku Kirokukyoku 内閣記録局 (Record Bureau of the Cabinet) (ed.), Kokusho Kankōkai 国書刊行会, 1974. (duplication which is now available in Digital Archive of the National Archives)

\*Nihon Kingendaishi Jiten Hensyū Inkaishi 日本近現代史辭典編集委員会 (ed.), *Nihon Kingendaishi jiten* 日本近現代史辭典 (dictionary of modern and current history of Japan), Tōyō Keizai Shinpōsha 東洋經濟新報社, 1978.

\*Momose Takashi 百瀬孝, Itō Takashi 伊藤隆 (supervisor), *Jiten Shōwa senzenki no Nihon seido to jittai* 事典 昭和戦前期の日本—制度と実態 (encyclopedia of Japan in prewar Shōwa period: regimes and realities), Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 1990. Detailed explanations of the systems and organizations are presented.

\*easily available, clearly listed information:

Nihonshi Kōjiten Hensyū Inkaishi 日本史広辞典編集委員会 (eds.), *Nihonshi kōjiten* 日本史広辞典 (grand dictionary of Japanese history), Yamakawa Shuppansha 山川出版社, 1997. Yoshikawa Kōbunkan Hensyū-bu 吉川弘文館編集部 (ed.), *Kindaishi hikkei* 近代史必携 (handbook for modern history), Yoshikawa Kōbunkan 吉川弘文館, 2007.

■Tools to search names of departments on the Internet

\*[Website] Kansei enkakuhyō 官制沿革表 (table of history of changes of governmental organizations)

Nation Diet Library "Nihon Hōrei Sakuin Meiji zenki hen" 日本法令索引〔明治前期編〕 (Index Database to Laws and Regulations in early Meiji Japan)

[http://dajokan.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/enkaku\\_top.pl](http://dajokan.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/enkaku_top.pl)

The establishment and abolishment of bureaus/sections of every department/institution/

mission from 1867(Keio 3) to ca.1886 extracted from Hōrei Zensho (complete collections of laws and regulations) are searchable.

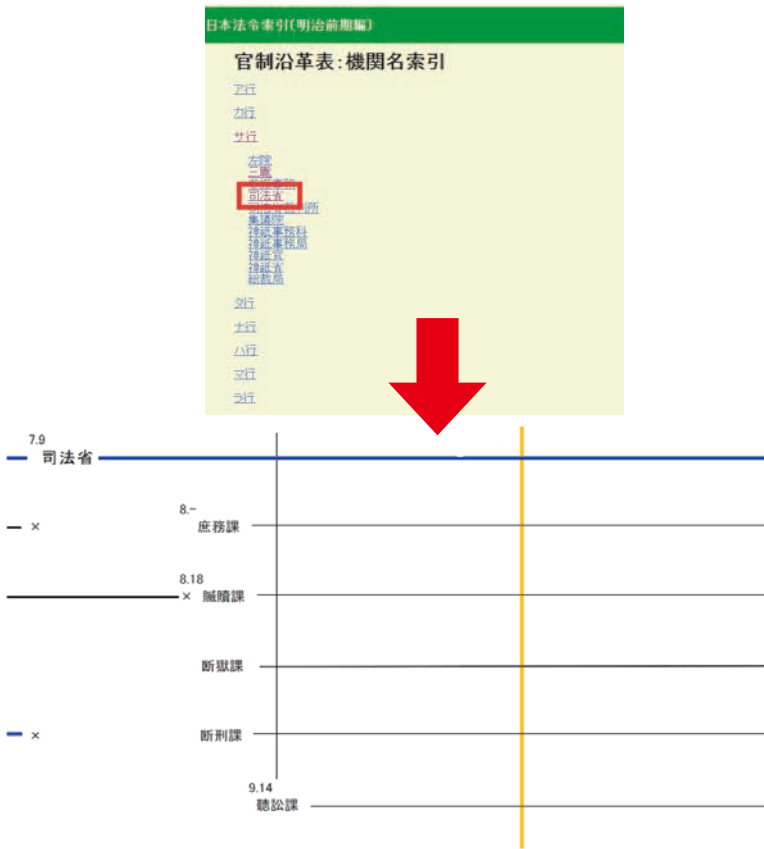


Figure 6 To use Kansei enkakuhyō 官制沿革表 on Nihon Hōrei Sakuin 日本法令索引 (Index to the legislative history of Japan), for instance, 司法省 Sihōshō (the Ministry of Justice) is searched by Kikanmei Sakuin 機関名索引 (index of names of organizations), then the changes of names will be shown: Sihōshō in 1874.

\*[Website] The National Archives of Japan: chart of organizational transitions of ministries agencies

<https://www.digital.archives.go.jp/hensen/chart.cgi/loadurl.cgi>

A chart of organizational transitions at department level since 1885; changes of organizations since the Meiji period are traced. It is conveniently linked with search of the catalogue of the National Archives.

#### 4-6. Ministries and other organizations

■Staff member of *Ōkurashō* (Ministry of Finance)

\**Ōkurashō Hyakunenshi Hensyūitsu* 大蔵省百年史編集室 (ed.), *Ōkurashō jinmeiroku* 大蔵省人名録 (Who's who in the Ministry of Finance), Ōkura Zaimu Kyōkai 大蔵財務協会, 1973.

■Staff member of *Gaimushō* (Ministry of Foreign Affairs)

\*For notable diplomats, refer to: Gaimushō Gaikō Shiryōkan Nihon Gaikōshi Jiten Hensan Inkkai 外務省外交史料館日本外交史辞典編纂委員会 (ed.), *Nihon Gaikōshi jiten* 日本外交史辞典 (Dictionary of diplomatic history of Japan), Yamakawa Shuppan sha 山川出版社, 1992.

\**Gaimushō Nenkan* 外務省年鑑 (yearbook of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), 1907-, Includes Hanninkan and upper rank officials; as reprints of 1913-1926 versions, Gaimushō daijin kanbō jinjika 外務大臣官房人事課 (editor and author), *Gaimushō nenkan* 外務省年鑑 (The Yearbook of Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Kuresu shuppan クレス出版, 1999. Reprint of 1908-1912 version is also available.

\*Gaimushō Hyakunenshi Hensan Inkkai 外務省百年史編纂委員会 (ed.), *Gaimushō no hyakunen* 外務省の百年 (one hundred years of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), gekan 下巻 (the 2nd vol.), Hara Shobō 原書房, 1969.

■Legal Professionals:

\**Nihon Hōsōkai jinbutsu jiten* 日本法曹界人物事典 (Biographical dictionary of Japanese legal professionals) 10 vols, Yumani Shobō ゆまに書房, 1995-1996.

Teikoku Hōsō Taikan Hensankai 帝國法曹大観編纂会 (ed.) Reprint of Teikoku hōsō taikan 帝国法曹大観 (grand overview of Japanese legal professional 1915), etc.

■Staff members of *Naimushō* (Ministry of Home Affairs):

\*[Website] *Naimushō shokuin jinjiroku dētabēsu* 内務省職員録人事データベース (database of staff directories of the Ministry of Home Affairs)

<http://www.littera.waseda.ac.jp/wever/naimujinji/goLogin.do>

It is built by "Atarashii Naimushōshi Kenkyūkai" (新しい内務省史) 研究会 in Waseda University. From 1887 to 1943 for officials above *sōninkan rank*.

\**Naimushō jinji sōran* 内務省人事総覧 (complete guide to personnel affairs of the Ministry of Home Affairs), Nihon Tosho Sentā 日本図書センター, 1990, 3 vols.

Persons related to Naimushō including *sōninkan* are excerpted from *Kan'inroku* and *Shokuinroku* and carried.

\**Naisei kankeisha meibo* 内政関係者名簿 (directory of the persons in domestic administration), Chihō Zaimu Kyōkai 地方財務協会, published annually.

■Staff members of the secretariats of the Diet:

\*For officials above secretary rank, refer to this substantial material:

*Gikai Seido Hyakunenshi shiryō-hen* 議会制度百年史 資料編 (history of the parliamentary

system for a hundred years: materials pt.), Shūgiin and Sangiin 衆議院・参議院 (the House of Representatives and the House of Councillors), 1990.

Kizokuin: pp.388-389; Shūgiin: pp.396-398.

\**Shūgiin yōran* 衆議院要覽 (manual of the House of Representatives), *Kizokuin yōran* 貴族院要覽 (manual of the House of Peers)

■Staff member of *Kaitakushi* (Hokkaidō Development Agency):

\*Hokkaidō Sōmu-bu Gyōsei Shiryōusitsu 北海道総務部行政資料室 (ed.), *Hokkaidō Kaitaku kōrōsha kankei siryō shūroku* 北海道開拓功勞者関係資料集録 (collected materials concerning people who have contributed distinguished services to the development of Hokkaidō), 2 vols., Hokkaidō 北海道, 1971-1972.

\*Yamada Hiroshi 山田博司, “Kaitakushi no soshiki to shokuin: Meiji shonen no kaku-chō” 開拓使の組織と職員 (一) 一明治初年の各庁 (the organization of Kaitakushi and its staff: every office in early years of Meiji era), in *Hokkaidō-ritsu Monjokan kenkyū kiyō* 北海道立文書館研究紀要 (Bulletin of the Archives of Hokkaidō) 5, 1990.3, pp.46-94.

Yamada Hiroshi 山田博司, “Kaitakushi no soshiki to shokuin -2- chokuninkan, sōninkan no keireki” 開拓使の組織と職員(2)一勅任官・奏任官の経歴 (the organization of Kaitakushi and its staff: careers of chokuninkan and sōninkan), *Hokkaidō-ritsu Monjokan kenkyū kiyō* 北海道立文書館研究紀要 (Bulletin of the Archives of Hokkaidō) 13, 1998.3, pp.40-88.

同 “開拓使の組織と職員(2)一勅任官・奏任官の経歴(2)” 北海道立文書館研究紀要 14, 1999.3, pp.78-16

同 “開拓使の組織と職員(2)一勅任官・奏任官の経歴(3)” 北海道立文書館研究紀要 15, 2000.3, pp.108-36. (2nd and 3rd pt. of the beforementioned article)

■Personnel related to former colonies (Taiwan, Korea, the Kwantung Leased Territory, Sakhalin, and the South Sea Islands)

\**Kyū shokuminchi jinji sōran* 旧植民地人事総覧 (source book on personnel affairs in ex-colonies), Nihon Toshō Sentā 日本図書センター, 1997.

\*Staff members of Chōsen Sōtokufu (Government-General of Korea)

[Website] 조선총독부관보활용시스템 (System to make use of the Official Journal of Chosen Sōtokufu (the Government-General of Korea))

<http://gb.nl.go.kr>

\*[Website] Taiwan Historica 台湾文献館, National Chengchi University Libraries 政治大学図書館, 台湾総督府官報 Official Gazette of the Government-General of Formosa  
<http://db2.lib.nccu.edu.tw/view/>

■Other sources of personal informations

\**Jinji kōshinroku* 人事興信録 (credit-rating list), Jinji Kōshinjo 人事興信所, 1903- etc.

\**Taishū jinjiroku* 大衆人事録 (directory of general public), the original title is Gendai jinji chōsaroku, Teikoku Himitsu Tanteisha, 帝国秘密探偵社, 1925.

\**Nihon Shinshiroku* 日本紳士録 (A Social register: who's who), Kōjunsha 交詢社, 1889 etc.

\**Nihon kankai meikan* 日本官界名鑑 (directory of official circles) 1936- published annually.

\**Nihon Himitsu Tanteisha* 探偵社編 (ed.) *Gendai shinshiroku; Shushshin gakkō-betsu* 現代紳士録—出身学校別 (Who's who by school attended), *Nihon Himitsu Tanteisha* 日本秘密探偵社, 1926.

\*Detailed careers of *chokuninkan* and *sōninkan*:

Gabe Masao 我部政男, Hirose Yoshihiro 広瀬順皓 (eds.), *Kokuritsu Kōbunshokan Shozō Choku-Sōninkan rireki gensho* 国立公文書館所蔵勅奏任官履歴原書 (original personal records of *chokuninkan* and *sōninkan* in the National Archives), Kashiwa Shobō 柏書房, 1995; now available in Digital Archive of the National Archives.

\*For the ranks above the associate *sōninkan* (*sōninkan* is an official appointed with the Emperor's approval ) after 1880.

Kunaichō Sannomaru Shōzōkan 宮内庁三の丸尚蔵館編 (ed.), *Meiji 12-nen Meiji Tennō gokamei jinbutsu shashinchō* 明治十二年明治天皇御下命「人物写真帖」, 収藏品目録写真 (Catalogue of portrait photograph albums: by imperial order of The Meiji Emperor, 1879), Kunaichō 宮内庁, 2015.

\*Guide to the main literature for researching bureaucrats:

Shuyō sankō bunken kaidai 主要参考文献解題 (annotated bibliography of selected reference literature) in *Senzenki Nihon Kanryōsei no seido soshiki jinji* 戦前期日本官僚制の制度・組織・人事 (systems, organizations and personnel affairs of the bureaucracy of Japan in the prewar period), *Senzenki Kanryōsei Kenkyūkai* 戦前期官僚制研究会 and Hata Ikuhiko 秦郁彦 (eds.), Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 1981.

## 5. Military officers

■ For military officers, tools which should be referred to would be different according to the rank; investigation could be easier after confirming to which rank the person was promoted. Assignments can be found in *Kanpō* and other official directories, but they are quite difficult to find; it is more efficient to use the dictionaries listed as below.

coverage	The title (in Japanese)	The title (translated into English)
All the generals, other chief executives	Hata Ikuhiko 秦郁彦(ed.), <i>Nihon Rikukaigun sōgō jiten</i> 日本陸海軍総合事典 2nd ed. 第2版 Tōkyō Daigaku Shuppankai 東京大学出版会, 2005.	Comprehensive encyclopedia of the army and navy of Japan.
General officers (major-general and above): army and navy	Toyama Misao 外山操 (ed.), <i>Rikukaigun shōkan jinji sōran</i> 陸海軍将官人事総覧 Rikugun hen 陸軍編, Kaigun hen 海軍編, Fuyō Shobō 芙蓉書房, 1981.	Source book of general officers of the army and navy: army pt., navy pt.
	Furukawa Toshiaki 古川利昭(ed.), <i>Teikoku Rikukaigunshōkan dō sōtō-kan meibo, Meiji kengun kara shūsen made</i> 帝国陸海軍将官同相当官名簿—明治建軍から終戦まで Toshiaki Furukawa 古川利昭, 1992.	List of the generals of the imperial army, navy and equivalent officials: from the foundation of army in Meiji era to the end of WW2.
General officers (major-general and above): army	Fukukawa Hideki 福川秀樹 (author and editor), <i>Nihon rikugun shōkan jiten</i> 日本陸軍将官辞典 Fuyo Shobō Shuppan 芙蓉書房出版, 2001.	Dictionary of generals of the Japanese army



Organizations of units and related persons	Toyama Misao 外山操, Morimatsu Toshio 森松俊夫 (author and editor), <i>Teikoku Rikugun hensei sōran kindai Nihon gunji sosiki jinji shiryō sōran vols.1-3</i> . 帝国陸軍編制総覧—近代日本軍事組織・人事資料総覧 第1-3巻 Fuyō Shobō Shuppan 芙蓉書房出版, 1993.	Source book of organizations of the Imperial army: source book of materials military organizations and personnel affairs of modern Japan, vols.1-3.
	Sakamoto Seiki 坂本正器 and Fukukawa Hideki 福川秀樹 (author and editor), <i>Nihon Kaigun Hensei Jiten</i> 日本海軍編制事典 Fuyō Shobō Shuppan 芙蓉書房出版, 2003.	Dictionary of organizations of the Imperial navy
Majors and officers (list of posts made from retirement directory at Sep.1 of 1944)	Matsubara Keiji 松原慶治(ed.), <i>Shūsen-ji teikoku rikugun zen gen'eki shōkō shokumu meikan</i> 終戦時帝国陸軍全現役将校職務名鑑, Senshi Kankōkai 戦誌刊行会, 1985. (Index. 1986.)	List of duties of all the active officers of the Imperial army at the end of WW2.
“Special attack” unit of army	Rikugun Kōkū-hi Hōsankai 陸軍航空碑奉賛会編 (ed.), <i>Rikugun kōkū no chinkon sōshūhen</i> 陸軍航空の鎮魂—総集編, Rikugun Kōku-hi Hōsankai 陸軍航空碑奉賛会, 1993.	Repose of souls of the flying corps of the army: omnibus ed.
Navy officers, officers below the rank of major are also covered	Kaigun Gisaikai 海軍義済会編 (ed), Todaka Kazushige 戸高一成 (supervisor), <i>Nihon Kaigun shikan sōran</i> 日本海軍士官総覧, Kashiwa Shobō 柏書房, 2003.	Source book of the officers of the Japanese navy.
General officers (major-general and above): navy	Kaigun Rekishi Hozonkai 海軍歴史保存会編 (ed.), <i>Nihon kaigunshi</i> 日本海軍史 vols.9-10., Kaigun Rekishi Hozonkai 海軍歴史保存会, 1995.	History of the Japanese navy, vols.9-10.
General officers (above major-general): navy	Fukukawa Hideki 福川秀樹, <i>Nihon kaigun shōkan jiten</i> 日本海軍将官辞典, Fuyo Shobō Shuppan 芙蓉書房出版, 2000.	Dictionary of generals of the Japanese navy.
Combat crews of navy fighter planes	Reisen(Zerosen) Tōjoin-kai 零戦搭乗員会, <i>Kaigun senōkitaishi</i> 海軍戦闘機隊史 Hara Shobō 原書房, 1987.	History of the corps of the navy fighter planes.
“Special attack” corps	Tokkōtai Senbōsusha Irei Heiwa Kinen Kyōkai 特攻隊戦没者慰霊平和祈念協会, <i>Tokubetsu kōgeki tai zenshi</i> 特別攻撃隊全史, Tokkōtai Senbōsusha Irei Heiwa Kinen Kyōkai 特攻隊戦没者慰霊平和祈念協会, 2008.	Complete history of “special attack” corps
General officers (major-general and above)	The National Diet Library, “Kingendai Nihon seiji kankei jinbutsu bunken mokuroku” 近現代日本政治関係人物文献目録 <a href="https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/seiji/">https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/seiji/</a>	NDLBibliographical Database of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics
The Graduates of Military Academy	<i>Rikugun shikan gakkō</i> 陸軍士官学校 Akimoto Shobō 秋元書房, 1970.	Military academy
The Graduates of Military Academy	Rikugun Shikan Gakkō Meibo Hensankai 陸軍士官学校名簿編纂会, <i>Rikugun Shikan Gakkō meibo: Rikushi, Kōshi, Rikukei, Rikuyō, Gunkan</i> 陸軍士官学校名簿 陸士・航士・陸経・陸幼・軍官 2nd vol. 1982. ※After the 50th batch of graduates are covered.	List of Military Academy graduates: military academy, military aviation school, military accounting school, military preparatory school, military administrators school.
Appointments and promotions of army officers	Ōe Hiroyo 大江洋代, Meijiki rikugun shikan no ninkan shōshin jittai ni kansuru kisoteki kenkyū (1) Rikushi kyū-ki sotsugyō shōi ninkan-sha to dōjiki kashi shussain ninkan-sha 明治期陸軍士官の任官・昇進実態に関する基礎的研究(1) 陸士旧期卒業少尉官者と同時期下士出身少尉任官, <i>Tōkyō Daigaku Nihonshi Kenkyūjitsū kiyō</i> 東京大学日本史学研究室紀要 (Bulletin of the department of Japanese history faculty of letters, The University of Tōkyō)11, 2007.3, pp.245-295.; to be continued by the 2nd pt, in <i>Tōkyō Daigaku Nihonshi Kenkyūjitsū kiyō</i> 12, 2008.3, pp.73-106.	Basic study on the realities of appointments and promotions of army officers in the Meiji era (1): appointees from graduates of military academy in former periods and those from noncommissioned officers.) Original English title by author: The Preliminary Research of the Army Officers' Organization: From the View of the Military Academy School Coming Person and the Who Comes from the Noncommissioned Officer (1)



The Graduates of Naval Academy	Kaigun Heigakkō Shusshinsha Meibo (Seito) Sakusei linkai 海軍兵学校出身者(生徒)名簿作成委員会, <i>Kaigun heigakkō shusshinsha (seito) meibo</i> 海軍兵学校出身者(生徒)名簿 kaitai-ban 改定版, 1987.	List of graduates and students of naval academy, rev. ed.
The official roster of prewar army	<i>Rikugun gen'eki shōkō dō sōtō-kan jitsueki teinen meibo</i> 陸軍現役將校同相当官実役停年名簿	List of officers on active service and equivalent officers by year of retirement from duty
	Other <i>teinen meibo</i> : yobieki 予備役, kōbieki 後備役	List of officers of the second reserve and equivalent officials of the army by year of retirement from service List of officers of the first reserve and equivalent officials of the army by year of retirement from service
The official roster of prewar navy	<i>Kaigun kōtō bukan meibo</i> 海軍高等武官名簿	List of high-ranked navy officers
	<i>Gen'eki kaigun shikan meibo</i> 現役海軍士官名簿	List of active navy officers

## 6. Research techniques when at a deadlock

When at a deadlock, it is possible to research again by looking at the tool of search for a person.

■[Website] National Diet Library “How to research the military rosters”

軍事関係の名簿の調べ方

[https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/research\\_guide/entry/post-515.php](https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/research_guide/entry/post-515.php)

■Convenient research tools:

\*[Website] National Diet Library “Nihon jinmei jōhō sakuin (Jinbun bun'ya)” 日本人名情報索引 (人文分野) データベース (Index of information of personal names in Japan, database in the field of humanities)

<https://rnavi.ndl.go.jp/jinmei/>

■Did they study abroad?

\*If the person studied abroad during the closing days of the Tokugawa shogunate or the Meiji period, years of birth and death etc. can be designated by:

Tezuka Akira 手塚晃 and Kokuritsu Kyōiku Kaikan 国立教育会館 (eds.), *Bakumatsu Meiji kaigai tokōsha sōran* 幕末明治海外渡航者総覧 (Sourcebook of people travelled abroad in the closing days of the Tokugawa shogunate and the Meiji era), vols.1-3, Kashiwa Shobō 柏書房, 1992.

\*[Website] Tōkyō Daigaku Sōgō Toshokan 東京大学総合図書館 General Library, The University of Tōkyō, “Meijiki no ryūgakusei ni tsuite shiritai” 明治期の留学生について知りたい (To know about students who studied abroad in the Meiji era)

[http://www.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/sogoto/contents-e/faq\\_1.html](http://www.lib.u-tokyo.ac.jp/sogoto/contents-e/faq_1.html)

\*Esu Kei Kei エス・ケイ・ケイ (ed.), *Kokusaijin jiten* 国際人事典 (encyclopedia of internationally-minded people), Mainichi Komyunikēshonzu 毎日コミュニケーションズ, 1991: covers people who were active internationally.

■ Were they family members or relatives of peers?

\*Kasumi Kaikan Shoke Shiryō Chōsa Iinkai 霞会館諸家資料調査委員会 (ed.), *Shōwa shinshū kazoku kakei taisei* 昭和新修華族家系大成 (newly accomplished compilation of the families of peers in the Shōwa era), Kasumi Kaikan 霞会館, Jō 上 [1] 1982.3, Ge 下 [2], 1984.4.

\*Kasumi Kaikan Shoke Shiryō Chōsa Iinkai 霞会館華族家系大成編輯委員会 (ed.), *Heisei shinshū kazoku kakei taisei* 平成新修華族家系大成 (newly accomplished compilation of the families of peers in the Heisei era), Kasumi Kaikan 霞会館, Jō 上 [1], Ge 下 [2], 1996.

\*Gakushūin Daigaku Shiryōkan 学習院大学史料館 (ed.) *Danshaku sōran* 男爵家総覧 (Directory of family members of Barons), Shōwa Kaikan 昭和会館, 2007.

■ Can we trace them from the schools they have graduated?

\*Harada Noboru 原田登 (ed.), *Teikoku daigaku shusshinroku* 帝国大学出身録 (directory of graduates of imperial universities), Teikoku Daigaku Shusshinroku Hensyūjo 帝国大学出身録編輯所, 1922.

\**Teikoku Daigaku shusshin jinmei jiten* 帝国大学出身人名辞典 (dictionary of persons who graduated from imperial universities). vols.1-4, Nihon Toshō Sentā 日本図書センター, 2003.

This title is the reproduction of:

Kōyū Chōsakai 校友調査会, *Teikoku Daigaku shusshin meikan* 帝国大学出身名鑑 (list of persons who graduated from imperial universities) vols.1-3, Kōyū Chōsakai 校友調査会, 1932.

“Gakushi meikan” 学士名鑑 (list of graduates), extracted from *Teikoku Daigaku Gakuyūkai* 帝国大学校友会, *Teikoku daigaku taikan* 帝国大学大観 (overview of imperial universities), 1939.

■ Was the person’s death reported in a newspaper/local newspaper with additional information concerning his/her career?

As literature compiled for this concept is as below:

\*Ōue Shirō 大植四郎 (author and editor), *Meiji Kakochō* 明治過去帳 (Register of death by newspaper notices of the Meiji period) (Shintei 新訂 revised edition), Tōkyō Bijutsu 東京美術, 1988.

\*Inamura Tetsugen 稲村徹元, Imon Hiroshi 井門寛 and Maruyama Makoto 丸山信 (eds.), *Taishō Kakochō* 大正過去帳 (Register of death by newspaper notices of the Meiji period), Tōkyō Bijutsu 東京美術, 1973.

\*Kida Jun’ichirō 紀田順一郎 (supervisor), *Tsūtōkiji Sakuin* 追悼記事索引 (Index of articles of eulogy), Nichigai Assoshiētsumu 日外アソシエーツ, Kinokuniya Shoten 紀伊國屋書店 (distributor), 2006.

■ Others

\*[Website] Google Inc. “Google Books”

<https://books.google.co.jp/>

Full-text search service provided by Google Inc.: keyword search is easy to use and effective when to look first is unclear.

\*[website] “Ajia Rekishi Shiryo Sentā”

アジア歴史資料センター Japan Center for Asian Historical Records

<http://www.jacar.go.jp/> (in Japanese)

<http://www.jacar.go.jp/english/index.html> (in English)

\*Did the person write any books and articles with additional information concerning his/her career?

## V How to understand information associated with legislation: personal papers of politicians and legislative process

### 1. Research on personal papers of politicians and legislative process

The material below is a draft of the Imperial Constitution (1888), formerly possessed by Itō Hirobumi 伊藤博文.

Having signed “博文 (Hirobumi)” on the front page, Itō presented the Privy Council with his original proposal for the Constitution, having penciled in some last-minute alterations.

In personal papers, materials at various stages of the legislative process, which are hard to be preserved in official documents, would remain; to analyze this kind of materials, it will turn out to be necessary to compare with the actual legislations and official documents.

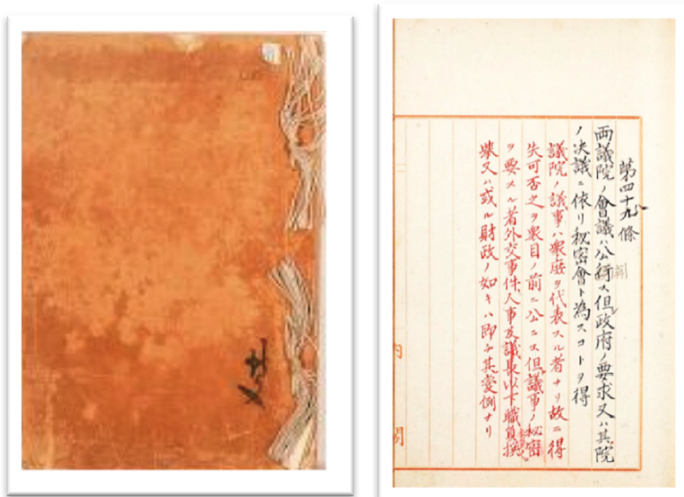


Figure 7 Constitution of the Empire of Japan (clean copy), March Proposal

Source: Itō Hirobumi Papers(1), Document #233

## 2. From an actual catalogue: the catalogue of Inoue Kaoru Papers

For example, consult the catalogue of Papers of Inoue Kaoru 井上馨, who was Minister of Agriculture and Commerce in the Kuroda cabinet, Minister of Home Affairs in the second Ito cabinet and Minister of Finance in the third Itō cabinet and continued to be highly esteemed as a *genro* (elder statesman) after retiring.

From the catalogue of Inoue Kaoru Papers (#662)

“井上馨関係文書目録”(憲政資料目録第10) 国立国会図書館編刊, 1975

*Inoue Kaoru Kankei Monjo Mokuroku* (The catalogue of Inoue Kaoru Papers)

- 1 刑屍取計[通達] 司法省諸省宛 明治四年一〇月一〇日 墨書 一綴
- 2 男女永年季奉公之儀ニ付伺 司法省 正院宛 明治五年六月二三日 墨書 一綴  
(付)奉公人年期定御[布告]案
- 3 人身売買禁制[布告]発令願 大藏大輔井上馨 正院宛 明治五年八月二日 墨書 大藏省罫紙 一綴
- 4 大木司法卿ノ人事彈議書 海江田信義 井上馨宛 明治一六年四月一〇日 墨書 一綴
- 5 刑法中改正加除ノ儀意見書 參議井上馨 明治一六年一〇月一〇日 墨書 外務省罫紙 一綴
- 6 會計[法]草案〔明治二二年カ〕 活版 一冊
- 7 地籍[条例]案 明治二二年施行予定 活版 一冊
- 8 保安[条例]廃止案ニ対スル意見書〔明治二五年カ〕 墨書・葯蕪版 一綴  
(付)保安[条例]要項・東京府下ニ於ケル保安条例執行度数及退去人員
- 9 保安[条例]廃止案ニ対スル意見〔都筑馨六カ〕〔明治二五年カ〕 墨書 内務省罫紙 一綴 (注)前号8ノ原文
- 10 予戒[令]廃止案ニ対スル意見〔明治二五年〕 墨書・葯蕪版 一綴  
意見案・社士取締リ意見 明治二二年八月一三日・予戒令施行度数人員 明治二五年一一月二日調
- 11 集会及結社[法]〔案〕〔明治二五年一二月カ〕 墨書 法制局罫紙 一綴
- 12 政談集会及政社法案ニ対スル意見〔都筑馨六カ〕〔明治二六年カ〕 墨書 内務省罫紙 一綴
- 13 新聞紙[法]案参照 新聞雜誌調 明治二五年一〇月調 墨書 一綴  
(付)政談演説結社数及解散禁止一覽表 明治一三年～明治二五年
- 14 新聞紙[法](案)〔明治二五年一二月〕 墨書 法制局罫紙 一綴
- 15 修正新聞紙[法]案〔明治二五年一二月〕 葯蕪版 一綴
- 16 出版[法](案)〔明治二六年〕 墨書 法制局罫紙 一綴
- 17 出版[法]案 明治二六年七月一日施行予定 墨書 内務省罫紙 一綴

■ Even by merely looking at a very limited part of the Inoue Kaoru papers, it is obvious that various sorts of materials related to lawmaking will be found in the private papers of politicians.

### (1) Kinds of legislation

*Hō* 法 (law), *Jōrei* 条例 (regulation), *Rei* 令 (ordinance), *Fukoku* 布告 (decree), *Tsūtatsu* 通達 (circular)

cf. Before 1886 when the new legal order *Kōbunshiki* (公文式) was introduced, a wide variety of names and forms of legislation had actually existed: *Fukoku* 布告 (decree), *Futatsu* 布達 (proclamation), *Tasshi* 達 (official notice), *Kokuji* 告示 (notification), etc.. Many of them did not have any titles; for instance, the forms of legislation were to be distinguished by the words at the end of the texts as: “…候条、此旨相違可相心得候事”.

After the establishment of *Kōbunshiki*, the forms of legislation were reorganized into *Shōchoku* 詔勅 (imperial edict), *Hōritsu* 法律 (act), *Chokurei* 勅令 (imperial ordinance), *Kakurei* 閣令 (cabinet ordinance), *Shōrei* 省令 (ministerial ordinance), etc.

#### (2) Difference of stages of legislative process

*Ukagai* 伺 (ask for instruction); “*haishian ni taisuru iken*” 廃止案ニ対スル意見 (opinion on proposal of repeal), *hatsurei negai* 発令願 (ask for instruction); *Sōan* 草案 (draft)

#### (3) Methods of printing

*bokusho* 墨書 (writing in sumi), *konnyaku-ban* 蒟蒻版 (hectograph), *kappan* 活版 (typography)

cf. *Konnyaku-ban* is a kind of planography using a gelatinous substance such as kanten (made from tengusa seaweed), printed in violet such as methyl violet; the number of prints would be a few or several tens. Typography is a kind of anastatic printing using typesets, quite a large number of prints are possible.

In general, it could be assumed that materials printed by hectograph or typography might have been made in a relatively large number and distributed to multiple people: such material could be a clue to judge for which stage of legislative process was the material prepared.

#### (4) Difference of ruled paper used

*Ōkurashō* 大蔵省 (Ministry of Finance), *Naimushō* 内務省 (Ministry of Home Affairs), *Gaimushō* 外務省 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs), *Hōseikyoku* 法制局 (Cabinet Legislation Bureau)

#### (5) Inoue’s position

Politicians, bureaucrats at high ranks, drafts of legislation and information gathered around Inoue.

### 3. Finding texts of statutes

■An example of “*Keishi torihakarai tsūtatsu*” 刑屍取計通達 (circular concerning thoughtful measures to treat corpses from public execution) Inoue Kaoru Papers 662-1, Meiji4, October 10

\*For example, to clarify the purport of the material “662-1 刑屍取計通達 司法省 諸省 宛”, first questions are (supposed to be): Was it issued actually? Given its promulgation, is there any difference between this record and the actual statutes?

■Useful website to search the text of laws and regulations

\*[Website] National Diet Library “*Nihon hōrei sakuin Meiji zenki hen*”

日本法令索引 (明治前期編) Index Database to Laws and Regulations in the early Meiji Japan

<http://dajokan.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/> (1867.3-1886.2)

\*[Website] National Diet Library“Nihon Hōrei Sakuin”  
 日本法令索引 Index Database to Japanese Laws, Regulations and Bills (1886.2-present)  
<http://hourei.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/> (1886.2-present)

- keyword search of the title of legislations is possible.
- There is a difference of the period covered by these two websites, which is divided into two terms, namely, before and after *Kōbunshiki* (came into force February 1886), which changed the legal system of Japan drastically.
- To search legislation of prewar period in Nihon Hōrei Sakuin, use “制定法令” Seitei-hōrei (enacted statutes). If it is searched on “現行法令” Genko-hōrei (existing statutes), repealed statutes will be omitted.

■Index Database to Laws and Regulations in early Meiji Japan

The material #662-1 was promulgated in 1871 (Meiji 4); it is likely to be retrieved by Index Database to Laws and Regulations in early Meiji Japan.

Figure 8 A Search page of The Index Database to Laws and Regulations in early Meiji Japan

■In case no name of a statute is found in “Nihon Hōrei Sakuin”

- (1) Input keywords such as “刑屍取計” “刑屍” in hōreimei 法令名 (name of act) and click the “検索実行” (search) button: there is no hit.
- (2) Input Meiji 4, October 10th in hatsurei nen gappi 発令年月日 (date of promulgation) and search: “shikei no ishi kafu seigan no basho o sadamu Meiji yo-nen jū-gatsu tōka Shihōshō” 死刑ノ遺屍下付請願ノ場所ヲ定ム 明治4年10月10日 司法省 (The place where the petitions for handing over of corpses from public execution are accepted is designated, Ministry of Justice) is retrieved. Maybe this record corresponds to the

circular; it is directly linked to the texts in *Hōrei Zensho*.

\*Something like law in a catalogue of private papers is often not found in the name of a statute of *Nihon Hōrei Sakuin* despite the fact that they are actually materials related to laws.

The reasons are:

- (1) Many of the statutes made before *Kōbunshiki* did not have titles. (In *Hōrei Sakuin*, even those statutes are catalogued based on the subject index of *Hōrei Zensho*.)
- (2) Politicians' private papers include documents at various stages of the legislative process as draft proposals; names on the papers catalogued might differ from the formal titles which were actually issued.
- (3) Wordings to notify the legislation to the person and others are included.

In such cases, it is advisable to try to search by the names of organizations engaged and the dates of promulgation, or to broaden ideas of keywords, to refer to *Hōrei Zensho* if the years of enactment are known (*Hōrei Zensho* is compiled yearly).

-In the case of No. 662-1 of Inoue Kaoru Papers, the notification was sent to *fuken* (prefectures) and ministries for reference. The wordings for distribution to ministries are written at the beginning: the document of notification is recorded in the catalogue.

-In politicians' private papers, materials concerning certain statutes before and after enactment rather than the texts of statutes themselves are contained. Therefore, to use politicians' papers for clarifying the legislative process, it will be needed to compare such papers with official documents and publications related to such legislation.

■ The Database for research of the legislative process, official documents and Official Gazette

\*[website] “Kokuritsu Kōbunshokan Dejitaru Ākaibu”

国立公文書館デジタルアーカイブ The Digital Archive of the National Archives

<https://www.digital.archives.go.jp/> (in Japanese)

[https://www.digital.archives.go.jp/index\\_e.html](https://www.digital.archives.go.jp/index_e.html) (in English)

\*[website] “Ajia Rekishi Shiryō Sentā”

アジア歴史資料センター Japan Center for Asian Historical Records

<http://www.jacar.go.jp/> (in Japanese)

<http://www.jacar.go.jp/english/index.html> (in English)

\*[website] “Nagoya Daigaku Hō Jōhō Kenkyū Sentā” 名古屋大学法情報研究センター (Japan Legal Information Institution of Nagoya University), Database of *Official Gazette*, English edition from 1946.4.4 to 1952.4.28.

<http://jalii.law.nagoya-u.ac.jp/project/jagasette>

For *Kanpō* in English version from 1946.4.4 to 1952.4.28., the digitized image of *Kanpō* is also available in the National Diet Library Digital Collections.

#### 4. Parliamentary documents of the Imperial Diet

■ In politicians' private papers, materials related to the Diet as bills, stenographic records, written questions, drafts of speeches etc., might be included.

■ Legislative process of Acts promulgated after November 1890 might have been discussed in the Imperial Diet: peruse stenographic record by name of the act through *Teikoku Gikai Kaigiroku kensaku shisutemu*.

\*[Website] “Teikoku Gikai Kaigiroku kensaku shisutemu” 帝国議会議録検索システム (1890.11-, Database System for the Minutes of the Imperial Diet.)

<http://teikokugikai-i.ndl.go.jp/>

Today, stenographic records of plenary sessions and committee meetings are open to the public through *Teikoku Gikai Kaigiroku kensaku system*

cf. The committees of the Imperial Diet consisted of special committees and standing committees (Budget, Petitions and Discipline, etc.); bills were generally discussed at special committees under the names of bills and then deliberated at plenary sessions. To know which committee was held, it is a way to check the name “選択閲覧” sentaku etsuran screen of *Teikoku Gikai Kaigiroku Kensaku system*; it should be noted that stenographic records were not always made for committees of the Imperial Diet.

■ To search a specified bill

\*[Website] National Diet Library “Nihon hōrei sakuin” 日本法令索引, “Hōritsuan kensaku” 法律案検索 (Search of bills)

[http://hourei.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/frame/houritsuan\\_top.jsp](http://hourei.ndl.go.jp/SearchSys/frame/houritsuan_top.jsp)

\**Shūgiin gian kenmeiroku* 衆議院議案件名録 自第一回議會至第六十回議會 (list of bills of the House of Representatives of the Imperial Diet from the 1st to the 60th session), Shūgiin Jimukyoku 衆議院事務局, 1932.

\**Gikai seido nanajūnenshi Teikoku Gikai gian kenmeiroku* 議會制度七十年史 帝國議會議案件名録 (history of the parliamentary system for seventy years, classified list of bills of the Imperial Diet), Shūgiin and Sangiin 衆議院・參議院 1961.

\**Shūgiin giji tekiyō* 衆議院議事摘要 (summary of proceedings of the House of Representatives), *Shūgiin kiji tekiyō* 衆議院記事摘要 (summary of proceedings of the House of Representatives), *Shūgiin hōkoku* 衆議院報告 (report of the House of Representatives), *Kizokuin jimukyoku hōkoku* 貴族院事務局報告 (report of the secretariat of the House of Peers)

In the sessions of the Diet, various kinds of items to be deliberated other than drafts of legislation were on the agenda: drafts of budget, written questions and answers, proposals, petitions and others. Minor affairs would appear only in proposals, petitions and questions. It is easier to find an item using the following lists and publications than to peruse voluminous records.



### **Concluding remarks**

A wide variety of materials such as letters, diaries, proposals and documents related to the legislative process, pamphlets, etc. are contained in the personal papers of politicians; a certain amount of preliminary knowledge is required for practical use of such materials. First-time users might find some difficulties in the research methods themselves.

Politician is an occupation around whom information and records will gather, there are potentials in politicians' personal papers to clarify various kinds of subjects and their backgrounds. Should the methods of research and decipherment be owned in common more widely, broader ways of usage of materials from new perspectives could be open. We would be happy if this paper could be utilized as one of such gateways.

(Fumi ASHINA Reader Services and Collections Department)