

Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan (18)

A collection of living creatures from all times and places: real, virtual and extinct creatures

From August 20 to September 15, 2015, the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library (NDL) held a small exhibition entitled "A collection of living creatures from all times and places: real, virtual and extinct creatures."



国立国会図書館関西館 第18回小展示

古今東西
いきもの
絵巻

いる
いない
もういない

入場無料

8月20日(木)~9月15日(火)

※休館日(日曜・祝日)を除く

展示会場：国立国会図書館関西館 地下1階総合閲覧室
 年齢制限：なし（18歳未満の方は受付でお申し出ください）
 入場料金：無料
 開館時間：10：00-18：00（日曜・祝日は休館）
 お問い合わせ：0774-98-1341（関西館資料案内 9：30-17：00）

命の星、地球。生命が誕生してから40億年の時を経た今、多様な生き物が栄えるさまは、まさに百花繚乱といえます。身近にいる動物、絶滅してしまった動物、そして人の想像力が創り出した動物。我々人類は時代を越えて、常に彼らと共にありました。

第18回の関西館小展示では「古今東西いきもの絵巻-いる、いない、もういない-」と題し、実在の動物から想像上の動物まで、多種多様な動物の姿をご紹介します。

表紙イラスト（題）：『西遊草紙：お伽文字』（岩文社、1894年）
 表紙イラスト（その他）：『放逸動物の雑草』（岩村三郎監、1908年）
 表紙挿絵：『浮城三才図説 卷五』（内閣書院、1950年）

国立国会図書館関西館

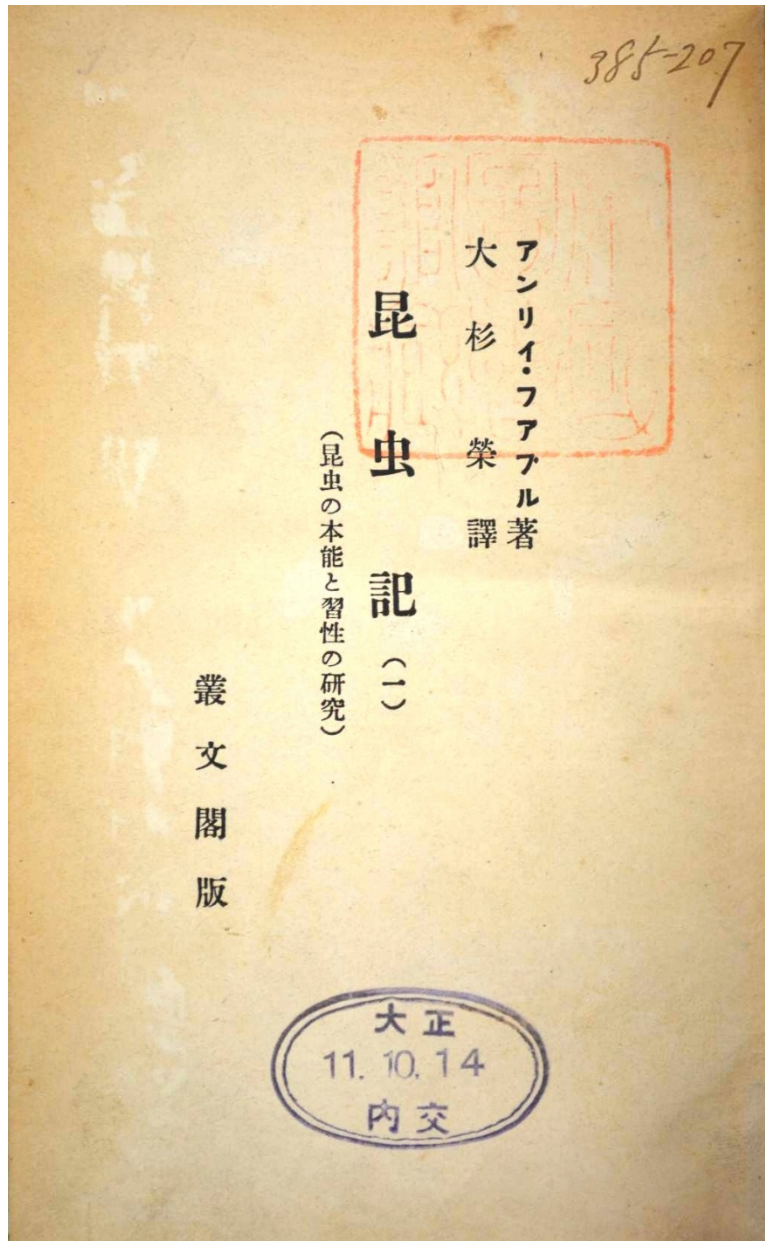
<<Poster for the small exhibition>>

The exhibition focuses on not only living but also imaginary and extinct creatures, and presents a variety of subjects from a wide range of related materials including scientific and literary works.

This article is an introduction to four of the most famous books featured in the exhibition, which record the lives of animals living in the author's local habitat, demonstrate the diversity of living creatures, or give animals a prominent place in a literary work.

● *Konchuki*

(Japanese translation of *Souvenirs entomologiques* by Jean Henri Fabre) published by Sobunkaku from 1922 to 1926; NDL Call No. 385-207



<<Original cover of *Konchuki*>>

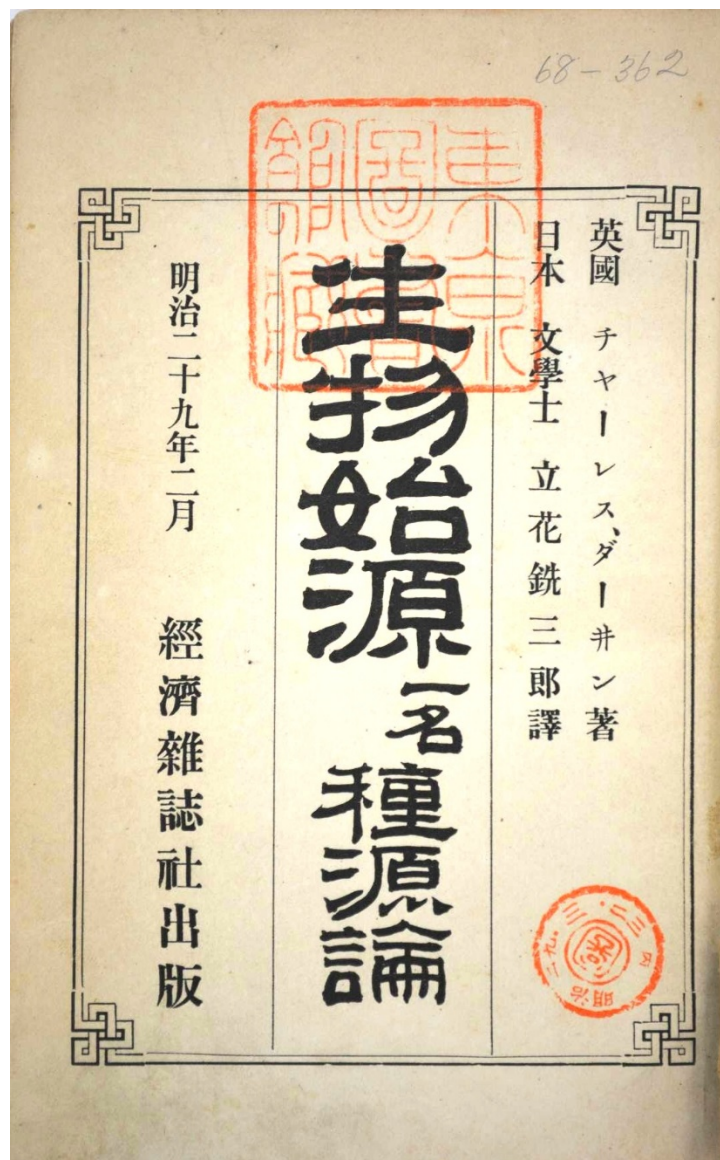


<<Sketches of insects by Fabre>>

This representative work of the French entomologist Jean Henri Fabre is highly regarded as a record of insect life. It combines expert scientific observation with literate depictions of insect behavior. Featured in the exhibition was the first Japanese translation of this work, which was published in several volumes from 1922 to 1926. The first volume was translated from French to Japanese by Osugi Sakae. It is very interesting that this well-known anarchist dealt with a translation of a book about a topic far removed from politics.

● *Seibutsu shigen*

(Japanese translation of *On the Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin) published by Keizai Zasshisha in 1896; NDL Call No. 467.5-cD22s3-T



<<Original cover of *Seibutsu shigen*>>

This is the Japanese translation of the English naturalist Charles Darwin's book *On the Origin of Species*, which introduced to the world the theory that evolution is brought about by mutation and natural selection, thereby provoking worldwide great controversy in both scientific and religious circles after its original publication in 1859. Featured in this exhibition was the first Japanese translation, published in 1896.

● *Wagahai wa neko dearu*

(lit. I Am a Cat) published by Ookura Shoten from 1905 to 1907; NDL Call No. 26-344



<<Original cover of Soseki's *Wagahai wa neko dearu*>>



<<An illustration from Wagahai wa neko dearu >>

This is the debut novel of Natsume Soseki, a Japanese author from the Meiji period. This satirical and humorous story as told by a cat gained great popularity. Featured in this exhibition was an edition of this work that was published serially between 1905 and 1907 and which included a number of unique illustrations.

● *Wakan sansai zue*

(lit. Illustrated Sino-Japanese Encyclopedia) published by Naito Shooku in 1890 NDL Call No. 031.2-Te194w-n2



<<Yinglong (Winged dragon)>>

This is an illustrated encyclopedia by Terajima Ryoan, published in the Edo period and based on *Sancai Tuhui* compiled during the Ming dynasty by Chinese author Wang Qi. The book consists of 105 volumes in total and is divided into three parts: universe, earth, and humankind. The chapter focusing on birds and animals also includes legendary animals such as the Chinese phoenix, dragons, and a mermaid.

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- [Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan \(16\): Dreams of Space, from the ancient view of the universe to the Hayabusa Project](#) (No.196, October 2014)
- [Small exhibition in the Kansai-kan \(15\): Modernization of Japanese sake and domestic production of Western liquor](#)(No.193, April 2013)