

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 115 August 2000

NEXT



Digital Exhibition: Nippon in the World

[The Digital Exhibition: Nippon in the World \(Japan in the World\)](#) started on August 2, 2000, on the NDL website. It is intended to present Japanese culture and history from various perspectives. One of the important themes of the exhibition is the encounter with foreign cultures, because Japan has modernized through contact with the Western world.

The exhibition fits in with the purpose of the international project "Bibliotheca Universalis", which aims to give access to the major works of the world's scientific and cultural heritage – texts, images, sounds – hence fostering cultural exchanges across borders and enhancing services to end users. The NDL is actively involved in the Project.

We produced the exhibition in cooperation with the Association of Broadband-network Business chance & Culture Creation (BBCC). The Library selected the items and compiled the contents, while the BBCC conducted the technical work including digitization.

[Welcome to the Exhibition](#)



Japan was closed to foreigners from the seventeenth to the mid-nineteenth century. After the opening of the country in 1853, Western cultures flooded in, and Japan's people experienced a rapid change and modernization. In this exhibition, we have tried to introduce Japanese traditional culture that has been lost over the years, and also the first impressions of Japanese when they met with the outer world.

Scenic Mementos of Japan

This part contains 168 paintings, illustrations, photos, etc. of good old Japan from the seventeenth to nineteenth century, selected from the collections of the NDL and the Osaka Nakanoshima Library.

Images are categorized by region ["Edo" (Tokyo area) or "Kamigata" (Osaka and Kyoto area)], period [the Edo period (1603-1868) or the Meiji era (1868-1912)], and topic [scenic places, amusements, work, festivals, and fashion]. Search items by these categories, and see images with bibliographic data.

For some images, users can also view comments and a short moving image of the present scene for comparison. You can find how scenery and manners have changed with the passing of time. Comments in detail will help you to understand Japanese popular culture. Among the images are many photographs taken by foreign travelers, giving their first impressions of Meiji-era Japan.

Vienna International Exposition

Part 2 is about the Vienna International Exposition in 1873, the first international exposition in which the

Japanese government participated. Japan set up a pavilion and put out information on its industry and culture into the world. We selected this subject to express the theme "Exchanges between people".

It has approximately 50 images: photographs of the Japanese exhibition and illustrations clipped from reports, guidebooks, and newspapers. The images have been digitized from the collections of the NDL and the Tokyo National Museum. The file also contains text and bibliographic references. It is edited to guide visitors on a sightseeing tour of the exposition, the Japanese pavilion and its exhibition, and gives a description of the influence of this event.

Modern Japanese Political History Materials (in Japanese)

This part includes both digital exhibition and a search system of the bibliographic database of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials. Available only in Japanese.

The exhibition presents precious items held by the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the NDL, such as diaries, letters, and business papers, once owned by eminent politicians in and after the latter half of the 19th century, searchable by period and theme.

Modern Japanese Political History Materials are catalogued by the name of the former owner. Through the search system, the name of each collection, summary, and biographical data of former owner can be retrieved. Searching individual documents included in some collections is also available on an experimental basis. We plan to increase and expand data for the future.

NEXT



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 115 August 2000



19th Mutual Visit Program between NDL and NLC

A National Diet Library (NDL) delegation visited China from October 26 to November 4, 1999 on the 19th mutual visit program between the NDL and the National Library of China (NLC). The program started in 1981 to exchange opinions on issues of mutual concern and to further strengthen mutual understanding and friendly relations. Headed by Naotake Ito, Deputy Librarian of NDL, the delegation consisted of the following four other members: Keiji Tsuchiya,



Deputy Director of the Research and Legislative Reference Bureau, Akio Kawakami, Senior Acquisition Librarian, Ikuko Tozawa, Chief of the Rare Books and Old Materials Division, and Tomoko Kato of Asian Materials Division.

The main theme of the program was "Service of national (parliamentary) library into the 21st Century", and the sub-theme "Service for parliament" was added at the request of the NLC.

Plenary Meeting



At the Plenary Meeting, Mr. Noritake Ito reported on recent developments in the NDL. In 2002, the NDL starts operating three facilities (service points), the Tokyo Main Library, Kansai-kan (provisional name), and the International Library of Children's Literature, on three different sites. Against the background of the striking progress in information communication technology, and for integrated management of these facilities, the NDL has

been developing the Electronic Library Infrastructure System since 1998 to offer various new services. The document supply service and electronic library service using high communication technology will ensure remote access to library resource. For visitors, the NDL will provide information on certain subjects in special information rooms, and improve reference services including gateway service to information resources outside the Library. In international aspects, the NDL continues supporting Japan-related research institutions abroad.

Mr. Zhou Heping, Deputy Director of NLC, also stressed the importance of new information

technology.

The NLC provides priority services to organizations of the central government, national legislative bodies, and key research, educational and production institutions. In addition to them, the Library puts emphasis on networking of library service, integrated cooperative service and selective service to play the role of information center and networking center in the Chinese library community.

By opening the National Library of China website, connecting the State Council, Peking University and Tsinghua University, ChinaNet, CERNET (China Education and Research Network), CSTNet (China Science and Technology Network), Beijing Cable TV Network and National Cable TV Network, the NLC has become a center of network information resources.

For integrated cooperative service, the NLC has established the National Network of Reference Services to promote information resources sharing in the country. The NLC is expanding also selective services, such as book delivery service for government organizations and scholars, management of study-rooms for priority readers in the Library, and compilation of special bibliographies.

Section Meeting

At the section meeting, both libraries introduced their services for national legislative bodies.

An important mission of the NDL is to assist the members of the National Diet in the performance of their duties. Its Research and Legislative Reference Bureau plays an important role in this service using the latest information technology. The number of requests from Diet members doubled in last ten years. To offer a prompt response, the Bureau emphasizes not only research on request, but also anticipatory research.

The NLC provides priority services to the central government and national legislative bodies. During the annual plenary sessions of the National People's Congress and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the NLC provides reference services for members when they draft bills. To share information resources with libraries in the central government agencies, the NLC recently opened a branch library in the Ministry of Personnel.

The activities of the Reference and Library Service Coaching Department of the NLC were also introduced in the report.

Deliberation based on Letter of Intent concerning Exchange and Cooperation between the NDL and the NLC

At the last program in May 1999, NDL and NLC agreed on the Letter of Intent concerning Exchange and Cooperation between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China as follows:

1. Continue the Mutual Visit Program
2. Investigate possibility of staff exchange for training
3. Cooperate in construction of bibliographic databases in Chinese and Japanese
4. Cooperate in international exchange of materials and document supply service
5. Cooperate in the NDL's acquisition of Chinese materials for the Asia Resource

Information Center in the Kansai-kan (provisional name)

Both libraries discussed the details of 3 and 5.



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 115 August 2000



Selections from the NDL Collection

Tsurumi Yusuke Monjo (*Yusuke Tsurumi Papers*)

“Kensei Shiryo” (Modern Japanese Political History Documents) is the NDL collection of private papers which trace Japanese modern political history in and after the latter half of the 19th century. 235,000 items comprise mainly diaries, letters, drafts and memorandums, once owned by eminent statesmen, diplomats, military officers, government officials and businessmen who were involved in Japan’s modern politics. Items are identified by the name of the original owner. “Tsurumi Yusuke Monjo” (Yusuke Tsurumi Papers) were donated to the NDL in 1995–96 by his daughter Kazuko.



Yusuke Tsurumi (1885–1973) was a many-sided man: politician, orator, internationalist, author, playwright, and good father. ([Portrait](#)) Graduating from the Tokyo Imperial University in 1910, he got a position in the Ministry of Railways. After a year’s travel in the U.S., Europe, and Russia with his mentor Inazo Nitobe (1920–26 Under-Secretary-General of the League of Nations) to introduce Japan, he married the daughter of Baron Goto, his superior and a famous Japanese politician, in 1913. ([Passports](#))

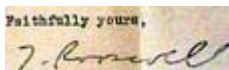


In 1924, he changed his course from public servant to statesman. As a statesman, he ran in ten elections from 1924 through 1959 and won five times. The political party *Meiseikai* which he founded was short lived.



([The party platform of the Meiseikai](#)) He nevertheless preferred to think himself as a politician. ([Tanka poem](#))

He was an advocate of the New Liberalism and an admirer of Woodrow Wilson.



His acquaintance was not limited to statesmen such as Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt, Jawaharlal Nehru, Getúlio Vargas. ([Correspondence with W. Wilson and T. Roosevelt](#)) He traveled with Arthur Schlesinger (historian), acted as interpreter for Roald Amundsen (the first to reach the North Pole), and met George Bernard Shaw, Sigmund Freud, and other luminaries. The Kayoukai (Tuesday meeting), gathering held



in his house every Tuesday, attracted a variety of people, including government officials, journalists, businessmen, and writers. ([Letter from Akiko Hatano](#))

In the 1920s and '30s, Mr. Tsurumi, one of the most famous Japanese publicists in the west, gave full play to his ability to improve mutual understanding. As he had a rare gift of eloquence even in English, his speeches in the U.S. and Canada got nationwide news coverage. The New York Times introduced him as a young Japanese Liberal and an expert on political science and history. ([The N.Y. Times, July 14, 1938](#)) His articles appeared in the New Republic, the Saturday Evening Post, and others.



He played an important role in the Japanese Council (1926–1943) of the Institute of Pacific Relations (1925–1961) established by eminent people of the region (Australia, Canada, China, Korea, New Zealand, Philippines, U.S. etc.). Although the IPR was the first major private international organization in the Pacific region, its contribution to regional understanding and scholarship is little known today. The “Tsurumi Papers” of the NDL include a wealth of related materials, speech drafts, minutes of the meetings, and announcements. ([Resume of his speech](#)) The Japanese Council dissolved by the end of the '30s (officially in 1943) because of both the pressure on international liberals in Japan and the distrust of the Japanese government’s spokesmen abroad. The NDL also holds the IPR publications in its books and periodicals collection.



Although he emphasized international cooperation with the U.S. and the U.K., he was a major member of the Taisei Yokusankai (Imperial Rule Assistance Association) during World War II. He was not able to apply his beliefs to his life as a politician. He was affected by the purge directive of the Allied Powers from 1946 through 1950. ([Purge notification](#))

In 1953, he won a seat in the House again, and was appointed Minister of Health and Welfare in 1954. ([The written appointment](#)) He loved politics. In 1959 he fell ill and was bedridden for 14 years before dying at the age of eighty-eight.



He was known as the author of approximately hundred books including best-selling novels, biographies, translation of Plutarch’s works, and critical essays. Three screen versions of his romantic novel “Haha” (The Mother) had a large audience. ([Th Mother](#))

The Papers also include his diaries for fifty-seven years (1903–1959) in thirty-three

volumes. He used diaries made in America, and most descriptions are written in English even in wartime. They record the thoughts and actions of a Japanese internationalist of the time. The description displayed was written in November 20, 1959, the day before the onset of his illness.

[\(Diary\)](#)



◀ BACK

NEXT ▶

National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 115 August 2000



New Publications from NDL

Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Shozo

Kindai Nihon Seiji Kankei Jinbutsu Bunken Mokuroku 1985–1997

(National Diet Library Bibliography of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics)

A biographical bibliography of eminent people in Japan's modern politics from the Meiji period to the present in the NDL Japanese books collection.

The NDL staff selected about 3,500 people: Emperors (Meiji, Taisho, Showa), Cabinet Ministers, Diet Members (House of Representatives, House of Peers, House of Councillors), Senators, Privy Councilors, leaders of political parties, diplomats, government officials (head of department or above), military officers (general or admiral or above),

local assembly members, governors, mayors, and other historical personages including publicists, socialists, ultranationalists, and low-ranking military officers.

The 14,000 items listed are not limited to autobiography, biography, memoirs, diaries, memorial writings, or personal criticism. Anecdotes, essays, criticism and research reports also show different sides of their personalities. In principle, the items were selected from articles of three pages or longer. The bibliography succeeds its predecessor *Kindai Nihon Seiji Kankei Jinbutsu Bunken Mokuroku* published in 1985, and covers items published from 1985 to 1997. It also contains items published before 1985 that were not carried in the previous catalog.

[Click here for the sample page](#)

Jinbutsu Bunken Sakuin: Houritsu Seiji Hen (*Biographical Literature; Men of Law and Politics*)

397p. 1972, NDL call number: 280.39-Ko548z, covers items published from 1868 to 1971, not available on the market

Kindai Nihon Seiji Kankei Jinbutsu Bunken Mokuroku (*National Diet Library Bibliography of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics*)

532p. 1985, NDL call number: A1-33, covers items published from 1868 to 1984, not available on the market

Kindai Nihon Seiji Kankei Jinbutsu Bunken Mokuroku 1985–1997 (*National Diet Library Bibliography of Persons in Modern Japanese Politics 1985–1997*)

505, 27p., 2000, ISBN 4-87582-558-7, covers items published from 1985 to 1997, available from Kinokuniya Co. Ltd. for 9,000 yen (domestic price)

For further information Kinokuniya Company Ltd.

5-38-1 Sakuragaoka,
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo 156-8691, Japan
Fax:+81-3-3439-0136
E-mail: kj00@kinokuniya.co.jp



National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 115 August 2000



Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals (Text in Japanese)

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

No. 472, July 2000

- Participating in the eighth Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) and the eleventh Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL), *by Masaaki Chiyo*
- The third meeting of the Legal Deposit System Council
- NDL budget for fiscal 2000
- Report of the 13th forum on preservation "Making a disaster prevention plan and how to put it into practice"

No. 471, June 2000

- Opening of the International Library of Children's Literature
- Summary of commemorative events
- Upon opening of the International Library of Children's Literature, *by Kuniko Kameda*
- Chronology; History of the establishment of the International Library of Children's Literature
- Gifts for children of the 21st Century, *by Tadashi Matui*
- Expectations of the International Library of Children's Literature, *by Toshihiko Ogawa*
- Invitation of staff members from the National Assembly Library of Korea: Planning for a mutual visit program
- Visiting the National Diet Library of Japan, *by Kim Jun*

No. 470, May 2000

- Making use of bibliographic utilities in European and American countries, *by Mikiko Sato*
- National Digital Library Program and the map collection of the Library of Congress, *by Yuko Bansho*
- Electronic library national liaison conference FY1999
- Partial amendments to the National Diet Library Law: Revision of the legal deposit system

