

No. 172 Apr. 2010



Oranda gunsozu (Dutch Military Costumes and Equipments Illustrated)

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This article is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 585 (December 2009).

During the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate, Dutch military-related books were circulated all over Japan via the Trading Post in Nagasaki. Referring to the books, feudal domains installed gun batteries and the Shogunate embarked upon the establishment of a modern army and navy in addition to the batteries. As for military uniforms to be adopted by the modernized army, the replacement of linked mail (kusari katabira) and armor and helmet set (kacchuu) then favored by the samurai with Dutch-style military gear was reviewed and put into effect.

Here we introduce Oranda gunsozu (lit. Dutch Military Costumes and Equipments Illustrated: see the figure 1 for the image and the bottom of page for the original Dutch title), a book imported from the Netherlands for the express purpose of reference for military reforms in Japan. It comprises a text part and an illustrated part describing the uniform, equipment and insignia of the Royal Netherlands Army for each rank.



figure 1: Oranda gunsozu Illustration No. 19

Although the text part is very detailed, complete with a chronological table of military costumes and equipments since 1814, the illustrated part proved to be far more popular in late Edo Japan. Numerous copies and picture scrolls were produced based on it; one such example is *Oranda kangun no fukushoku oyobi gunso ryakuzu* (lit. Uniforms Colors and Sketched Military Equipments of the Official Dutch Army:NDL call number W442-30), a translation by Masatami Yamawaki published by the Kōbu Juku (a private military academy founded at Akasaka, Edo in 1851) in 1858 (figure 2).

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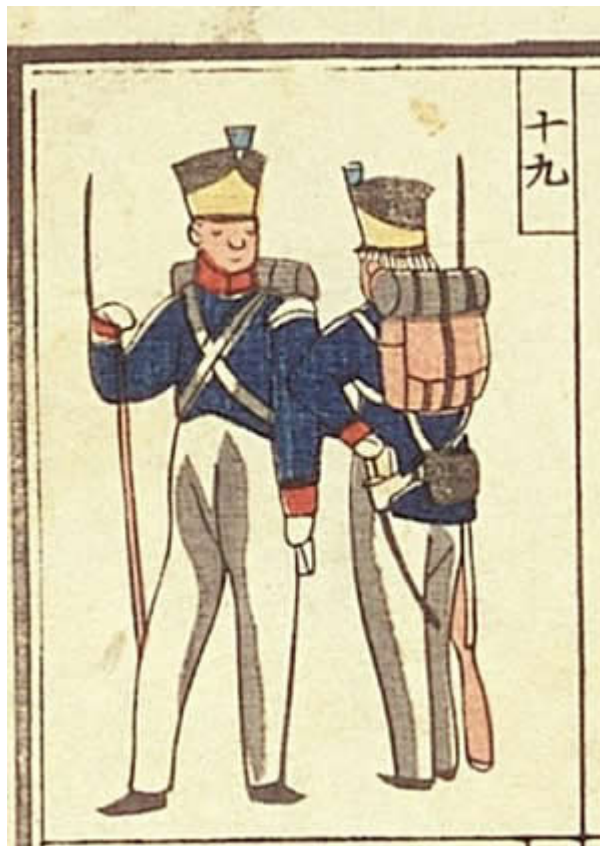


figure 2: Oranda kangun no
fukushoku oyobi gunso
ryakuzu Illustration No. 19

In publishing a Japanese translation, 48 illustrations out of the total 51, leaving out the insignia, were reproduced by Fuminari Murakami in the same order as the original. However, the pictures in the translated work were reduced in size and detail; 9 illustrations are contained on each page. Unfortunately, the copy in the NDL collection has a page missing, lacking total of 18 illustrations, from no.22 to no.39.

The Oranda gunsozu is also in the collection of Takeo City Library and Historical Museum and copies of the illustrated part are possessed by the Tsuyama Archives of Western Learning and Leiden University. The book is known to have an addendum published in 1826 but it is not in our collection.

Leather-made backpacks (Ransel in Dutch) carried by infantrymen in the illustrations were adopted by the Imperial Japanese Army during the Meiji period. An offshoot of the military backpack is randoseru, a school satchel used by primary school students. We had not yet embraced randoserus for school in the early Meiji; children carried their writing slates wrapped in cloth (furoshiki) or carried them unwrapped (figure 3.)



figure 3: Illustrated cover of
Wagen kokyo, a textbook of
moral education in Meiji period
< NDL call no.: YDM8833 >

In 1885, the primary school of Gakushuin adopted randoseru as a school bag for the first time in Japan (figure 4). An in-school notice quoted in Volume 1 of Gakushuin hyakunenshi (lit. A Hundred Years' History of Gakushuin) published in 1981 (NDL call number FB22-1471) says: "In view of following martial spirit of European nations, we would like to gradually regularize the use of infantry-style randoseru as a bag for students to carry books. Those obtaining a new bag are strongly recommended either to remodel it after that adopted in our infantry class or to purchase it from the school at approximately 2.60 yen."



figure 4: Clothing instruction for students of Gakushuin as set out in August 1890. (from Volume 1 of Gakushuin hyakunenshi p. 287)

The use of randoseru gradually spread to schools around the country; by 1960s, it had become nationwide school kit. Thus, the military backpack introduced to Edo-Meiji Japan through Oranda gunsozu has transformed itself to randoseru, a primary school satchel, and become a common sight all over Japan.

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Teupken, J.F. Beschrijving hoedanig de koninklijke Nederlandsche troepen en alle in militaire betrekking staande personen gekleed, geëquipeerd en gewapend zijn...gevolgd van 51 platen met eene titelplaat, voorstellende officieren en manschappen van alle wapenen, in hunne volle kleeding en wapenrusting.

's Gravenhage, Gebroeders Van Cleef, 1823. 10,110,20 p. 51 pl. < NDL call no.: 蘭-832 >

Reference

– Kazuo Katagiri, “Oranda kangun no fukushoku oyobi gunso ryakuzu no gensho to sono fuzu no mosha-zu o megutte”, Kobijutsu (66), pp.62–78, 1983.4.

– Takeo City Library and Historical Museum, Rangaku no kita michi : Takeo Ryoshu no kaimono-cho. 2004.

*Online digital exhibition “[Japan–Netherlands Exchange In the Edo Period](#)” containing this material is open from December 16, 2009. [Related article](#).

*The material in figure 3 is available in the [Digital Library from the Meiji Era](#).

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Digital Exhibition “Japan–Netherlands Exchange in the Edo Period” Relations between Japan and the Netherlands

This article is an extract translation of the article in Japanese of the same title in the NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 586 (January 2010).



A new digital exhibition of the National Diet Library (NDL) became available on the NDL website (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/nichiran/e/index.html>) from December 16, 2009. The year 2009 marked the 400th anniversary of the opening of trade between Japan and the Netherlands. To commemorate this, the NDL and [the Koninklijke Bibliotheek](#) (KB; National Library of the Netherlands) each made digital exhibitions on the Internet on the same theme, Japan–Netherlands exchange.

A digital exhibition shows digitized collections with some explanations via the Internet. The NDL and the KB made an agreement for cooperation in 2005, and prepared the digital exhibitions on a unified theme. The exhibition of the Netherlands side titled “[The Netherlands–Japan](#)” is contained in “The Memory of the Netherlands” on the web site of the KB, and opened to the public in August 2009.

Search the Memory of the Netherlands

Search

View theme: **History and society**

A collection of the **Koninklijke Bibliotheek**, the national Diet Library

The Netherlands – Japan

In 1600, nine years after the Dutch had first set foot on Japanese soil, the *Verenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie* (the Dutch East India Company) entered into trading relations with this distant and unknown country. After some time, Dutch merchants and their followers were allowed to establish themselves on the small island of *Deshima* in the bay of *Nagasaki*. The Dutch flag was to fly there for more than two hundred and fifty years. For almost the whole duration, the Dutch were the only Europeans given permission to live in the country.

They lost this exceptional position in the middle of the nineteenth century, when Japan was forced to open its borders. After the *Meiji Restoration*, Japanese-Dutch relations had a different purport and substance.

In 2000, the two countries celebrate the 400th anniversary of their relationship. The **Koninklijke Bibliotheek** (National Library of the Netherlands) and the **National Diet Library** of Japan have devoted part of their websites to their unique common history.

Search in collection | Browse collection

This collection is a joint initiative of the **Koninklijke Bibliotheek**, the National Diet Library.

View all 124 objects in this collection

The Netherlands – Japan

View all showtimes: **De Liefde bij Annobon**

Extra information

- Index
- Themes
- Participating institutions
- Colophon

About the Memory | Search | Explore | Other

KB Koninklijke Bibliotheek

The digital exhibition of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek

The unified theme “Exchange in the Edo Period”

The exchange between Japan and the West dates back to when a Portuguese ship was tossed ashore on Tanegashima Island (1543). As the Edo Shogunate government banned Christianity, only people from the Netherlands were allowed to come to Japan and be resident in the Dutch Factory on *Deshima* from the beginning of the 17th century. It is estimated that at the time, the Netherlands' GDP per capita was the highest in the world, and more than half the ships going from Europe to Asia were Dutch ships. In addition, as the Netherlands was a country where publishing flourished in a climate of religious freedom, *Discorsi e dimostrazioni matematiche*, intorno a due nuove scienze by Galileo Galilei and *Discours de la méthode* by R. Descartes and other important books were first published in the Netherlands.

The Japanese gave the Netherlands special treatment which was not seen in other Asian countries, willingly receiving the Western culture through the medium of

Dutch, within the limits permitted by the Shogunate government. The Western learning called rangaku (Dutch Studies) was very widely accepted, and many books in Dutch were imported and read. In addition, Japanese people helped the Dutch people who came to Japan to study with intention of introducing Japan widely to the West. As a result, many books concerning Japan were published in Europe. These activities cleared the ground for the opening of the country in the middle of the 19th century, and laid the foundation for the modernization after the Meiji Restoration. From the Meiji era, Japan deepened its exchange with other Western countries. In consideration of this background, we decided that the exhibitions of both countries would be made under a unified theme, focusing on introducing extensively the exchange between the two countries in the Edo period (17–19th century).

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Column: From the Exhibition of the KB



Arnoldus Montanus, A Samurai (1669)

In the digital exhibition on the KB website, various items are available: the official permit “Shuin-jo” by Tokugawa Ieyasu to allow the start of trade between Japan and the Netherlands, documents such as a letter sent from the Wilhelm II to the Shogun Tokugawa Ieyoshi to suggest the opening of the country, illustrations depicting Japanese customs in works by Kaempfer, Montanus (picture above) and Siebold, photographs of Japanese students studying in the Netherlands at the end of the Edo period, a plate made in Delft imitating Japanese Imari porcelain ware (photo below), and a kago (palanquin) brought in from Japan.



Plate made in Delft by the workshop “De Griekse A”
(around 1720–1740)

In the Edo period, Dutch culture was imported to Japan, and Japanese culture was exported to the Netherlands. Records of these activities have been kept, and many books describing the Japan–Netherlands exchange have been written in both countries.

The NDL holds various materials showing the Japan–Netherlands exchange including Dutch books that belonged to the Edo Shogunate government, Watanabe Kazan’s old books confiscated in the Bانشa no Goku Affair (suppression of Dutch studies scholars and others who had criticized the foreign policy of the Shogunate government), Dutch Studies materials mainly on herbal studies such as Ito Collection and Shirai Collection, historical materials of Japanese students studying in the Netherlands at the end of the Edo period, and the materials regarding Katsu Kaishu. The NDL also owns many studies on Japan published in foreign countries, including descriptions of Japan written by foreign visitors. Through these materials, we hope to show you vividly the wide variety of exchange between Japan and the Netherlands.

Column: From the Exhibition of the KB

In the digital exhibition on the KB website, there are historical explanations for 5 events: the shipwreck of De Liefde in 1600, the starting of trade by the Dutch East India Company in 1609, the court journey to Edo by Titsingh in 1783, Siebold’s visit to Japan in 1823, and the sending of students from Japan to the Netherlands in 1862. These are easily available as they are linked from the digital exhibition of the NDL.



Arnoldus Montanus, The trading post on Hirado (1669)

Structure of the Exhibition

Research on Dutch studies in the Edo period has been conducted vigorously since the prewar period. The first part of the exhibition is designed to trace the overall outline of Japan–Netherlands exchange in the Edo period, including information from the materials held by institutions other than the NDL.

[“Part 1: Tracing the History”](#) introduces history from the stranding of De Liefde in Japan in 1600, through the activities of the Dutch factory on Deshima and the journey to court, the development of Dutch studies shown, for example, in the publication of the Japanese translation of *Anatomische Tabellen*, to the encroachment of Europe and America and opening of Japan. We have tried to make it easy to understand by inserting many images from woodblock prints, printed books and manuscripts. At the end, we have added a [column about Hiraga Gennai and Dutch studies](#).

The main part of the exhibition is [“Part 2: View by Topics.”](#) Here we would like to introduce some of the materials exhibited for each topic.

1. [Study of Japan by Foreigners Coming to Japan](#)

Here six foreigners who stayed in Japan during the Edo period, François Caron (1600–1673), Engelbert Kaempfer (1651–1716), Carl Peter Thunberg (1743–1828), Isaac Titsingh (1745–1812), Johan Frederik van Overmeer Fisscher (1800–1848) and Philipp Franz Balthasar von Siebold (1796–1866) are featured. Their works, and books written about them by Japanese authors, are introduced. There was a very active exchange between foreigners in Japan and Japanese people. Some of the works by those foreigners were imported to Japan and translation into Japanese was attempted in the Edo period. Many Japanese helped them to write their books, such as Takano Choei who cooperated with Siebold in writing *Nippon* (1832–1851).



Seiyo senpu

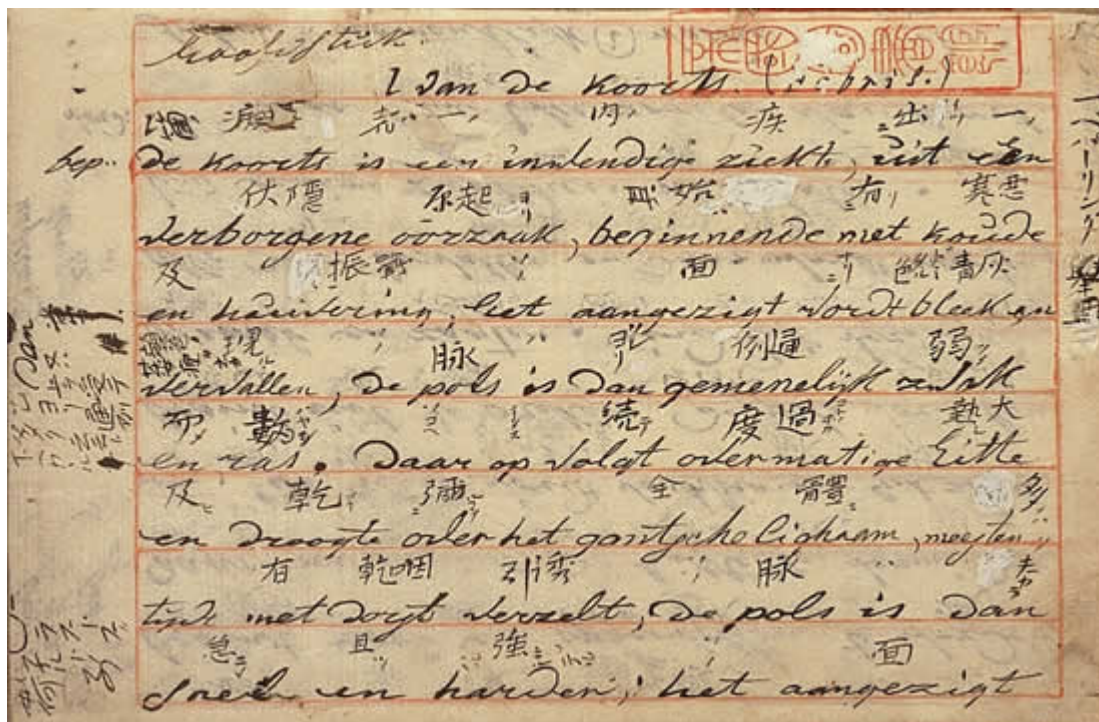
By Kutsuki Masatsuna. Published in 1787.

The author, the lord of the Fukuchiyama Domain, was interested in Dutch studies and asked Titsingh to get some European coins for him.

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2. Activities of Dutch Studies Scholars

It was interpreters in charge of contacting the Dutch factory in Nagasaki who first started to learn Dutch. As they progressed in learning the language, their understanding of Western culture grew and they obtained various kinds of books in Dutch. As there was small limit in importing books in natural science, books on medicine, astronomy, biology were especially read and translated.



Seiyo naika senyo

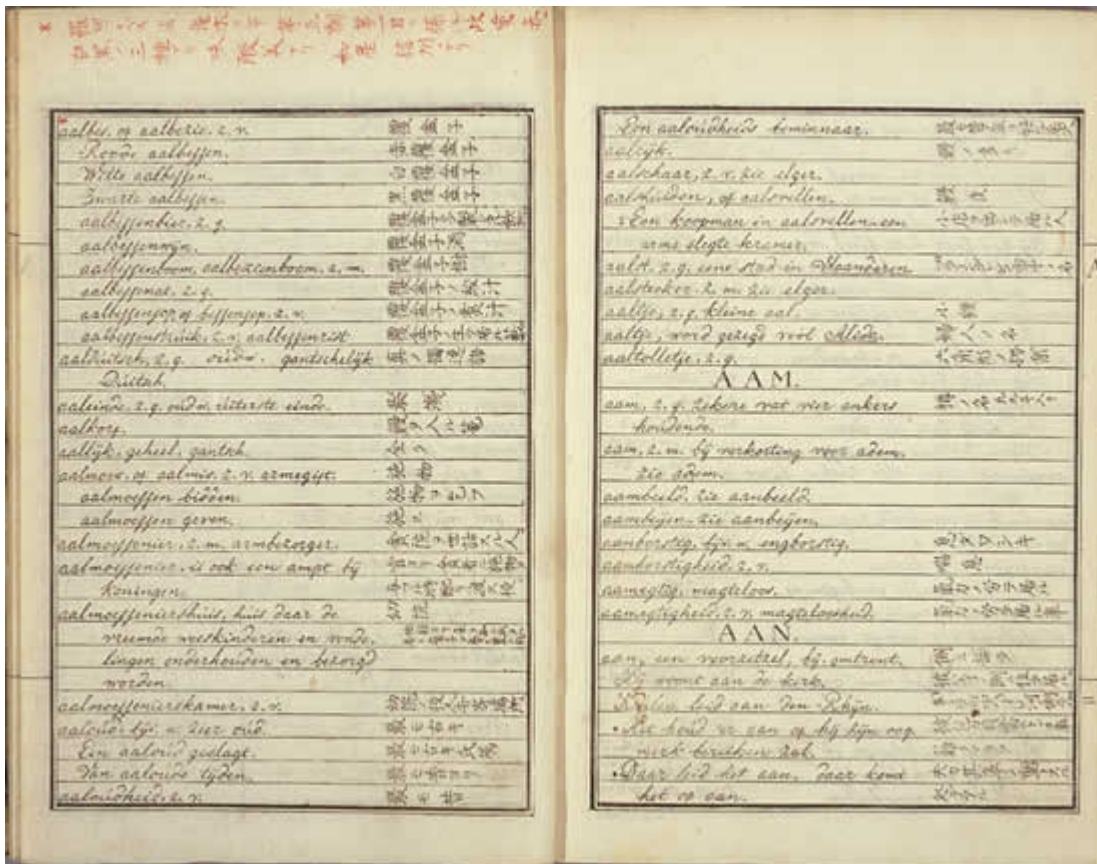
By Yohanesu de Goruteru. Tr. by Udagawa Genzui. Autograph.

This is a notebook of a doctor of the Tsuyama Domain. He copied the whole original text by hand and added Japanese translations to some words as a preparation for translating a book in medical science. We can see that original books were not easily available at that time.

As the understanding of Western culture developed, sometimes it opposed the Shogunate government's policy that led to the [Von Siebold Incident \(1828\)](#) and the [Bansha no Goku Affair \(1839\)](#). Some materials confiscated by the government, and the maps Siebold attempted to take out of the country (these maps can be viewed in "[1. Study of Japan by Foreigners Coming to Japan](#)"), can be viewed.

3. [Studying the Dutch Language](#)

From the materials exhibited here, you can see how interpreters and scholars studied Dutch. As a dictionary is fundamental for learning a foreign language, the first ones were made based on an imported Dutch-French dictionary. Some examples of dictionaries published in the period are introduced, as well as some grammar books including primers for beginners.



Oranda jii

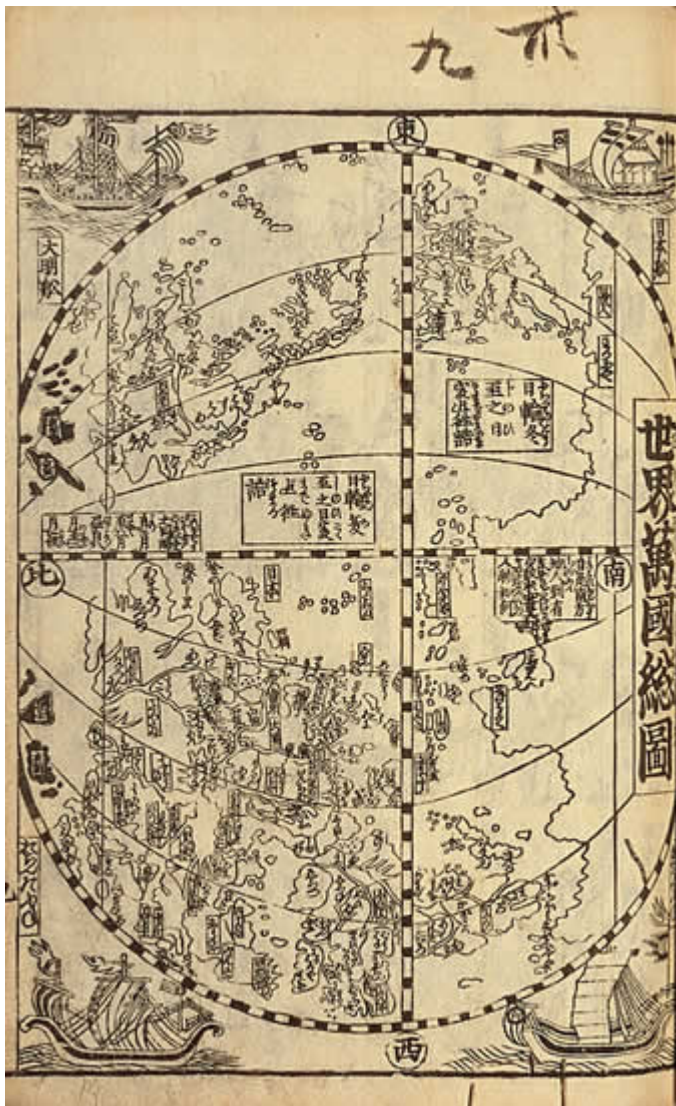
Published in 1855–58

This dictionary was published at the end of the Edo period by enlarging Dufu Haruma, whose original had been prepared by the chief of the Dutch factory in Nagasaki, Hendrik Doeff.

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4. [Receiving Knowledge from Overseas](#)

To what extent did the Dutch studies and the learning of the language spread among people other than scholars at the time? Some books used illustrations taken from Dutch books, while some Japanese language dictionaries carried a world map (see below). Dutch and Western culture were penetrating into general books.



Daifuku setsuyoshu daizo hokan
Published in 1761

World map in a Japanese language dictionary

Among Dutch studies scholars, people like Shiba Kokan, who devoted himself to introducing broadly Western culture and knowledge, appeared. This painter and scholar advocated the Copernican theory, painted a world map in a circle, made etchings using perspective, and wrote a travel report of Nagasaki.



Kaimono hitori annai
Published in 1824

This is a guide for shopping in Edo city, introducing shops selling imported products.

Some publications let us know that glassware and watches imported from the Netherlands were available for sale in shops. The exhibition shows how products imported from the Netherlands such as calico, tortoise shell, scented wood, and sugar, are depicted in some illustrated books and colored woodblock prints. You can also see that the Western technique of illusionism was used for daisho-reki calendar*, calendars which were popular in the Edo period, as well as the imported blue pigment that became popular in woodblock prints. Western products in book illustrations and colored woodblock prints, and pictures of people looking curiously at animals coming from foreign countries, can also be viewed.

*For an [explanation of the daisho-reki calendar](#), please refer to the online gallery "[The Japanese Calendar](#)."

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5. Acceptance of Western Military Science at the End of the Edo Period

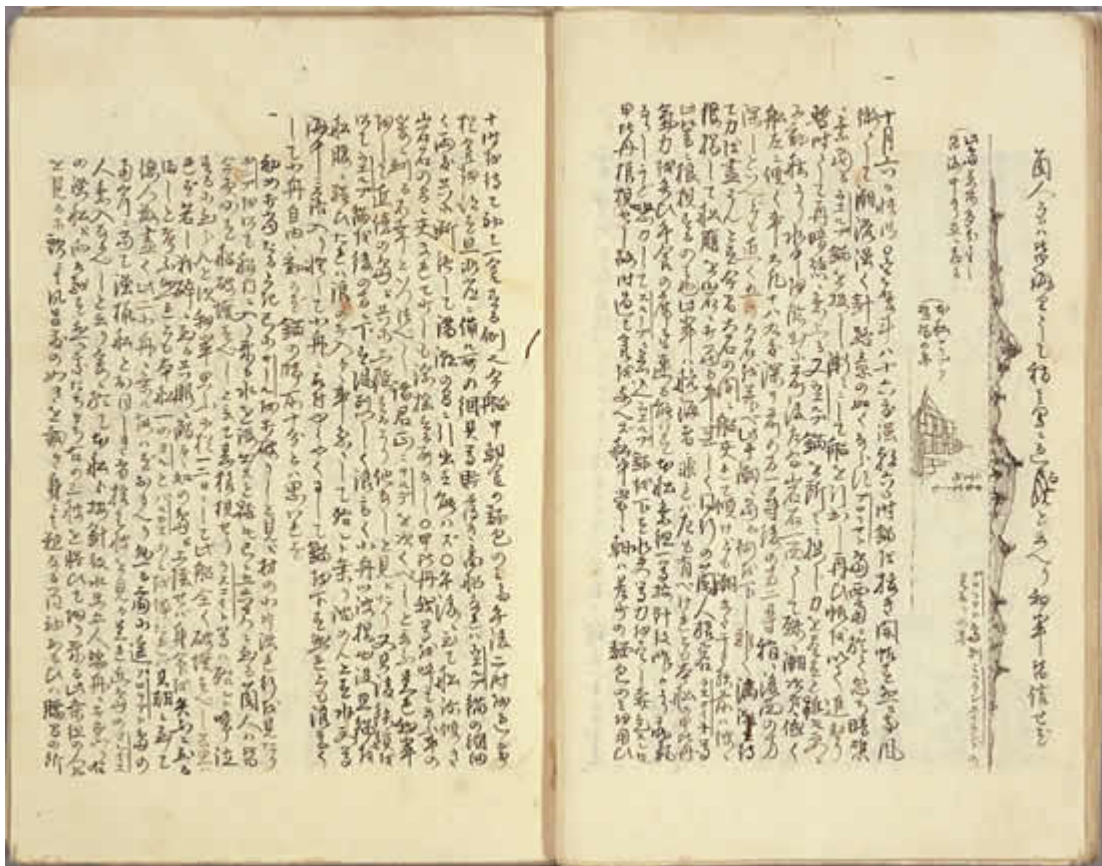
In the 19th century, warships of Great Britain and Russia started to appear near the country, and the Shogunate government and the feudal lords focused on learning Western military science. Takashima Shuhan, a Nagasaki official who was acquainted with members of the Dutch Factory, imported on his own initiative cannons and books about gunnery. He also wrote a book about how to use artillery. He was given an important post by the government and Western gunnery became widespread.

From the 1820s many Dutch books on military science were imported and translated. Some of them can be viewed as originals and translations. With the spread of these translated books, Western military science was accepted and the country's navy also took the Western style. It was military men from the Netherlands who contributed to the westernization of the navy as trainers, as shown in the book by Katsu Kaishu. Books about Dutch military accoutrements were also translated and books with careful copies of colored illustrations were published.

[Related article](#)

6. Students Studying in the Netherlands at the End of the Edo Period

The coming of Commodore Perry to Japan (in 1853) forced the country to open its doors and westernization became an urgent need. Diaries and letters of some people going to the Netherlands to study are available here.



Sawa Tarozaemon kokai nikki

Voyage by a Japanese navy man who went to the Netherlands to learn naval techniques

While some went there to learn naval techniques, some learned law and economics at Leiden University. After returning to Japan, they published books, translating the lectures they had attended.

The exhibition includes not only materials and explanations but a [chronological table](#) and [title list](#) of materials. There is also a list of [links](#) illustrating the exchange between two countries.

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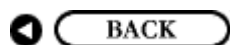
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Digitization of collections -preserving and utilizing the materials

Planning Division, Administrative Department

This is a translation of the article in Japanese of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 586 (January 2010).

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3. [Digitization methods](#)

4. [Conclusion](#)



Photo 1: Stacks of the Tokyo Main Library

The National Diet Library (NDL), as a deposit library, has the role of preserving materials for the long term and hand them down to posterity. Thanks to the development of information technology in recent years, it has been expanding the digital library services available without a visit to the library. This article introduces the

digitization of the NDL's collections focusing on approaches taken in FY 2009.

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1. Purpose of digitization

1.1 Digital library services

The NDL has digitized its collections up to now in order to provide the “digital library service,” which enables users to read the collections via the Internet from anywhere, taking advantage of the digital form (See the table below).

1998

- Formulation of the National Diet Library Electronic Library Concept
- Launch of the Electronic Exhibition showing digitized collections with commentaries

2000

- Launch of the Rare Books Image Database to view rare books including national important cultural properties in full color
- Start of the copyright clearance work to provide books published in the Meiji era (1868–1912) via the Internet

2002

- Opening of the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library
- Launch of the Digital Library from the Meiji Era to view Japanese books published in the Meiji and Taisho eras (1868–1926)

2003

- Launch of the Digital Library of Children's Literature to view children's books held by the International Library of Children's Literature

2004

- Formulation of the National Diet Library Digital Library Medium Term Plan for 2004

2007

- Release of the National Diet Library Digital Archive Portal (PORTA), a navigation service to seamlessly search digital contents in Japan

Currently the NDL provides via the Internet 23 [electronic exhibitions](#), 108,000 titles (156,000 volumes) of Japanese books published in the Meiji and Taisho

eras (1868–1926) in the [Digital Library from the Meiji Era \(Japanese only\)](#) (Photo 2), 1,000 titles of [rare books including national important cultural properties in the Rare Books Image Database \(Japanese only\)](#) (Photo 3), 2,000 titles of children’s books mainly published in and before 1955 in the Digital Library of Children’s Literature (Japanese only) (as of January 2010). All of these materials are copyright–expired, or permission received from copyright holders, or licensed by the Commission of the Agency for Cultural Affairs because the owner of the copyright could not be found.

The number of materials released via the Internet will continue to be increased.



Photo 2: Digital Library from the Meiji Era
 (left: top page of the Digital Library, center: Soseki Natsume, *Sanshiro* ,1909,
 right: Shimei Futabatei, *Sono Omokage*, 1907)



Photo 3: Rare Books Image Database
 (left: top page of the Database, right: *Tenjin-ki* written about 1596–1615)

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1.2 Preservation of materials

The NDL decided that the digitization would be the basic method of creating substitutes for the preservation of materials in and after FY 2009.

Library materials are always likely to be damaged as long as they are handled, and there is a limit to making good the damage. Materials can be preserved in unchanged condition by using the digital data instead of the originals (Photo 4).



Photo 4: Stacks for the preservation

Though the NDL had already converted the deteriorated materials (Photo 5) to microforms and had provided microfilms or microfiches (Photo 6) in place of the originals, the digital data will be provided hereafter in view of the ease of use and the technological progress.



Photo 5: Deteriorated material



Photo 6: Microfiche

In addition, the Copyright Law of Japan was amended in June 2009 to enable the NDL to digitize materials for the provision of digital data in order to avoid the originals being lost, damaged or defaced. (The amendment came into force in January 2010.)

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2. Object of digitization and its usage

While the NDL's annual budget for digitization has been from 100 million to 200 million yen (approximately from 1.1 million to 2.2 million US dollars), the

supplementary budget for fiscal 2009 which was approved in May 2009 allocated to the digitization cost about 12.7 billion yen (approximately 140 million US dollars). It will bring about digitization on an unprecedented scale.

The NDL is planning to digitize books, magazines and children's books. In addition, rare and old materials and other materials might be the object of digitization if the budget allows. The objects of digitization consist of materials which require prioritized handling in terms of preservation, such as severely-deteriorated materials, frequently-used materials and scarce materials.

Among the materials to be digitized, books published in the prewar period will be provided via the Internet as a part of digital library services after copyright clearance. Others are provided only within the library buildings (the Tokyo Main Library, the Kansai-kan and the International Library of Children's Literature) for the time being.

The digitization of this time will make a full-fledged start of a new service which provides digital data in place of the originals within the library buildings. The NDL will also study how we will be able to utilize digitized images in the inter-library services in the future.

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3. Digitization methods

The digital images will be created from the books and magazines themselves (hereinafter called "original materials") or from microfilms (in case they have been already microfilmed). The NDL has digitized from microfilms in principle until now; therefore this is the first time to digitize from the original materials on a large scale.

We consider mainly using overhead scanners in digitizing the original materials. To avoid physical damage, the automatic page-flipping function will not be used, because many of the targeted materials have deteriorated paper.

In digitizing from microfilms, images will be created in gray scale and the resolution is set to 400 dpi in A3 size, but in digitizing from the original materials, images will be prepared in full color and the resolution set to 400 dpi regardless of their size. To decide the resolution, we scanned materials at many levels of resolution and considered the level of the image quality, the balance of the real capacity of images, and the costs. We are planning to create two kinds of image files: for preservation and for user services; and they will be in JPEG 2000 format.

We are now conducting a study on appropriate digitization methods, such as the scanning method and the resolution, for materials not in book form e.g. newspapers and maps.

Tables of contents will be converted to text in addition to creating images.

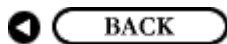
This enables the search of tables of contents and viewing images of corresponding pages directly from the tables of contents.

The National Diet Library wrote up the methods of digitization in the Guidelines for Digitization of Materials in FY2005, and released it on the website to serve as a useful reference for libraries in Japan (<http://www.ndl.go.jp/jp/aboutus/digitalguide.html>) (Japanese only). The Guidelines are to be updated reflecting the results achieved with the materials digitization of this time.

4. Conclusion

There still remain many collections needing to be promptly digitized for preservation in the NDL. It is also hoped the digital library services will be much enriched. The NDL will promote efficient digitization based on the outcomes of the mass digitization of this time.

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Stacks of the NDL – Rare Book Stack

**Rare Books and Old Materials Division,
Reference and Special Collections Department**

This is based on an article of the same title
in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 584 (November 2009).



写真2
photo 2



写真3
photo 3



photo1



photo 4

Stack of the Rare Books and Old Materials Division, which mainly holds Japanese old materials of during/before the Edo era (1603–1867) and Chinese books of during/before the Qing Dynasty, is situated in the seventh basement of the Annex of the Tokyo Main Library. Among the old materials, 22,000 items designated as rare books or semi-rare books and equivalents are stored in the Rare Book Stack which is sealed off from the regular stacks by an airtight door. It is about 252 square meters. Being inside the stacks of the Annex, the Rare Book Stack is enveloped entirely by the stacks of the Annex which are, themselves, surrounded by the thick airspace of a light well (an atrium at the center), deep soil and a waterproof layer. This “stack in stacks” was completed in May 1992.

- Interior and shelves

Inside the stack, ceiling, wall and floor are finished with Hinoki (Japanese cypress) plywood. Shelves are made of Nara (kind of oak) with sliding doors (photo 1). It is intended to keep the materials from drastic changes in temperature and humidity. As cement and interior materials may become pollutants and damage the materials, we spent about nine months after the construction of the stack removing polluting factors. Materials were stored after a survey on the environment inside the stack had been conducted. However, as resin may be exuded from the timber used in the stack and the shelves, shelf boards are covered with thin acid-free paper to absorb resin. Acid-free paper is also used to cover the materials so that resin will not adhere to them (photo 2, 4).

Fluorescent light which cuts 99.7% of ultraviolet compared with the ordinary kind, is used. Staff are encouraged to turn off unnecessary lights.

- Temperature and humidity

The temperature in the stack is set at $22^{\circ}\text{C}\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$ and humidity at $55\%\pm 5\%$. Independent air conditioning is installed which is run only in the Rare Book Stack. Although an automatic monitoring system records the temperature and humidity every hour, the staff of the Rare Books and Old Materials Division also directly check the thermo-hygrometer twice a day to keep track of the condition of the stack (photo 3). As there is almost no change in temperature and humidity in the stack, it can be said that the storage environment is ideal. As movement in and out of the stack affects the temperature and humidity, only the staff members in charge are allowed to enter the Rare Book Stack.

- Dust and pests

Entering the stack is limited also to prevent dust and pests from coming in with a person. It is for this purpose that we wear slippers for internal use when entering the stack and use a special book-trolley when delivering materials (photo 5). We set up pest traps in various parts of the stack and insect repellent incense on each shelf to prevent pests which happen to enter despite above mentioned measures.

As countermeasures against dust, high air pressure is maintained in the stack to keep out dust, and cleaning is also conducted regularly.

Rare materials of the NDL are heavily guarded by carrying out these various countermeasures.



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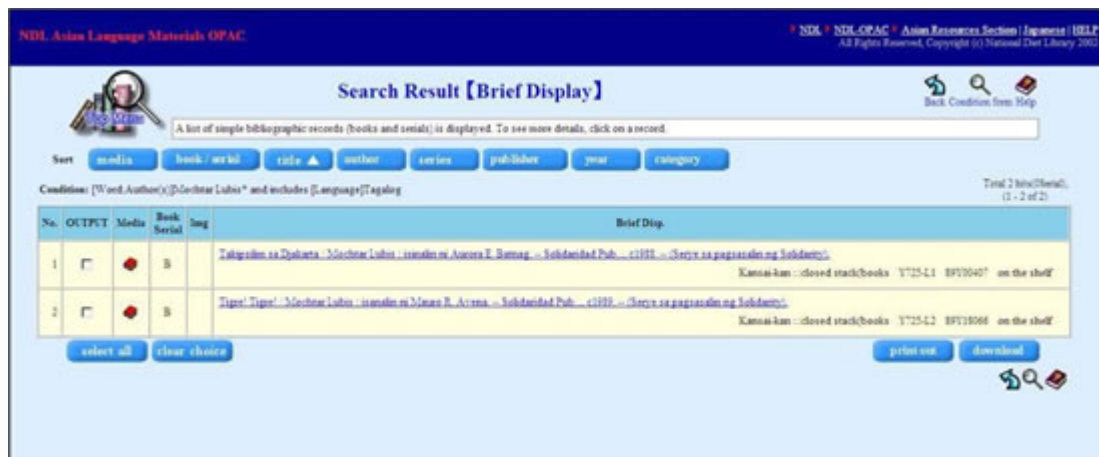
Tagalog materials are now searchable by NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC

Bibliographic data of Tagalog materials, 156 titles (180 volumes), held at the Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library were added to the [NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC](#).

At present, bibliographic data of 14 languages including Chinese, Korean, Mongolian, Indonesian, Malaysian languages, Vietnamese, Thai, Hindi, Sanskrit, Urdu, Persian, Arabic and Turkish are provided via the [NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC](#).

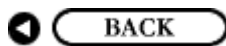
* Enter “Y725*” in the call number box to view the list of Tagalog materials.

* Asian language periodicals other than Chinese and Korean ones can be searched via the [NDL-OPAC](#) (National Diet Library Online Public Access Catalog) using roman script.



NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC: search result of the Tagalog materials

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National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 172 Apr. 2010



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

National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin (Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan Geppo)

If you click the volume number of each issue, you can read the full-text of NDL Monthly Bulletin. The text is provided in PDF format* (Japanese only).

*To see the full-text (PDF), you will need Adobe Acrobat Reader (free download). Click [here](#) to download. ([Adobe Website](#))

No. 588, March 2010 [[PDF Format, 5.24MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections: Aesthetics of Kabuki-za viewed through architectural designs
- Digital library services in the Republic of Korea
- Remote copying service
- Toward establishing a sustainable society: A message from Sweden
- Illustrated guide to the work of NDL: Digital exhibition
- Learning in NDL (7) How to search business information
- <Announcements>
 - Books in Tagalog now searchable on the NDL Asian Language Materials OPAC [related article](#)
 - "National Diet Librarian Handbook for Library Support" published
 - Book notice – publications from NDL

No. 587, February 2010 [[PDF Format, 3.19MB](#)]

- Book of the month – from NDL collections – Winnie-the-Pooh
- Talks with the Librarian of NDL (14)
Dr. Ismail Serageldin, Director of the Bibliotheca Alexandrina
Repository of knowledge molded by technology
- From papyrus to PDF [related article](#)
- Digital Library from the Meiji Era
- Let's visit the National Diet Library-Kansai-kan of the NDL
- Strolling in the forest of the books (1)
- Learning in NDL (6) How to search maps
- Official gazette

- <Announcements>

- Results of the user questionnaire survey FY 2009 now available on the NDL website
- NDL's mobile phone website launched
- Information related to "Current Awareness" now available on Twitter on a trial basis
- Back numbers of Reference Service and Bibliography now available on the NDL website
- Book notice – publications from NDL

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