

Selections from NDL collections

Japanese Gardens that Have Disappeared from Maps—from the Ozawa Collection

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Introduction to Japanese Gardens

What kind of an image forms in your mind when you hear the phrase "Japanese garden"? Do you imagine a landscape in which you can take a stroll, a stone garden, or something else?

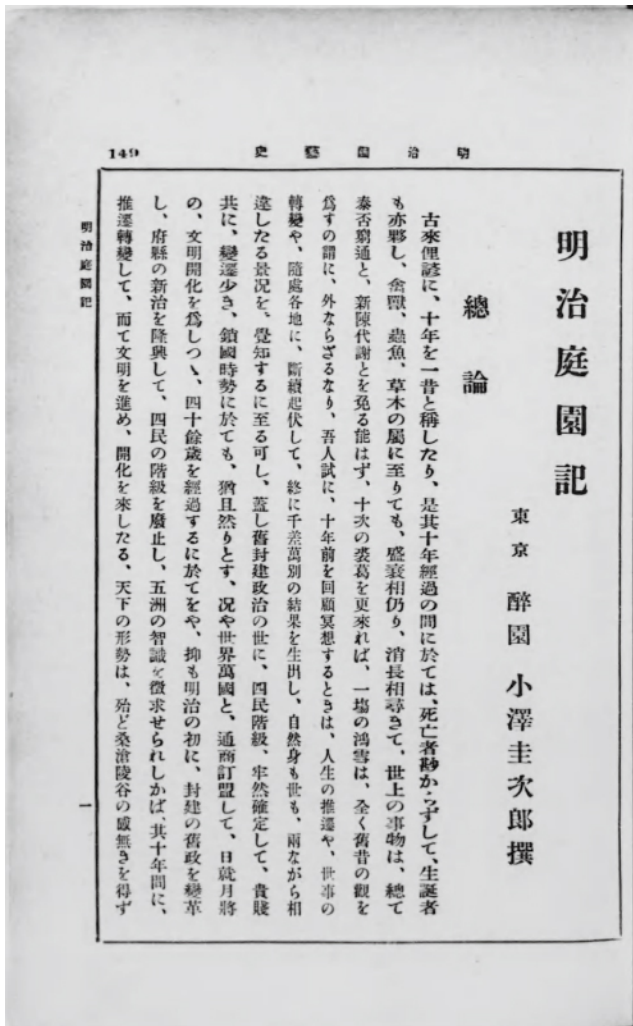
Japanese gardens are said to have first been developed as an adaption of Japanese climate and sensibilities to design of gardens that arrived in Japan from China during the 8th century Nara period. The culture of Japanese gardens that developed continuously through the Heian, Kamakura, and Muromachi periods was largely influenced by Buddhism. The Muromachi period also saw the development of the tea garden. Later, the Edo period saw the development of the landscape garden, and the residences of daimyo built at that time often included a pond garden that could be used to receive guests.

Ozawa Keijiro (1841-1931) was a pioneer of research into the history of the Japanese garden and worked hard to preserve knowledge of Japanese gardens that existed during the late Edo, Meiji, and Taisho periods. His work *Meijiteienki* (Records of Meiji Gardens) was

published in 1915 and describes many of the Japanese gardens built at the residences of daimyo or at temples as well as how they were laid to ruin during the late Edo and early Meiji period.



Ozawa Keijiro (from *Soritsu rokujunen* by Tokyo Bunrika Daigaku, Tokyo Koto Shihan Gakko in 1931. NDL Call No. FB22-40), available in the [NDL Digital Collection](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL)



Meijiteienki (Records of Meiji Gardens) from *Meijiengeshi*. NDL Call No. 358-86, available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries)

Sadly, many of the books and documents which Ozawa collected were lost in a fire that destroyed much of the Mukojima area in 1894. But the NDL's Ozawa Collection comprises some 200 items that survived the fire and were collected later. The majority of these are sketches of gardens with commentary that describes the origins of the subject matter as well as provides invaluable clues into how Ozawa worked.

The following describes several gardens which no longer exist but are described in the *Meijiteienki* and the Ozawa Collection.

Residences of Daimyo during the Edo period

There were likely more than 1,000 different gardens throughout the city of Edo, very few of which had names, were depicted in sketches, or mentioned in writing. So it is very difficult today to determine the location of the few that were mentioned in written record. In *Meijiteienki*, Ozawa made an effort to leave a record for future generations of the gardens which he visited or of which he had information.

Yokuon en in Tsukiji



Edo yokuon en zenzu (Landscape of Yokuon en Garden) copied in 1884 by Ozawa Kei. 1 sheet, 80 cm × 160 cm. NDL Call No. 亥-20. Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

This is a map of a residence that belonged to Matsudaira Sadanobu—an Edo-period daimyo who loved gardens and who is famous for having named the Kenroku en Garden, which was developed as the outer garden of Kanazawa Castle during the Edo period and is now renowned as one of the Three Great Gardens of Japan. The name Yokuon en literally acknowledges the obligation incurred when the land on which it was built was bestowed on the Matsudaira clan by the Tokugawa Shogunate.

Yokuon en suffered significant damage in a fire that occurred in 1829. This map is Ozawa's copy of a picture drawn in 1842—the year he was born—that depicts the garden before the fire. The splendor of the past is expressed by showing both autumn's foliage and spring's cherry blossoms in same picture.

Although the vegetation was burned away, the pond and hills remained, and the garden was gradually restored. According to *Meijiteienki*, the beautiful landscape was fully restored by 1836. In fact, Ozawa himself was born and raised in a residence that was built inside the Yokuon en, and he wrote in *Fuzokugaho* that he had often played on the Yokuon en grounds as a young boy of 10. By the

end of the Edo period, the garden had become dilapidated. Its ruins became the site of a Navy facility and eventually the Tsukiji Fish Market.



Yokuon shunju ryoen okafu edited by Matsudaira Sadanobu copied in 1884 by Kano Ryoshin. One roll, 27 cm. NDL Call No. へ二-21. Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

This illustration depicts the blossoms of some of the many kinds of cherry trees that grew in Yokuon en.

Toyamaso Garden in Nishiwaseda



Owari dainagondono shimoyashiki toyamaso zenzu (Map of the Toyamaso Garden attached to a residence belonging to the Owari-Tokugawa family) 1 sheet, 62 cm × 72 cm. NDL Call No.: 亥-88. Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#)

At the bottom left of the house is an artificial hill that was called Gyokukenpo. Constructed to a height of 15 meters using soil from the excavation of artificial pond, it still exists today in Toyama Park but is now called Hakoneyama.

This is a map of a residence belonging to the Owari-Tokugawa family. According to the *Meijiteienki*, the building was surrounded by an extensive garden of 450,000 square meters, which is roughly the same size as Vatican City, and includes 25 scenic areas. After visiting

the place, Matsudaira Sadanobu was so impressed that he called it the best garden in the world.

The *Meijiteienki* describes a series of disasters, including an earthquake, a typhoon, and a fire, that resulted in the

area being abandoned by the end of the Edo period. Later, it was used as a military base, where the Imperial Guard was billeted, including soldiers from Satsuma led by Saigo Takamori. Sometime later the Toyama Imperial Japanese Army School was built there. After the World War II, the area was redeveloped and is

now home to Toyama Park, Waseda University's Toyama Campus, Toyama High School, and public housing. Gyokuenpo is now called Hakoneyama and is the only remaining landmark from the area's earlier days.



Biko toyamaen zu (Landscape of Toyamaso Garden) copied in 1888 by Kaien Kei from an original drawing by Hirano Tomoo. One roll, 26 cm. NDL Call No.: 亥-86. Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

This is a picture scroll depicting the Toyamaso Garden from a different direction. The Kohakubashi bridge and Gyokuenpo (called today Hakoneyama) can be seen on the left.

Horai en in Asakusabashi



Matsuurako enchi no zu (Landscape of the Matsuura Residence), 1 sheet, 75 cm × 81 cm. NDL Call No. 亥-170.
Available on the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

This map is of a site in Asakusabashi where the Matsuura family—daimyo of the Hirado Domain in present-day Kumamoto Prefecture—resided. The garden was designed and landscaped by Kobori Enshu, who was a notable artist as well as a master of the tea ceremony. A note attached to the map describes how it was named Horai en in 1834 by a Kokugaku scholar, Tachibana Moribe, who focused on Japanese philology and philosophy.

Unlike many of the other residences and gardens constructed during the Edo period, the Horai-en was maintained by the Matsuura family even after the Meiji Revolution. Ozawa describes in a note how highly impressed he was after visiting a number of times.

The water for the pond was drawn through a sluice gate directly from the Torikoe River, which was adjacent to this site during the 19th century even though it no longer exists today. The use of sluice gates was a common means of drawing water for ponds at places like Yokuon en.

Despite surviving the chaos of the Meiji Restoration, this garden fell victim to the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923, and the only remaining traces of its existence are a monument, a part of the pond, and a large ginkgo tree that has been designated a natural monument by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government.

Conclusion

The NDL's Ozawa Collection affords readers a glimpse of Japanese gardens that no longer exist today. The records collected and organized by Ozawa tell us a great deal about the gardening culture of the late Edo, Meiji, and Taisho periods.

Nowadays, we can easily keep track of changes in the urban cityscape using digitized content available on the Internet. Which is all the more reason to follow in Ozawa's footsteps and preserve his passion for gardens in other formats.

(Translated by Moyu Yabe and Yuko Kumakura)

Reference (in Japanese):

- Ono Kenkichi. *Iwanami nihon teien jiten*. Iwanami Shoten. March 2004. NDL Call No. KA2-H4
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Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Edo shiseki \(lit. Historic sites of Edo\): Tokyo guide by Edokko Hatamoto](#) (No.200, June 2015)

Related content from the National Diet Library Website:

- [The Landmarks of Edo in Color Woodblock Prints](#)
- [The Meiji and Taisho Eras in Photographs](#)