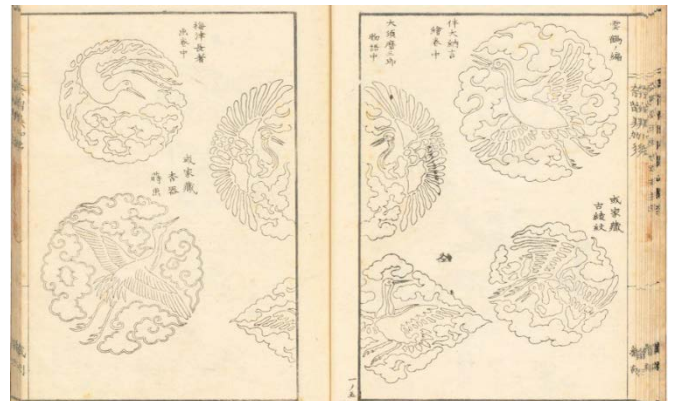


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 235, January 2021



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Selections from NDL collections

## “Ryuge-ji Shokei” by SHIMAZAKI Gyokuen From the book *Fugaku Shashin* (Sketches of Mt. Fuji)



Publisher unknown  
Published during the late Edo period  
32 cm in height  
Owned by the National Diet Library, Japan  
\* Available in the [National Diet Library Digital Collections](#).

This picture of Mt. Fuji was created by SHIMAZAKI Gyokuen at the end of the Edo period and published in an anthology of the works of Gyokuen's teacher, KOIZUMI Danzan.

In 1795, Danzan climbed Mt. Fuji and created a number of sketches of the mountain's summit, the crater, and other features, which change in appearance considerably, depending on the location of the observer. Some 50 years later, around 1846, Danzan's followers, including Gyokuen, published these sketches under the title of *Fugaku Shashin*. Gyokuen contributed this beautiful, somewhat exaggerated landscape painting of Mt. Fuji and environs as seen from Ryuge-ji Temple, which is situated in

Shimizu, Shizuoka. The standard depiction of Mt. Fuji since the middle ages had shown three peaks, but Gyokuen had his doubts about this and sought out a spot from which he could actually see all three peaks.

To the right of Mt. Fuji, Mt. Ashitaka and the Izu Peninsula can be seen. And the peninsula covered with pine trees in the right foreground is Miho no Matsubara, which is part of the Fujisan World Cultural Heritage site that was registered in 2013 as “Fujisan—Sacred Place and Source of Artistic Inspiration.” In Japan, it is said that seeing Mt. Fuji in one's first dream of a new year is a sign of good fortune.

Selections from NDL collections

***Narumikata*—The beauty of ancient design**

FUJITA Chihiro, Acquisitions Administration and Bibliographic Control Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 704 \(December 2019\)](#).*

&lt;&lt;Image 1&gt;&gt;

*Narumikata* by ODAGIRI Shunko. Distributed by YOSHIKAWA Hanshichi and HAYASHI Heijiro, in Dec. 1903. 5 vols. 25cm. NDL Call No. W166-H5

From Volume 1. A crane is one of the most well-known of the figures which symbolize good luck. In this image, cranes and auspicious clouds, also known as *zuiun*, are combined in one pattern.

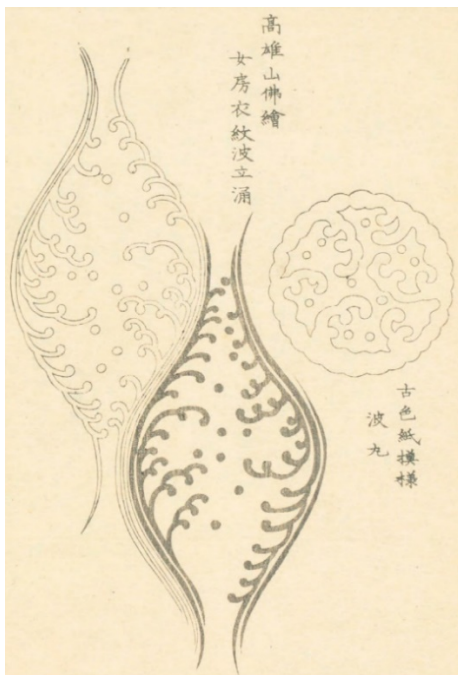
\*Available in the NDL Digital Collections: <https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1899476/14?lang=en>

Since the old days, people have designed patterns on various things from items for daily use and clothes to buildings. There are a wide variety of patterns including abstract ones based on flowers, birds, humans, natural phenomenon and imaginary animals, and geometric ones. These patterns are not only visually pleasing, but also symbolize certain meanings and wishes.

*Narumikata* is a collection of old Japanese designs (patterns). The author, ODAGIRI Shunko (1810-1888), was a retainer of Owari Domain and learned painting from MORI Koga (Gyokusen). Shunko is known to have drawn illustrations for *Owari Meisho Zue*. After he retired and handed over his family estate to his son, Shunko took a post at the Nagoya Museum in 1880 where he supervised

in the field of traditional crafts and designs. In 1881 he visited Todai-ji Temple in Nara to see their treasures himself and had a chance to sketch rare designs of some treasures.

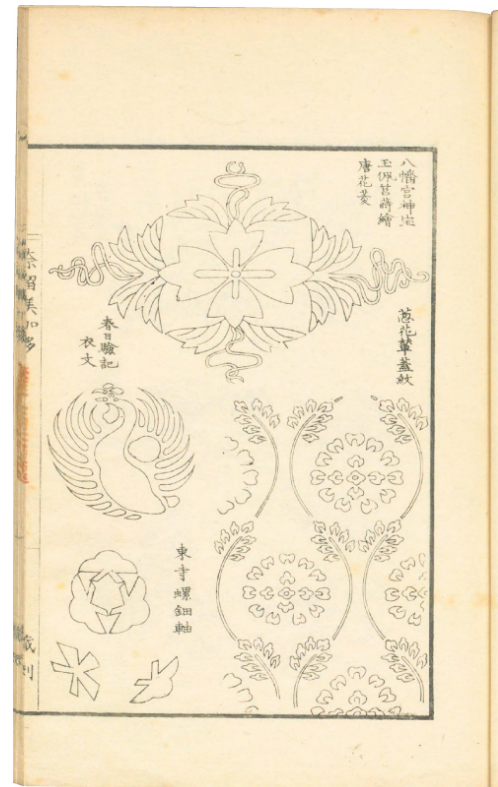
According to the introduction of *Narumikata*, his experience at Todai-ji Temple made Shunko attracted to old customs, thus he began to copy old designs he saw such as the lacquer works of old furniture, dyeing and weaving works and drawings copied and inherited from his predecessors. In this way he collected many old patterns, from which he selected the patterns of credible sources and then reduced those in size with intent to utilize them. Shunko agreed when KATANO Toshiro, a publisher, proposed to him about publishing those patterns. In 1883 when the first edition<sup>1</sup> of five volumes was published, Shunko was already 73 years old. We can see how energetically Shunko worked to collect and copy many patterns in such a short period of time in spite of his old age. The introduction also states that Shunko asked Shunryo, his son, to go to the First Naikoku Kaiga Kyoshinkai<sup>2</sup>, held in Tokyo, 1882 to copy patterns from old paintings.



<<Image 2>>

From Volume 1. Patterns comprising rippling curves are called *Tatewaku* or *Tatewaki*, which is regarded to symbolize rising water vapor. This pattern is used in combination with other patterns (waves in this image). Patterns combined with clouds especially are traditional ones used for court-noble's clothing and so on.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1899476/24?lang=en>



<<Image 3>>

From Volume 2. Different patterns in the motif of plants. The pattern on the top is called *Karahanabishi* which is based on the pattern of a flower of Chinese origin and made into a diamond shape.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1899478/14?lang=en>

The title, *Narumikata*, is written in different Chinese characters according to each volume. For Volume 4, the title, *Narumikata*, comprises four Chinese characters, in which *Narumi* means a post town of Tokaido in Owari no kuni. *Narumi* town was famous for a type of tie-dyeing called *Narumi-shibori*. Some say that as *Narumi-shibori* has various patterns, the title, which shows various patterns, was named in that way.

During the Meiji period, under the influence of Japonism, exports of Japanese dyed and woven goods and crafts were flourishing. Therefore it was regarded as an urgent task that the quality of export goods' design must improve. The Japanese government distributed books of collections of designs as a part of guidance on good designs. Many books of collections of designs were also published privately. Old designs were actively collected during this period. Among those books, *Narumikata* has several unique characteristics as follows.

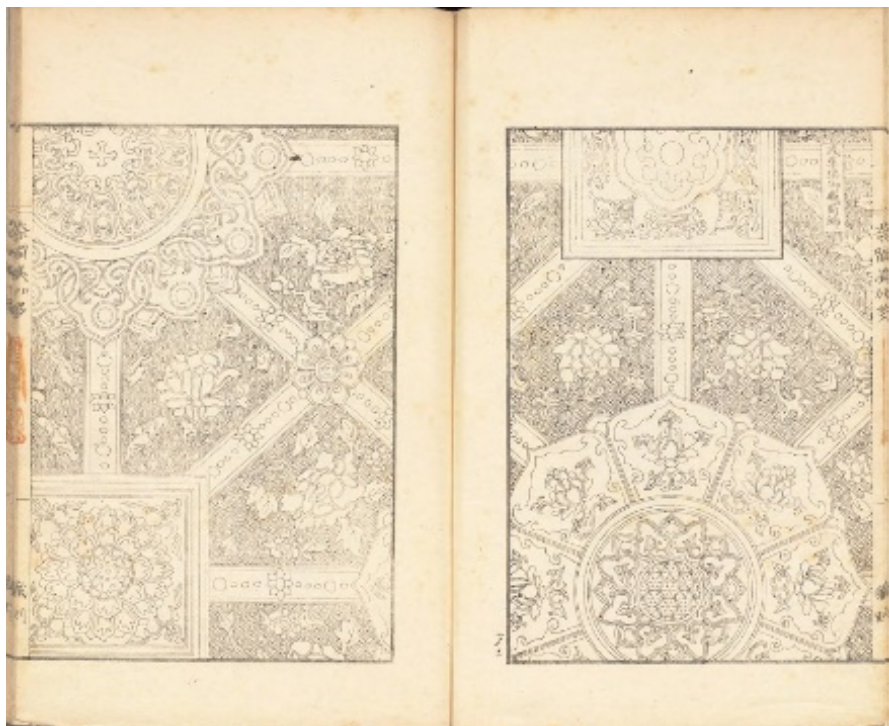
<sup>1</sup> Edited by Odagiri Shunko. *Narumikata*. Volume 1-5. Published by Katano Toshiro, Jul. 1883.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/854534>

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/854535>

(monochrome)

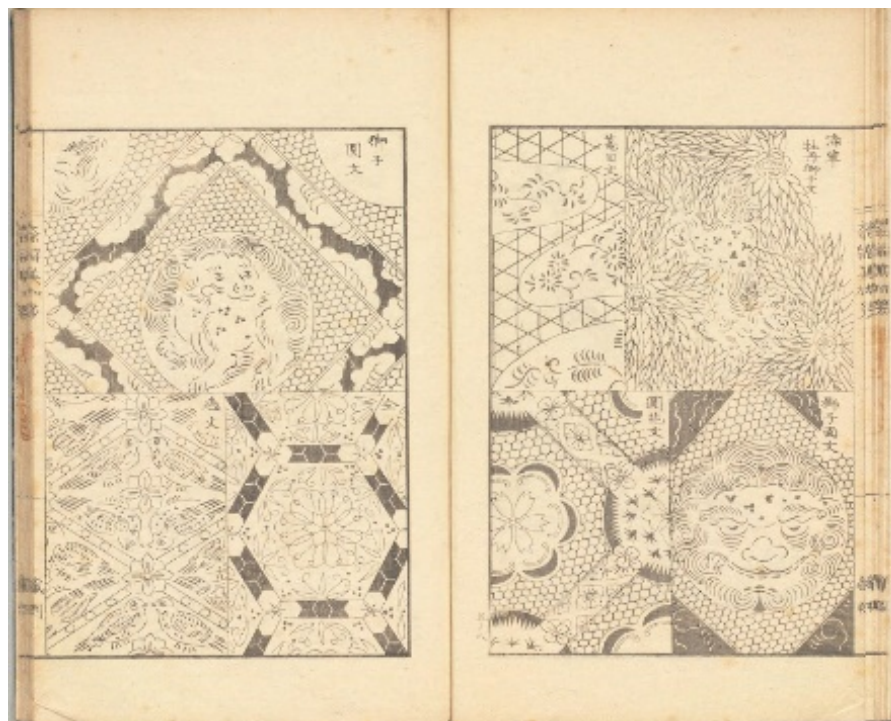
<sup>2</sup> Picture exhibitions held by the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce in 1882 and 1884



<<Image 4>>

From Volume 2. An added note says "Shokkin (Shu brocade) stored in some noble family's warehouse." Shu of China was famous for red-dye brocade. The brocade produced in Shu was called *Shokko-kin* in Japan. Over the course of time, people started to call representative patterns of *Shokko-kin* *Shokko-mon*. Nishijin textiles of Kyoto imitated *Shokko-mon*.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1899478/5?lang=en>



<<Image 5>>

From Volume 5. Designs of lions with somehow humorous faces. Lion designs came from ancient Persia via Tang Dynasty China to Japan. As the Japanese never saw real lions, lions were treated as imaginary figures rather than real creatures.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/1899492/10?lang=en>

## Content

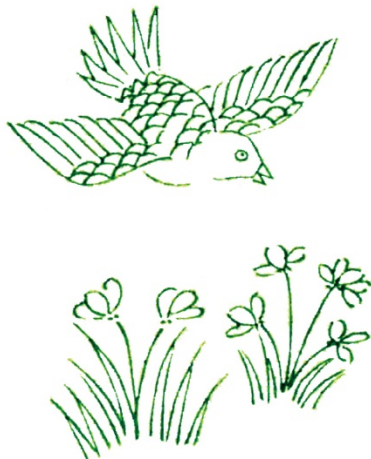
*Narumikata* is a collection of designs extracted from a wide variety of sources including treasures of Horyu-ji Temple and Shosoin, dyeing and weaving works, crafts and buildings. It also collects designs from illustrated handscrolls (*emakimono*) which depict old customs such as *Ban Dainagon emaki* and *Nencho Gyoji emaki*. *Narumikata*, comprising 5 entire volumes, can be regarded as a kind of comprehensive collection of old designs. At the end of each volume, the postscript explains the sources of each design.

## Illustrations

Illustrations were printed by woodblock engraved with very thin lines with no colors. This enabled each illustration to be very sharply detailed. Each illustration is presented with its source.

At the second Naikoku Kaiga Kyoshinkai held the year after the first edition of *Narumikata* was published, Shunko received a certificate of merit for authoring *Narumikata*. *Narumikata* seems to have acquired a good reputation, and so a 3-volume sequel<sup>3</sup> was published by Shunryo. In advertisements of *Narumikata* and its sequel (Image 6), the publisher appeals that these books are good references for a wide range of fields.

The collected designs in *Narumikata* are rich in variety and attractive even apart from the viewpoint of practical purposes. Many years after its publication, they still never look boring. Recently designs from *Narumikata* have been made into a coloring book for adults. We hope that readers enjoy *Narumikata*, a rich collection of old designs which have survived many years.



<<Image 6>>

Advertisement for *Narumikata* and its sequel.

The advertisement says as follows: Apply (patterns in *Narumikata*) to ceramics and porcelain, lacquerware, dyeing and weaving goods, casting, sculptures, embroidery; those who are engaged in crafts must have these excellent books by one's side to consult day and night.

*Yomiuri Shinbun*, Oct. 17, 1907. NDL Call No. Z81-16

## Where does the NDL holdings' *Narumikata* come from?

The *Narumikata* held by the NDL has an interesting history. If you look at the first page of Volume 2 (see Image 7), you can see from the ownership stamps impressed there that the book first belonged to WATANABE Chiaki, a government official and politician of the Meiji-Taisho period, then to the Patent Standards Bureau, and finally to the NDL.

Watanabe Chiaki was born in Nagano. He held various posts such as the governor of multiple prefectures and undersecretary of the Home Ministry. From 1910 to 1914 he was the Minister of the Imperial Household. Despite his busy schedule in public service, he was said to be a heavy reader. He placed his stamp on the books he collected and put a label with the book's category, container number, title and number of volumes. Unfortunately, the label put on *Narumikata* was partly covered by the NDL's label. We can read, however, information such as the category "Archeology" and number of volumes "5".

<sup>3</sup> By ODAGIRI Shunryo. Enlarged by MAEDA Kosetu. Sequel to *Narumikata*. Volume 1-3. Published by Yoshikawa Kobunkan, Jan. 1907.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/854536>

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/854537>

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/854538>

(monochrome)



&lt;&lt;Image 7&gt;&gt;

Acceptance stamps impressed on *Narumikata*. The stamps on the first page of the Volume 2 are: (from the top left clockwise) 3 stamps by the Patent Standards Bureau and 2 stamps by Watanabe Chiaki.



&lt;&lt;Image 8&gt;&gt;

Front cover of Volume 1 of *Narumikata*



&lt;&lt;Image 9&gt;&gt;

A label on the front cover of *Yau hyakuken kohon* authored by Watanabe Chiaki.

<https://dl.ndl.go.jp/info:ndljp/pid/2540259>

The Patent Standards Bureau was established as an outer office of the Ministry of Commerce to administer standardization work. The work used to belong to the Cabinet Technology Institute, which had been dismantled in 1945. The Patent Standards Bureau was reorganized into the Patent Bureau (the present Japan Patent Office) in August 1948. It is unknown how this book was transferred to the Patent Standards Bureau, but when it was transferred is shown on the acceptance stamp, which indicates July 9, 1947. Later on, the book was donated by an individual to the NDL in 2004.

This popular book which collects old designs was first acquired by a politician in an important position, and then came to be used as a reference book at the patent-related government office, before finally being digitized so that everyone can see it on the internet.

Besides *Narumikata*, the NDL acquired about 60 items of the Watanabe collection during the period from 1947 to 1948. The NDL also holds 972 items of the Watanabe Chiaki Papers, which were donated by an individual and are accessible in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room.

(Translated by OSHIMA Kaoru)

Selections from NDL collections

## Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (10)

Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 703 \(November 2019\)](#).

### Introduction

[The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room](#) at the National Diet Library (NDL) holds approximately 410,000 documents comprising the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers dating back as far as the closing days of the Tokugawa Shogunate. This article is one of a series introducing materials that have become available in recent years at the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room in the Tokyo Main Library.

We hope you will enjoy this look at some of these historical documents that are essential to understanding political events and other aspects of Japanese history.

### Sakatani Yoshiro Papers (Part 2)

(788 items, available since September 2019)



Image 1: Sakatani Yoshiro  
Portrait available at the online gallery  
[Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures](#).

Sakatani Yoshiro was born in Okayama prefecture in 1863. He was the son-in-law of Shibusawa Eiichi. After

graduating from Tokyo Imperial University, Sakatani entered the Ministry of Finance. From 1906 to 1908 he took the post of Minister of Finance in the first Saionji Cabinet and played an important role in managing finance during the Russo-Japanese War and also in financial reconstruction after the war. He was Mayor of Tokyo City from July 1912 to February 1915 and became a member of the House of Peers until his death in 1941.

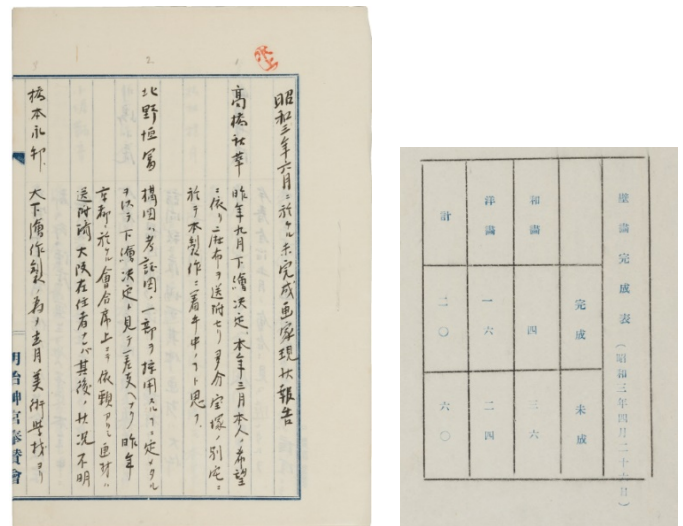


Image 2: Report on painters who have not finished the work as of June 1928.

NDL Call NO: Sakatani Yoshiro Papers (Part 2) 5654

Right: Table for completion of wall painting (as of April 26, 1928)

Left: Report on painters who have not finished the work as of June 1928.

The Sakatani Yoshiro Papers were first entrusted and then donated to the NDL in 1980. After nearly 40 years, we received a second donation from the Sakatani family.

While Sakatani Yoshiro took political posts such as a member of the House of Peers and Minister of Finance, he also became the leader of various organizations. Image 2 is of records which he received as Vice Chair of the Support Committee of Meiji Shrine.

During the Taisho period, in order to praise the accomplishments of the Meiji Emperor and Empress Dowager Shoken, the creation of a huge wall painting for the Meiji Memorial Picture Gallery (Outer Gardens of the Meiji Shrine) was planned. This project involved 76 painters in the end. As of April 26, 1928, 20 pictures were



finished while 60 were unfinished.

This is a record of inquiries of 54 famous painters, both Japanese and Western ones, such as Okada Saburotsuke, Kaburaki Kiyokata, and Ishii Hakutei, about their progress on their paintings. Whereas some painters answered "the work has progressed faster than expected," others answered "the rough sketch needs to be hanged," "What I have done so far is no good, so I had to give up on it," and so on. This record presents the painters' hard work to complete the wall painting (3m x 2.5-2.7m) which comprises 80 pictures. It was planned at the end of the Taisho period and finally completed in April 1936.

The Papers also contain about 6,000 letters (including ones from Adachi Mineichiro, Shibusawa Eiichi and so on), documents related to the Bern Economic Conference (1911) and materials on Teikoku Hiko Kyokai (predecessor organization of the Japan Aeronautic Association).

### A scroll of letters of Statesmen of the Meiji Period (Constitutional Government Documents Collection 345)

(A scroll (20 letters), available since July 2019)

This scroll contains 20 letters by political leaders of the Meiji period, mainly those who came from Satsuma, Choshu, Tosa, and Hizen, such as Oyama Iwao, Sano Tsunetami and Aoki Shuzo. Addressees are Maeda Masana and Saito Shuichiro, who both took posts as Vice Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. The content of the letters is often related to business world.

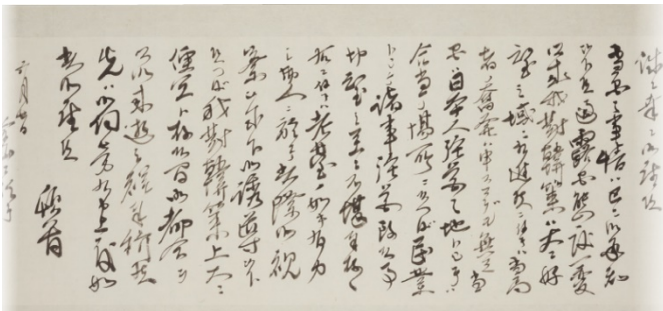


Image 3: Ijuin Hikoichi letter to Maeda Masana, dated May 7, 1898. NDL Call NO: Constitutional Government Documents Collection 345

Image 3 is a letter with a post stamp dated 1898. It was sent from Ijuin Hikokichi (Consul in Busan, Korea, September 1896 to March 1899) to Maeda Masana in Tokyo.

Since 1896 in Korea, under the pro-Russian Cabinet, rights for mining and laying railways had been given to Russia and the US, therefore the position of Japan in Korea had been in decline. In 1898, however, Russia changed its policy to allow Japan to participate in commerce and industry in the Korean Peninsula while Russia tried to expand its power into Manchuria by gaining leasehold of Dalian and Lushun and laying the Chinese Eastern Railway. On April 25, 1898, the Nishi-Rosen Agreement was concluded between Russia and Japan<sup>1</sup>.

The letter of Image 3 was written in the next month after the agreement was concluded. In the letter Ijuin wrote, "Since Russia's attitude has changed completely, our policy toward Korea has reached a greatly desirable stage." Ijuin also wrote that Korea was a place suitable for Japanese to establish enterprise and that he eagerly wished to manage things as private businesses. He went on to write that as Maeda was the person who had lead industrial promotion in local areas all over Japan, it would be greatly useful if Maeda, as such a capable person, could visit Korea and guide private businesses.

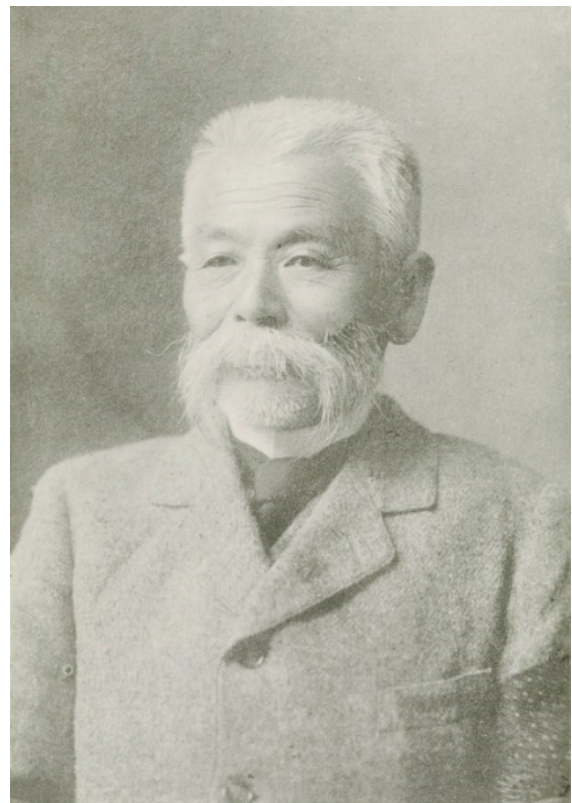


Image 4: Maeda Masana (1850-1921) Portrait available at the online gallery [Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures](#).

<sup>1</sup> The Agreement consists of three articles. Article 3 stipulates as follows: Russia Empire admits that Japanese enterprises in Korean should develop commerce and industry to a great extent and that many Japanese nationals should live in Korea, thereby shall not disturb the development of a relationship between Japan and Korea in terms of commerce and industry. (*Nihon Gaiko Monjo*, Book 31, vol. 1)



Image 5: Ijuin Hikokichi (1864-1924)  
Portrait available at the online gallery  
[Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures.](#)

### General Staff Office Western Regional Bureau Report Papers (Sugiyama Naoya Papers) (Constitutional Government Documents Collection 1481)

(89 items, available since August 2018)

### Sugiyama Naoya Papers (Constitutional Government Documents Collection 348)

(67 items, available since July 2019)

These two groups of papers are the reports submitted to Sugiyama Naoya<sup>2</sup>, officer of the General Staff Office Western Regional Bureau, by Ijuin Kaneo<sup>3</sup>, an Army officer seconded to Hankou, China, for intelligence activities. By examining the handwriting on lined paper, it is inferred that the reports are not the original but the transcripts. The sender's name is Mikawa Gasui, which is Ijuin's false name.

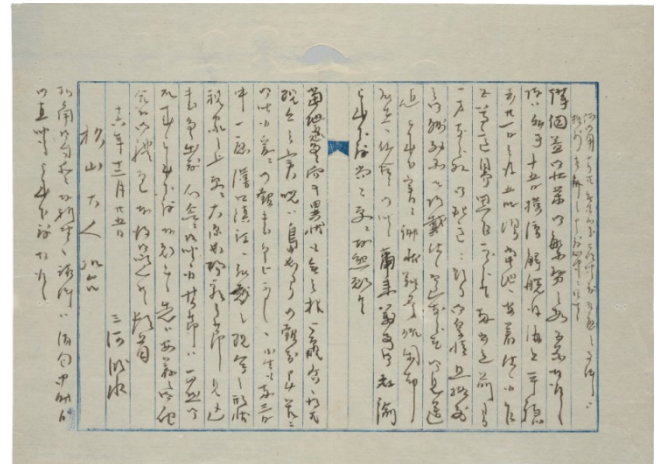


Image 6: Letter from Ijuin Kaneo to Sugiyama Naoya, dated December 25, 1883. NDL Call NO: General Staff Office Western Regional Bureau Report Papers (Sugiyama Naoya Papers) (Constitutional Government Documents Collection) 1481-7

According to the letter dated December 25, 1883 (Image 7), Ijuin left Yokohama on December 15, 2 days after the trip order was issued, and arrived in Shanghai on December 21. At the end of the year, Ijuin was planning to leave for the investigation of the inland China by going up the Yangtze River.

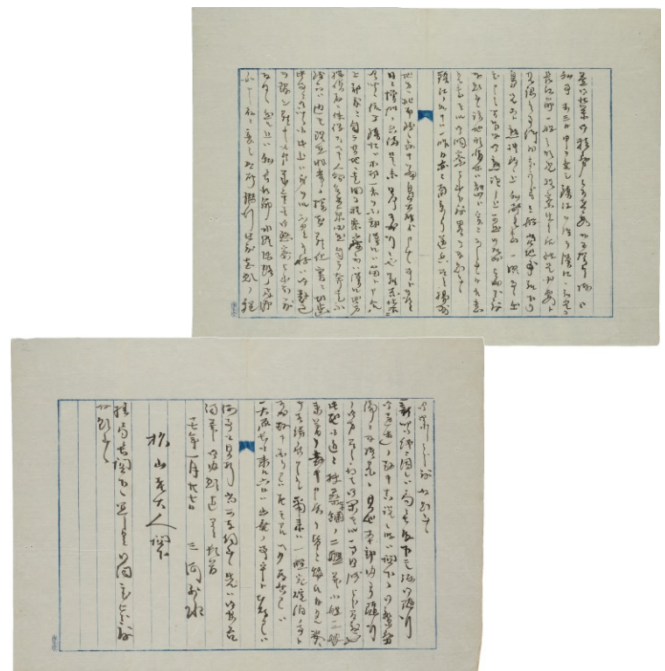


Image 7: Letter from Ijuin Kaneo to Sugiyama Naoya, dated January 27, 1884. NDL Call NO: Sugiyama Naoya Papers (Constitutional Government Documents Collection) 348-7

<sup>2</sup> Sugiyama Naoya was born in Yamaguchi prefecture in 1850. He entered the Army in 1872. He was assigned a post in the General Staff Office and engaged in intelligence activities. Major General. Died in 1896.

<sup>3</sup> Ijuin Kaneo was born in Kagoshima prefecture in 1853. He participated in the Boshin War, and became a professional soldier in 1871. He was assigned a post in the General Staff Office in 1879 and sent to China for intelligence activities. Engineering Major. Died in 1904.

According to the letter dated January 27, 1884 (Image 7), Ijuin actually left Shanghai on January 3, 1884 (Image 7). He wrote that the only way he could implement the investigation in the turmoil was to do it himself. He also wrote that he disguised himself as an express messenger sailing on a ship over the Yangtze River and going overland to sneak into various places. These passages show the struggle he had to go through all by himself. During this period of time, there were the Imo Incident and Gapsin Coup in Korea and the Sino-French War in China. The situation in East Asia had rapidly grown tense, thus the Japanese army was trying very hard to grasp the situation by intelligence activities.

(Translated by OSHIMA Kaoru)

#### Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(1\)](#) (No. 200, June 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(2\)](#) (No. 201, August 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(3\)](#) (No. 202, October 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(4\)](#) (No. 203, December 2015)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(5\)](#) (No. 220, October 2018)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(6\)](#) (No. 221, December 2018)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(7\)](#) (No. 225, August 2019)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(8\)](#) (No. 226, October 2019)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(9\)](#) (No. 233, November 2020)

#### Related content from the National Diet Library Website

- [Research Navi](#) : Holdings of The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (Japanese)

News from NDL

## Exploring the new Kansai-kan Storage Annex



Kansai-kan

The Kansai-kan of the National Diet Library is designed to secure storage space for ever-increasing library materials over the long term. On February 20, 2020, the Kansai-Kan's storage annex was completed as the first stage of additional construction. The Annex is seven stories above and one story below ground with a 5 million volume capacity and 161 km of shelves.

This article introduces the beautiful features of the Annex with various techniques used for long-term preservation of library materials while showing photographs taken during the building process.

### Unobstructed view of stacks



Stacks

Even from the elevator halls, you can get wide-open views of the stacks so that you do not need to go into the stack to see their vastness. The colors of the shelves and lighting which can be seen through the glass walls are designed in unison with those of the center corridors.



Shelves



Elevators

Glass-walled elevators and stairwells help get a good view of the stacks. This is one of the design features to make the closed space of the stacks look open.



Stairwell

## Exterior design



The Annex is designed to look like books lined up.



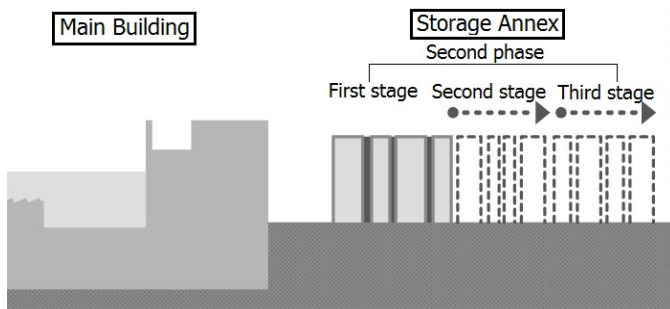
Annex seen from the south



Gravel path between the Main Building and the Annex

Another design feature is that the gravel used in the path between the Main Building and the Annex is different sizes. The photograph above is the Main Building seen from the Annex.

To the south of the Annex, there is land for the second and third stage of additional construction. They will be storage buildings of the same design of the Annex, just like more books being lined up.



Storage Annex construction plan



Map of the Kansai-kan



The Kansai-kan view from above

### Features of shelves



Shelves with cool-colored panels (deep blue and light blue)

The color of shelves' side panels are different according to the area of the stacks. The north side uses cool colors and the south side warm colors so that you can see where you are just by looking at those colors.

In order to prevent mold outbreaks, shelves are placed with proper gaps in between. The holes on the side panels of shelves are also for the same purpose.

In the case of earthquakes, shelves will sway together due to the gaps between them, which is one measure to stop materials from falling down. Shelves fixed to the walls are equipped with a fall prevention device which detects shaking by earthquakes of seismic intensity four or higher and makes the latch of the shelf boards pop up automatically.

Lightings is LED lamps which emit almost no UV rays which affect materials.



Shelf board latch



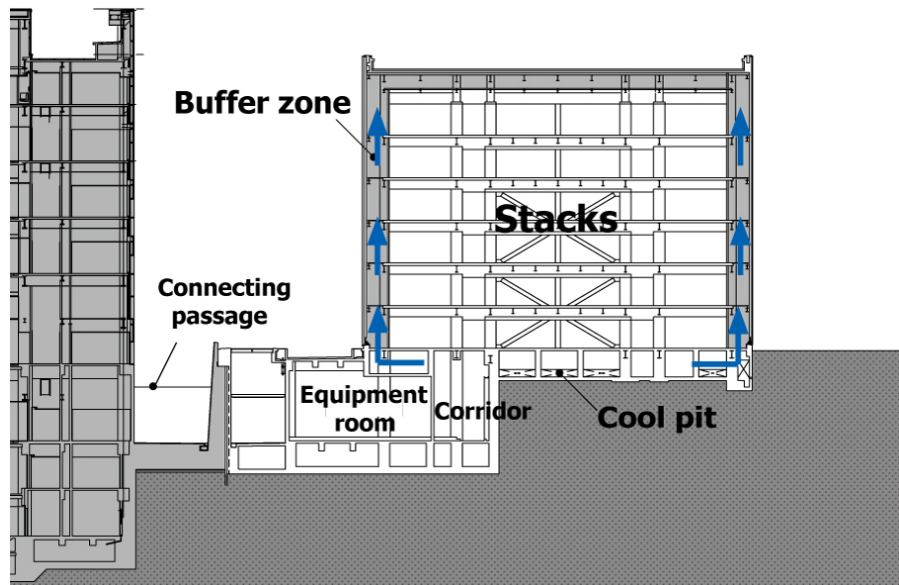
Shelves with warm-colored panels (yellow and pink)



Holes of side panels for mold prevention

**Other equipment**

The buffer zone surrounding the stacks lessens the effect of outside temperatures. In addition, by circulating stable geothermal heat from the underground cool pit in the buffer zone, we can reduce the air conditioning cost.



There is, of course, solar power generators on the rooftop. The fire extinguishing equipment uses nitrogen gas, which puts out fires by lessening the oxygen concentration. Nitrogen exists in the natural air, so it is harmless to the human body, though it may cause shortness of breath.



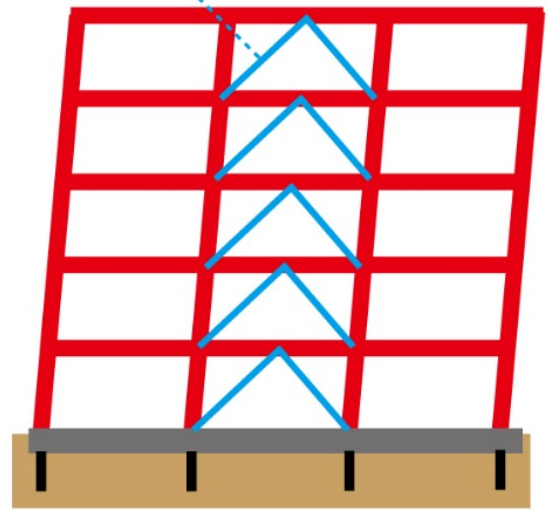
Solar power generators on the roof top



Fire extinguishing equipment using nitrogen gas

The earthquake resistant structure of the Annex utilizes seismic braces. Columns, beams and walls withstand the earthquake by changing shape with the braces.

### Seismic brace



### Photographs showing the building process

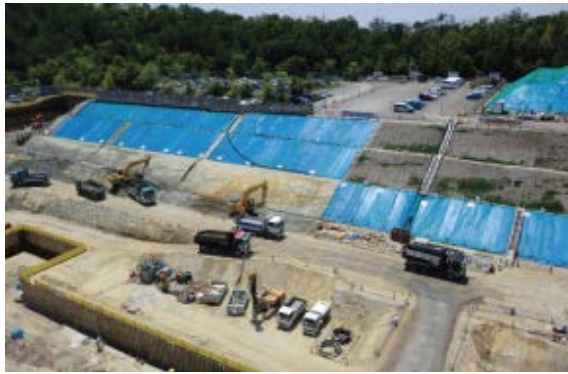
The Annex was completed through various building processes. Here are some images of those processes.



Digging started in Nov. 2016  
(Feb. 13, 2017)







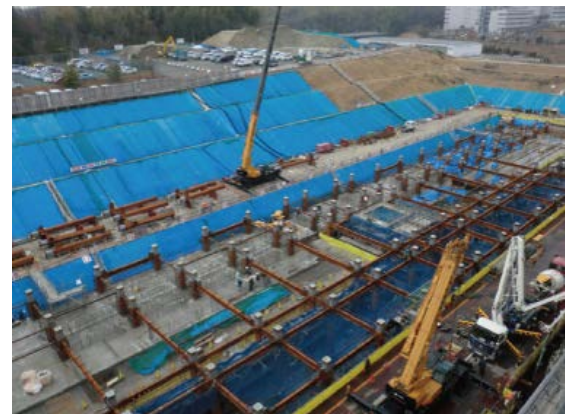
Digging continues  
(June 19, 2017)



Working platforms constructed by cranes  
(Oct. 17, 2017)



Concrete placement on the first  
basement floor (Nov. 27, 2017)



Placement of steel columns on the first basement  
and first floor; and steel beams on the first floor  
(Jan. 23, 2018)



Construction site seen from the south  
(Feb. 26, 2018)





Finally, steel columns start to appear!  
(June 25, 2018)



Interior work began.  
Placing rails for compact shelves  
(Oct. 26, 2018)



PC board setting finished  
(Nov. 26, 2018)



Placement of shelves  
(May 24, 2019)





Exterior wall construction  
(July 26, 2019)



Construction of corridors for  
unobstructed view of stacks  
(Sep. 27, 2019)



Completed!  
(Feb. 2020)

(Translated by OSHIMA Kaoru)

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

## The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 717, January 2021

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