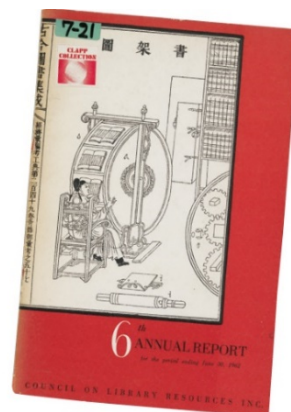
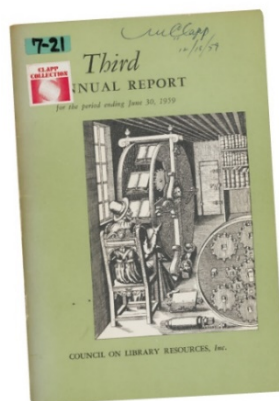
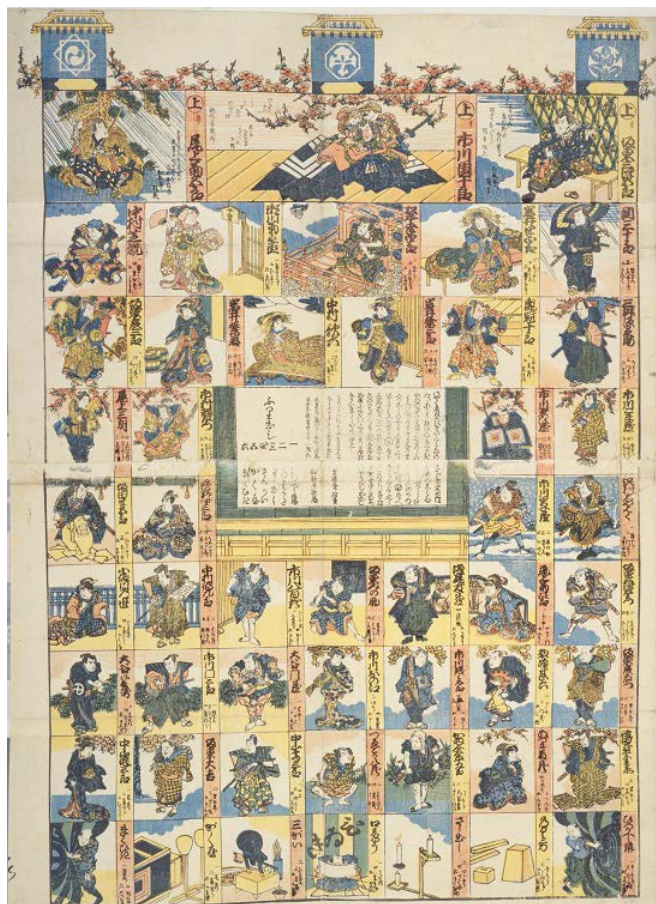


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 236, February 2021



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Selections from NDL collections

***Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*—Parenting during the Edo Period**

AOKI Taichi, Book and Serials Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 709 \(May 2020\)](#).*

*Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*. Written by KATSUKI Gyuzan, published by Akitaya Ichibee, et al. in 1714. 6 vols. NDL Call No. W412-N17.

From vol. 1. Midwife giving a first bath to a newborn baby. The baby is faced down on the midwife's lower legs. Midwives of the time usually put babies on their lower legs with hands roughly placed on the baby's back. Gyuzan, the author of the book, was accusatory about this rough treatment.

*Kodomo no hi* (Children's Day) on May 5 is a day to respect the personality of and to celebrate the happiness of all children (Act on National Holidays, Article 2). At all times, the healthy growth of their children is the most important interest for parents. To respond to the wishes of these parents, various kinds of parenting books can be seen at bookshops.

*Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa* is a famous parenting book from the Edo period written by KATSUKI Gyuzan, published in 1714<sup>1</sup>. This book is known as a representative parenting book of the Edo period<sup>2</sup> and it

was also recommended as a good book for children's health in *Yo jokun*, a bestselling book by KAIBARA Ekiken<sup>3</sup> published around the same time.

KATSUKI Gyuzan was born in 1656 in Chikuzen (today's Fukuoka Prefecture). He studied Confucianism from KAIBARA Ekiken in his boyhood, then after studying medical science from TSURUHARA Geneki, he worked as a medical officer in Buzen Nakatsuhan (today's Oita Prefecture). Later, he moved to Kyoto, and gained in popularity as a great doctor for curing the rare disease of the son of Reigen Tenno<sup>4</sup> (the Emperor). In his last years,

<sup>1</sup> The introduction of this book, by Gyuzan's elder brother Hidefusa, was written in 1703.

<sup>2</sup> Parenting books in the Edo period are divided into two groups. There are books on moral education, and books on medicine. *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa* is valued as it has both aspects. Reference: KAJITANI Shinji. "Edo jidai no ikujisho kara mita igaku no kindaika (The modernization of medicine as seen in childcare books from the Edo Period: a transcription and analysis of Kuwata Ryusai's text "Aiiiku Sadari")," *Teikyo kokusai bunka*, vol.20, published in February 2007, pp.65-66. NDL Call No. Z22-1546.

<sup>3</sup> KAIBARA Ekiken was a botanist and a Confucian in the Edo period.

<sup>4</sup> Reference: *Daikakuji shiryaku*. Edited and published by Daihonzan Daikakuji, published in 1935. \*Available in the [NDL Digital](#)

he moved to Kokura (today's Fukuoka Prefecture) and passed away there in 1740. He left twenty-three works in his life. Besides this book, he wrote *Fujin kotobukigusa* (published in 1706) for obstetric care, and *Rojin hitsuyo yashinaigusa* (published in 1716) for elderly care.

In the introduction of *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*, written by Gyuzan's brother Hidefusa, it is written that the situation of people ignoring childcare is regrettable, and this book was written to be a model for parents. The title was named *sodategusa* (literally, nursing plant) comparing the growth of children with plants sprouting and flowering.

*Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa* has six volumes. The content includes many different subjects, such as volume 1 and 2 explaining nursing for newborn babies, volume 3 writing about diseases peculiar to children, volume 4 and 5 mainly discussing smallpox, and volume 6 describing education up to ten years old. This book quotes from and refers to Chinese medical books as well as many other pieces of literature and people, and therefore although the text is a combination of the Chinese characters (kanji) and Japanese syllabary (kana) with kana readings given for kanji, it has been pointed out that highly educated or high status people were the main readers of this book<sup>5</sup>. The following are brief introductions of various aspects of childcare and pediatric care of the time.



From vol. 1. Part of the table of the contents can be seen on the left page. From the right, "General statement of childcare," "About birth," "Medicines used soon after the birth," "Giving birth," "Cutting the umbilical cord," and "Giving first bath and usual bathing" are written. The right page is the last part of the introduction. The name of Gyuzan's brother, Hidefusa is written. He wrote about Gyuzan's career and the background of this book.

### Be careful when selecting a wet nurse (vol. 1)

In the Edo period, rich families used to hire wet nurses. Doctors and Confucians of the time thought that the baby's character and constitution depended on that of the wet nurse<sup>6</sup>. *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa* is also based on the same idea and many pages are spent on the selection and treatment of wet nurses. For example, in the book, the author warns that as wet nurses usually come from poor families, their disposition might be incompatible with that of rich families because of the difference in growing environments. However, as the childcare of the beloved child is left to the wet nurse, parents cannot help but accept the wet nurse's opinions which leads to disturbance of family traditions.

The book also gives advices on the wet nurses' meals and living environment, and shows interest in relieving wet nurses' stress, such as pointing out that teaching manners and giving various orders might decrease the quantity of the wet nurse's milk.



From vol. 1. Wet nurse breastfeeding a child. Her clothes are simple compared with those of the surrounding people.

### Collections.

<sup>5</sup> Reference: KAJITANI Shinji. "Edo jidai no ikujisho no reimei (The birth of childcare book in the Edo period: a transcription and analysis of Chimura Masayuki's *Shoni Yojojoroku*)" *Teikyo daigaku gaikokugo gaikoku bunka*, vol.1, published in March 2008, pp.109-111. NDL Call No. Z71-V407.

<sup>6</sup> Reference from: *Nihon kodomoshi*. Written by Moriyama, Shigeki and Nakae, Kazue, published by Heibonsha in 2002, description in p.170. NDL Call No. GD1-G234.

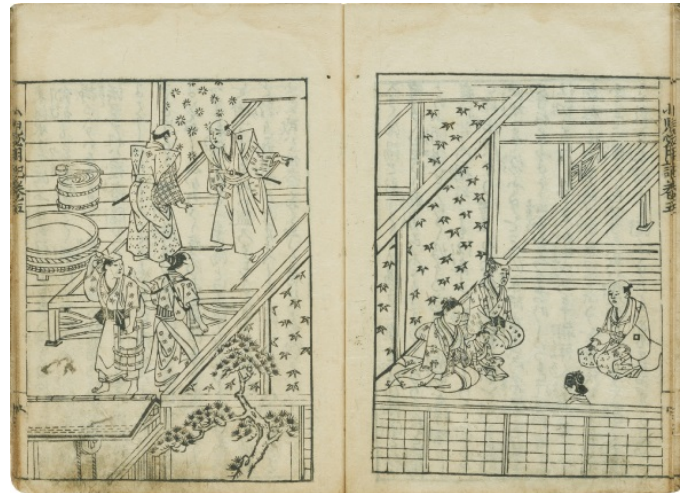
### Treatment of smallpox (vol. 4 and 5)

Those who are now living in a world without smallpox might be surprised that two volumes out of six are on the subject of smallpox. Of course, this is proof of how virulent smallpox was at that time<sup>7</sup>. During the Edo period, many books on contagious diseases such as smallpox or measles were published.

This book also lists things and foods to avoid while fighting smallpox as well as introducing *sakayu* which was a medical custom of that time. *Sakayu* is a bathing custom of boiling water which was used to rinse rice<sup>8</sup>, with some sake added, and splashing it on the crust of dried smallpox. It was thought to have a medical effect in peeling off the crust and was adopted by the common people starting in the Meiji period<sup>9</sup>.



From vol. 4. There is a child suffering from smallpox inside the folding screen. Rash on the face is noticeable.



From vol. 5. On the left are house girls bustling about to prepare rice water. The child's symptoms of disease seem to have settled down but a man outside the room still has an apprehensive look.

### Do not be too enthusiastic (vol. 6)

It is natural that as the times change, the content and focal points of education change.

For learning, Gyuzan explains the importance of manners in calligraphy, and even promotes enforcement of cleaning up the tools and caring for one's appearance after practicing. As for arithmetic, he also recommends to start learning it from ten years old and he denies the thinking that arithmetic is for merchants, not samurai. For traditional Japanese arts, Noh chants, board games such as Go, Shogi (Japanese chess) and Sugoroku (game of dice) and tea ceremony are listed as activities which should be learned from early childhood. He warns parents not to be too fascinated with Noh chants when their own children are good at them and praised by people, and tells them not to be too enthusiastic. Parents like these are not uncommon today. Some readers may think this applies to them as well.

There are many interesting descriptions in *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*, like the examples mentioned above. Although this article is only a short introduction of the book, I would be grateful if you enjoyed this part of a parenting book from the Edo period.

<sup>7</sup> The family register of death left at Ougenji (a temple in Takayama, Gifu Prefecture) shows the number of children who died from smallpox. According to this, 863 people out of 6,489 died from smallpox from 1771 to 1852 and 90% of the dead were children under ten years old.

Reference from: *Shuyo gyosekishu*. Written by SUDA Keizo, published by Seijinkaisudabyoin in 1987, description in pp.88-92, 112-118. NDL Call No. SC21-E9. *Hida ojiin kakocho no kenkyu*. vol.2: basic data. Written by SUDA Keizo, published by Seijinkaisudabyoin in 1987. NDL Call No. GB378-6. *Yamai no kokufuku*. Written by KAWAMURA Jun'ichi, published by Shibunkakushuppan in 1999, description in pp.155-157, 160. NDL Call No. EG244-G119.

<sup>8</sup> From *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*, we see that sometimes two rat excrements were mixed into the rice water. However, Gyuzan did not suggest mixing them in as the dried smallpox marks might fester due to the toxicity of the excrement.

<sup>9</sup> Reference from: *Edo no hayari yamai: Hashika sodo wa naze okottanoka*. Written by SUZUKI Noriko, published by Yoshikawakobunkan in 2012, description in pp.39-40. NDL Call No. EG213-J770.



From vol. 6. Teaching calligraphy. It is recommended to practice ten times in the morning, thirty times in the afternoon and ten times at night. For one sample, practice is done for fifteen days. During these days, a clear copy is made once every five days, and for the third and final clear copy, it is recommended to write it down without referring to the sample.

### Countermeasures for smallpox during the Edo period.

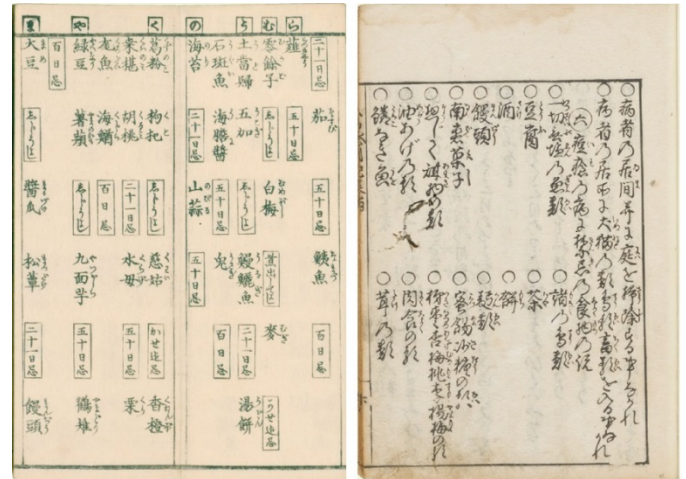
### Live through diseases with the color red



*Hoso kokoroegusa*. Stated by SHISUIKEN, Shuran, published by Metogiya Zensuke in 1798. \*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#).  
In vol. 4 of *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*, it is written that when

there is a smallpox patient in a family, a household altar is made where sacred sake and offerings are placed. This indicates a belief in *hososhin*<sup>10</sup> which appeared in the Middle Edo period. As the picture shows, changing all the clothing, toys and furnishings of a sick child to red, which *hososhin* prefers<sup>11</sup>, was believed to ease the symptoms of the disease.

### Live through diseases using the manual of contraindicated food



Left: *Hoso shokumotsuko*. Written by IKEDA Mukei in 1840. \*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#).

Right: *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*. vol.4.

As the title *shokumotsuko* means "tips for food," mainly food precautions for smallpox patients are written in the *Hoso shokumotsuko*. In the chapter *shoshokumotsu*, food items are written in iroha order (an alphabetical order, a traditional order of the Japanese syllabary) and the picture shows some of them. Soya beans are not restricted. Detailed instructions such as avoiding wheat until the smallpox becomes crusts, seaweed laver for twenty-one days, and rabbit for a hundred days are written. Compared with this, in the *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa*, restricted foods are only written about generally and there are no dates given for restrictions.

(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

### Reference (in Japanese):

- *Shoni hitsuyo sodategusa: Yomigaeru ikuji no meicho*. Originally written by KATSUKI Gyuzan, reprint and translation and commentary by NAKAMURA Setsuko, published by Nosangyosonbunkakyokai in 2016. NDL Call No. SC411-L131.
- *Rojin hitsuyo yashinaigusa: Oi o tanoshimu edo no chie*. Originally written by KATSUKI Gyuzan, reprint and translation and commentary by NAKAMURA Setsuko, supervised by SAKAI Shizu, published by Nosangyosonbunkakyokai in 2011. NDL Call No.

<sup>10</sup> In Japan, people personified smallpox and called them *hososhin* which was considered to be a kind of guardian deity.

<sup>11</sup> Reference from: *E de yomu edo no yamai to yojo*. Written by SAKAI Shizu, published by Kodansha in 2003, description in p.93. NDL Call No. EG213-H79. *Edo no iryo fuzoku jiten*. Written by SUZUKI Akira, published by Tokyodoshuppan in 2000, description in pp.60-61. NDL Call No. SC28-G54.

SC251-J107.

- *Nihon ika retsuden: Ganjin kara tada tomio made.*  
Written by SUZUKI Akira, published by  
Taishukanshoten in 2013. NDL Call No. EG234-L24.

Selections from NDL collections

## Famous Places, People, and Social Customs on Paper—*Sugoroku* Board Games from the Edo Period (Part 2. People)

Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a part of translation of the article in Japanese in Small Digital Exhibitions "*Kaleidoscope of Books*".

### Introduction



*Koinyobo somewake tazuna*<sup>1</sup>

There are two types of Japanese board games that use dice: *e sugoroku* (picture dice games) and *ban sugoroku* (board dice games). *Ban sugoroku* is virtually identical to the game of backgammon, in which two players move their pieces around a board. Although *ban sugoroku* became popular among aristocrats during the 5th and 6th centuries, it fell out of fashion during the Edo period.

In contrast to *ban sugoroku*, *e sugoroku* is very similar to the board game Snakes and Ladders and became popular during the Edo period as an everyday pastime. Originally, there was a form called *mawari sugoroku*, in which players rolled the dice to see who could move their pieces around the board first. Gradually, this game evolved to include squares that had penalties, like "lose one turn," or introduce a new form called *tobi sugoroku* (jumping dice games), in which players move to specific spaces on the

board based on dice rolls and the instructions written on each square.

Although *sugoroku* is basically a game for children, there are some versions that are rather difficult to play. It is likely that these more difficult versions were intended to be played by children together with adults or older siblings. Many of the brightly colored *e sugoroku* boards were painted by well-known illustrators, so they were meant not just to be a pastime but also to have some kind of aesthetic value.

This series features Edo-period *e sugoroku* from the holdings of the NDL with boards that depict famous places, people, and social customs.

There were many *sugoroku* games created during the Edo period that featured well-known people, including kabuki actors, who were among the most popular celebrities of the day, and other famous people as well as historical and literary figures.

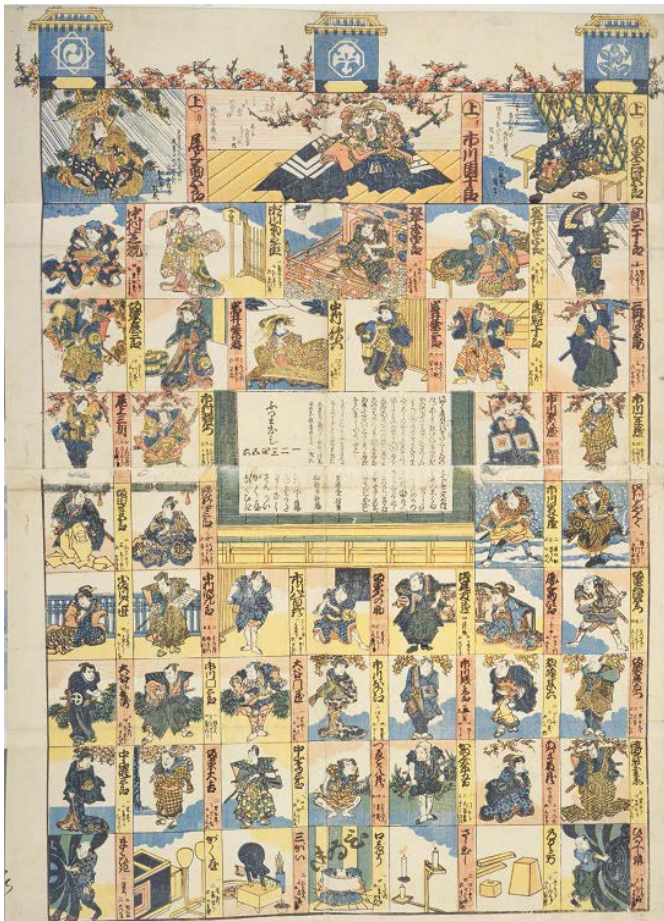
In fact, just looking at those featured in *sugoroku* provides clues about the era. There are many who are well-known even today but were portrayed then in ways that are different from how they are presented now. Let's take a look at how some of these characters were depicted in *sugoroku*.

### Kabuki actors

Kabuki actors were so popular that an enormous number of *sugoroku* were produced featuring their likenesses. In some cases, the characters from kabuki plays were portrayed with the faces of the actors who played the roles.

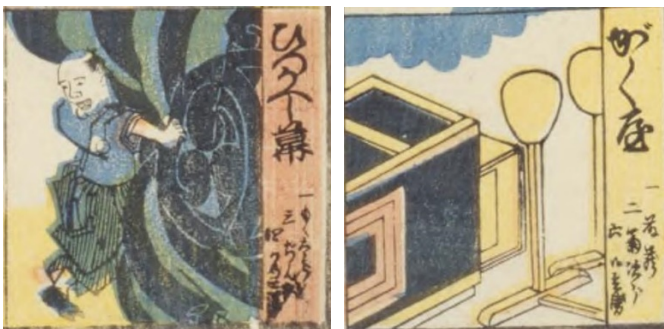
In this respect, there are some similarities with *ukiyo-e*. But unlike *ukiyo-e*, which usually depicted only one and at most no more than a few actors at a time, *sugoroku* always depicts several kabuki actors together, and kabuki fans enjoyed being able to see all the popular actors presented together in one place.

<sup>1</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Toyokuni III, published by Sumiyoshiya Masagoro in the mid-18th century. NDL Call No. ㊮-88 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)

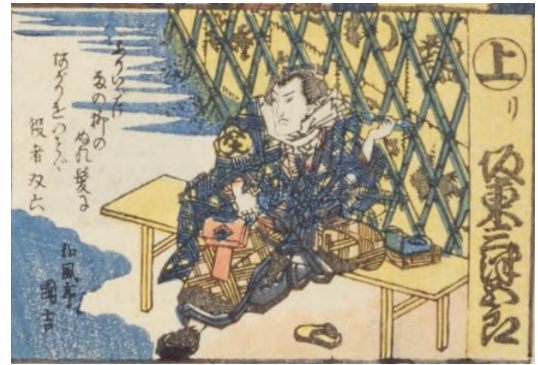
Yakusha sugoroku (Kabuki actors)<sup>2</sup>

The instructions in the middle of this *sugoroku* board says that it “depicts all the popular plays, regardless of the ranks of the actors” for “children who love watching kabuki.”

The game starts with squares featuring illustrations of the curtain and other stage equipment as well as the actor's dressing room, but continues with squares of actors in the roles for which they are best known. At the finish line at the top of the board BANDO Mitsugoro, ICHIKAWA Danjuro, and ONOE Kikugoro are depicted.



Left: A stage curtain  
Right: A dressing room



Bando Mitsugoro



Onoe Kikugoro

The illustration below is from the top center of the board and depicts Ichikawa Danjuro in the play *Shibaraku* (stop a moment), which is considered one of the *juhachiban* (eighteen greatest plays) of Kabuki. Here you can see his characteristic sidelocks as well as *chikara gami* (white paper, considered a symbol of power), *eboshi* (a traditional style of elongated, black hat), red *sujiguma* (striped makeup) on his face, and a costume bearing the Ichikawa family emblem, called *Mimasu*.



Ichikawa Danjuro in *Shibaraku*

<sup>2</sup> From *Yakusha nigao azuma nishikie*. NDL Call No. 寄別 2-4-1-1. \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)



## Bushi (Warriors)

*Sugoroku* boards featuring *bushi* and other heroic figures were also popular, not surprisingly especially with boys. In many cases, a considerable knowledge of historical

literature was needed to be able to understand the content of Edo-period *sugoroku*. In this respect, *sugoroku* might have been used as teaching materials, with which children could learn while playing.

### **Bugel tatsujin sugoroku (Masters of martial arts)<sup>3</sup>**



This *sugoroku* featuring masters of martial arts includes a brief description of each individual. Although most of the people depicted here are master swordsmen, there are also some known for their prowess with a bow or spear. Rather than portraying the characters based on historical fact alone, these descriptions included elements of folklore and fanciful storytelling.

Martial artists who are still well known today include Edo-period swordsmen MIYAMOTO Musashi, SASAKI Ganryu (also known as Sasaki Kojiro), who fought a duel with Musashi on Ganryu Island, and TSUKAHARA Bokuden, a swordsman of the late Muromachi period.



Left: Miyamoto Musashi  
Right: Sasaki Ganryu

The square at the top right of the board depicts Miyamoto Musashi, who is described as “A resident of Buzen<sup>4</sup> and master of the two-sword school, who defeated KAWADA Mokuzaemon and honed his skills while travelling around

<sup>3</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Yoshitora, published in the mid-19th century. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)

<sup>4</sup> Buzen Province, the area of the present-day Fukuoka Prefecture and Oita Prefecture

Japan. He later bested Ganryu in a duel, after which his name became widely known throughout Japan." The second square from the left in the second row from the top is Sasaki Ganryu, who is "A resident of Higo in Kumamoto and a master swordsman who fought Musashi and whose name is now known on Ganryu Island."

***Eiyu genpei meisho sugoroku (Great commanders of the Genji and Heike clans)***<sup>5</sup>



The *sugoroku* shown above features famous military commanders from history. The square at the finish line depicts MINAMOTO no Tsunemoto, progenitor of the Seiwa Genji branch of the Minamoto clan, and his son, Mitsunaka.



Minamoto no Tsunemoto (right) and Mitsunaka (left)

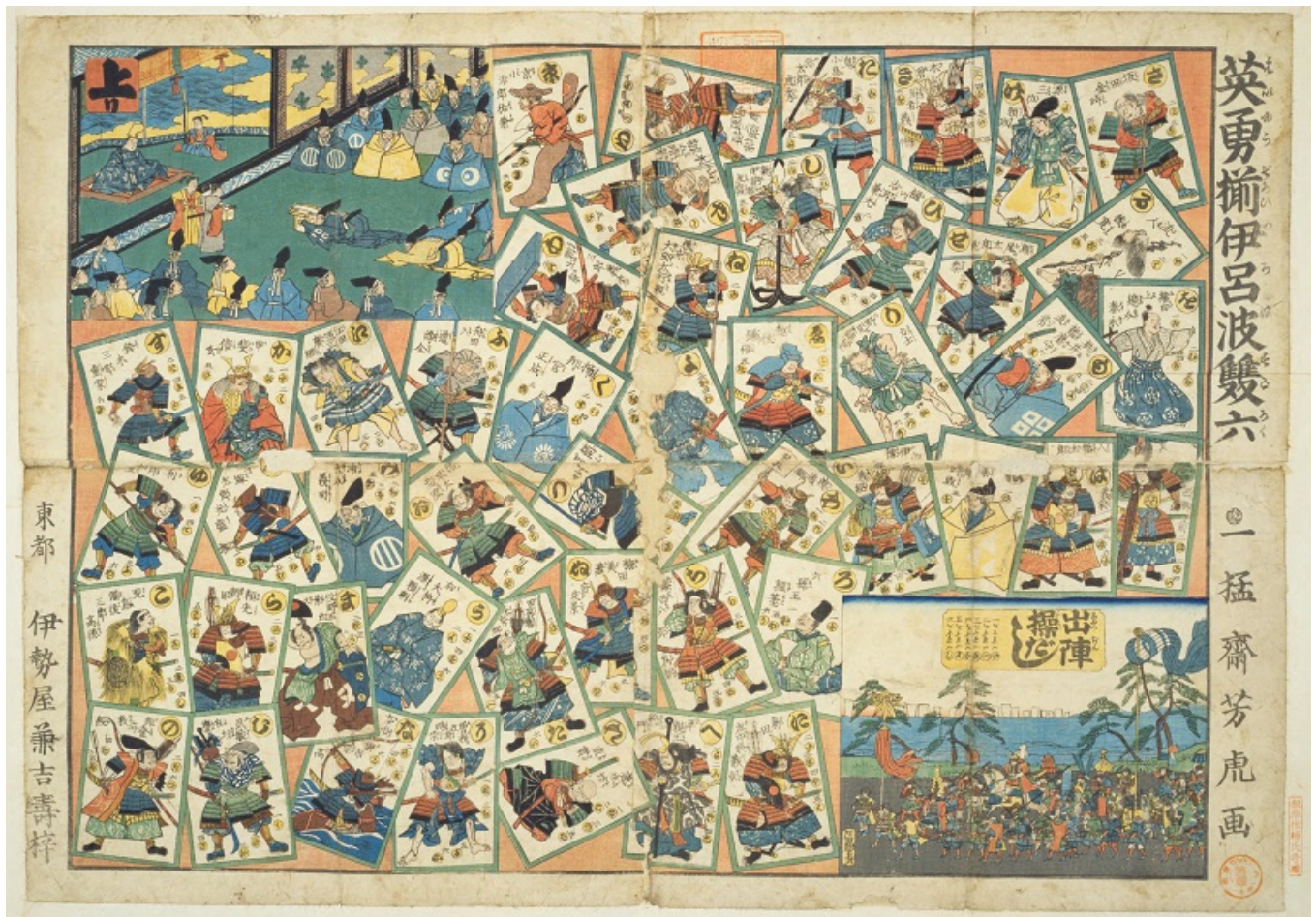
On this particular board, the military commanders of the Minamoto clan are depicted in the upper part, while those of the Heike clan are in the lower part, which seems to indicate how people at that time viewed the two clans. Although this particular game was named *Genpei* (for both the Minamoto and Heike clans), in addition to the commanders of these clans there are those from other historical eras such as SAKANOUÉ no Tamuramaro and KUSUNOKI Masashige.

This board also has a square featuring the *Onna shogun* (female warrior) Tomoe Gozen, who is the only woman included in the game. She was a concubine of KISO Yoshinaka, who is said to have fought bravely with him on the battlefield.



*Onna shogun* Tomoe Gozen

<sup>5</sup> Illustrated by IKEDA Eisen, published by Izumiya Ichibe. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)

*Eiyu zoroi iroha sugoroku (Lineup of heroes)*<sup>6</sup>

This *sugoroku* board has squares depicted as *iroha karuta*<sup>7</sup> cards, each of which contains a picture of a historical hero, including military commanders from the Heian to the Sengoku period as well as the legendary sumo wrestler NOMI no Sukune, who is mentioned in the *Chronicles of Japan*, and Shunkan, a Japanese monk who was exiled to Kikai-ga-shima in Kagoshima Prefecture at the end of the Heian period. The starting line shows warriors taking the field and the finish line shows a victorious commander being rewarded for his service.



Sumo wrestler Nomi no Sukune

<sup>6</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Yoshitora, published by Iseya Kanekichi in 1864. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)

<sup>7</sup> A card game usually comprising 47 reading cards and 47 picture cards, representing the 47 syllables of the hiragana syllabary.



Runin (exile), Shunkan



Starting line



Finish line

Each square depicts a person whose name starts with the hiragana character encircled in the upper corner. The players move to squares as indicated by smaller encircled hiragana characters. Modifiers are sometimes prefixed to the personal names in order to conform to the *iroha* pattern. For example, the *ka* square depicts "Kai no Shingen." Kai is the name of Shingen's home province, in modern day Yamanashi Prefecture.



Kai no Shingen

## Women

*Sugoroku* with pictures of women were most likely intended to be played by girls. In this section will look at one of the many *sugoroku* games that feature female characters. These characters provides us with a glimpse of the things that were considered feminine virtues and help illustrate the differences between how women were regarded by society then and now.

**Kenretsu teifu honcho misao sugoroku (Intelligent and virtuous women of Japan)<sup>8</sup>**

The starting line in this *sugoroku* has a scene of children reading books, while the finish line depicts Empress Jingu, who ruled Japan during the first half of the third century A.D.



The starting line



The finishing line

This *sugoroku* includes historical persons like MURASAKI Shikibu and ONO no Komachi as well as fictional characters like Sayohime, Murasaki, and Terita hime.



Left: Murasaki shikibu, right: Ono no Komachi

Occupying a square in the upper right of the board is Ototachibana-hime, who accompanied her husband, Prince Yamatotakeru, during his conquest of the east. This picture captures the scene in which she sacrifices herself to the sea in order to calm a savage sea.



Ototachibana-hime

<sup>8</sup> Illustrated by Ikeda Eisen, published by Izumiya Ichibe between 1843 and 1847. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)

## Literature

More and more people began to read literature during the latter half of the Edo period, as witnessed by the large

number of *sugoroku* that featured characters from literary works. There are so many *sugoroku* featuring content from epic-length novels that it is quite likely some of them were essentially used as digest editions.

### *Suikoden goketsu sugoroku (Water Margin, or Heroes of the Marsh)*<sup>9</sup>



This *sugoroku* features characters from the classic novel from Ming China, *Water Margin (or Heroes of the Marsh)*, which tells the story of how 108 outlaws band together on Mount Liang but later go their separate ways or die fighting their enemies. This *sugoroku* is based on a 70-chapter edition that tells the first half of the story and was quite popular in Edo. Each square is numbered to provide the outline of the story. The starting line depicts the beginning of the story and Celestial Master Zhang, while the finish line shows the outlaws gathered on Mount Liang.

Once it became popular in Japan, *Water Margin* had a tremendous influence on Edo-period literature. After it was translated into Japanese as *Tsuzoku chugi suikoden* by OKAJIMA Kanzan, it was adapted by other authors to Japanese settings, such as *Honcho suikoden*, written by TAKEBE Ayatari in 1757, and *Chushin suikoden*, written by SANTO Kyoden in 1801.



The finish line

<sup>9</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Kuniyoshi, published by Tsuruya Kiemon, Sanoya Kihei, Kagaya Kichiemon and Nishimuraya Yohachi. NDL Call No. 本別 9-27 \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)

Shinpan seichu gishiden *sugoroku* (The Forty-Seven Ronin)<sup>10</sup>

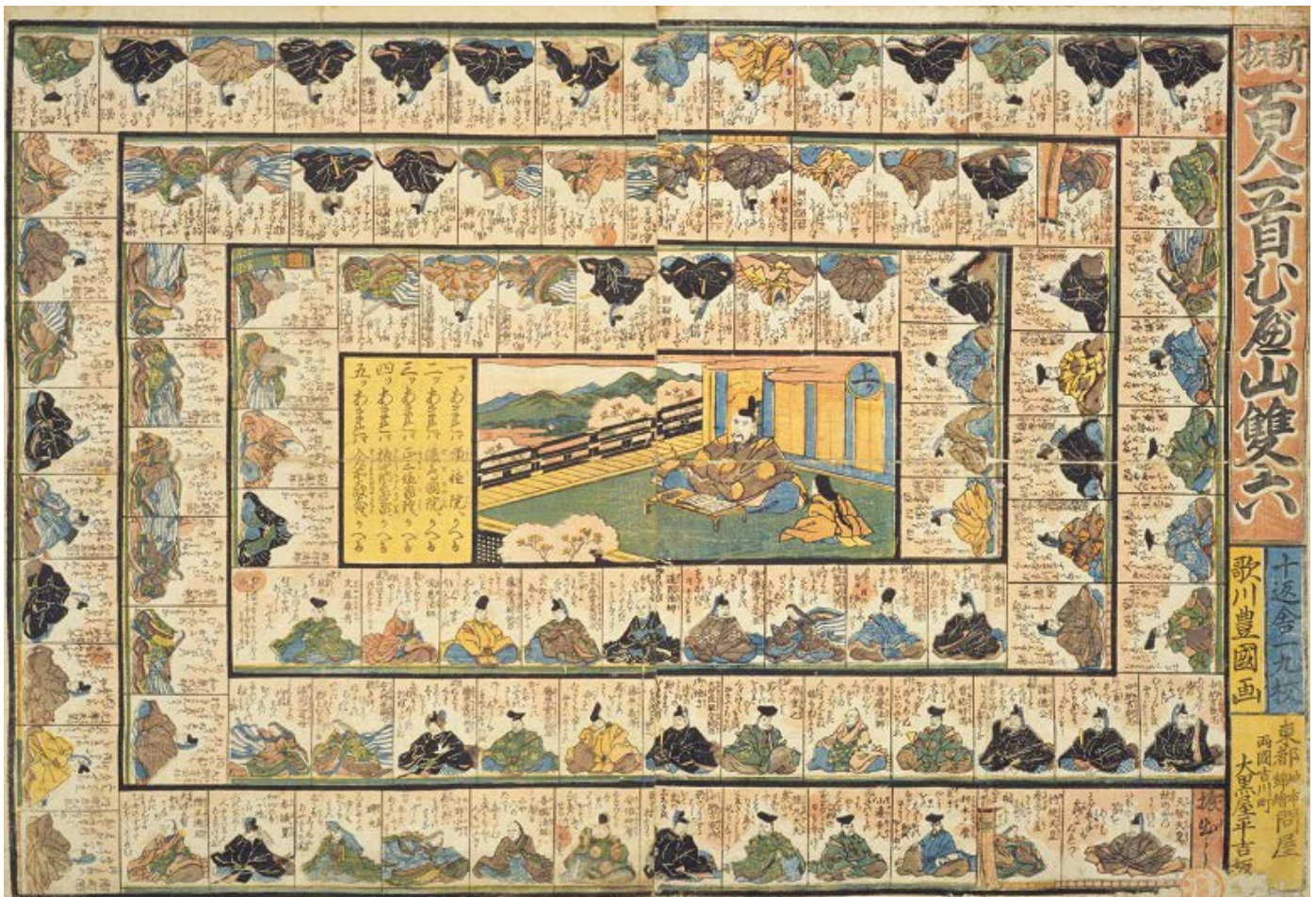
This *sugoroku* features characters from the bunraku puppet play *Kanadehon chushingura*, which is based on the Ako vendetta, otherwise known as the “forty-seven ronin.” *Kanadehon chushingura* was a popular play for both puppet plays and Kabuki theater, and there were also many *sugoroku* made based on the forty-seven ronin. Each of the forty-seven ronin are depicted in the 47 squares between the starting and the finish line. In addition, the starting line features Oboshi Yuranosuke, chief retainer, and the finish line shows Yuranosuke and his son Oboshi Rikiya Yoshikane together.

The square in the bottom-left corner features Hayano Kanpei Yoshitoshi, a character from a famous side story of *chushingura*, called *Okaru and Kanpei*. He is not dressed for battle, because he committed *seppuku* before the attack. A player loses a turn if he or she lands on this square.



Hayano Kanpei Yoshitoshi

<sup>10</sup> Illustrated by ITTOSAI Yoshitsuna, published by Murataya Ichigoro around 1847-1852. \*Available at [NDL Digital Collections](#)

Shinpan Hyakunin isshu mubeyama *sugoroku*<sup>11</sup>

This *sugoroku* features the one hundred poets of the *Ogura Hyakunin isshu*, with Emperor Tenji at the starting line and FUJIWARA no Teika in his Mt. Ogura villa at the finish line. The one hundred poets and their poetry are listed in the same order as selected by Fujiwara no Teika. Both *sugoroku* and *Hyakunin isshu* are favorite past times during the New Year's holidays, so combining them together is sure to put a sparkle in anyone's New Year's celebrations.

During the Edo period, there were many picture books published to help people read classic literary works such as *Hyakunin isshu*, *Genji monogatari* (*tale of Genji*), or *Taiheiki*, and many *sugoroku* were created on these same subjects. One of the most popular introductions to classical waka poetry was the *Hyakunin isshu*.

(Translated by OGAWA Kanako and YABE Moyu)

#### Reference (in Japanese):

- *Edo no yugi : Kaiawase karuta sugoroku* by NAMIKI Seishi, edited by Karinsha, published by Seigensha in Jul. 2007. NDL Call No. GB374-H52.

- *Esugoroku : Oitachi to miryoku* by YAMAMOTO Masakatsu, published by Unsodo in Jan. 2014. NDL Call No. KD958-H34.
- *Bakumatsu meiji no esugoroku* written and edited by KATO Yasuko and MATSUMURA Noriko, published by Kokusho Kankokai in Feb. 2002. NDL Call No. KD958-G664.
- *Esugoroku ten* (Picture sugoroku) edited by Edo Tokyo Hakubutsukan (Tokyoto) in Feb. 1998. NDL Call No. KD958-G295.
- *Sugoroku 2* by MASUKAWA Koichi, published by Hoseidaigakushuppanyoku in Jul. 1995. NDL Call No. KD958-E403.
- *Sugoroku* by KONISHI Shiro, JUGAKU Akiko and MURAGISHI Yoshio, published by Tokumashoten in 1974. NDL Call No. KD958-12.
- *Zusetsu edo no manabi* by ICHIKAWA Hiroaki and ISHIYAMA Hidekazu, published by Kawade Shobo Shinsha in Feb. 2006. NDL Call No. FB13-H29.

<sup>11</sup> Illustrated by UTAGAWA Toyokuni, published by Daikokuya Heikichi. \*[Available at NDL Digital Collections](#)



Selections from NDL collections

## The Personal Libraries of Well-Known People (1) Verner W. Clapp Collection

KOBAYASHI Masaki, Humanities Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 695 (March 2019).*



Verner W. Clapp (1901–1972) was named Chief Assistant Librarian at the U.S. Library of Congress and later served as the first president of the Council on Library Resources. He is well known for his efforts to establish the Congressional Research Service as well as to develop the concept of the machine-readable unit records, a forerunner of the MARC concept. And, as chairman of the U.S. Library Mission to Japan, he also made a significant contribution to the founding of the National Diet Library (NDL), which is why the NDL owns a collection of his books and papers.

Under the direction of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers, plans to attach a great national library to the National Diet of Japan began to take shape. Insofar as no one in either the House of Representatives or the House of Councillors had the expertise to undertake such a project, the United States was officially requested in

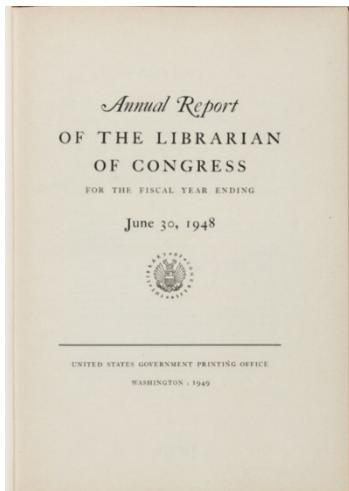
1947 to send a delegation. The U.S. Library Mission to Japan was chaired by Mr. Clapp, who enlisted the help of Charles H. Brown, chair of the American Library Association Committee on the Orient and Southwest Pacific. Through the end 1947 and early 1948, the Mission worked with Japanese legislators to prepare a draft of the National Diet Library Law, which stipulates the NDL's mission as well as its organization and operation, including programs such as the legal deposit system. It is no exaggeration to say that for nearly a half a century, the NDL developed along lines established according to memoranda written by these two men. For example, the branch library system was something that was not common even in the U.S. but became a pioneer of mutual cooperation between libraries.

Mr. Clapp had many fond memories of his time in Japan and became close friends with SAKAI Yasushi, who also contributed to the creation of the branch library system and later served as a deputy librarian of the NDL. For this reason, after Mr. Clapp's death, his widow, Mrs. Dorothy Clapp, donated his collection of books and papers to the NDL, thereby creating what is now known as the Clapp Collection.

The Clapp Collection is one of the smallest special collections at the NDL, comprising 343 books and 256 pamphlets on library information science. It was originally donated in 1973, after which it was available to the public in the Library Information Science Room until March 2002, when that room was closed. Since June 2004 it has been available in the Humanities Room.

The collection is organized to follow loosely the path of Mr. Clapp's career. Some of the materials, such as an annual report from the Council on Library Resources, are not readily available elsewhere in Japan. Many of these materials appear related to issues he dealt with during his career, including copyright law and copy machines. What follows are some of the most representative materials in the collection.

**Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1948. U.S. G.P.O. 1949 [UL231-3]**



Mr. Clapp worked for the Library of Congress from 1922 to 1956. He was appointed Chief Assistant Librarian of Congress in 1947, the same year that he came to Japan as chair of the U.S. Library Mission. The Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1948 contains a description of the Library Mission.

OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN  
Alva B. Walker, Administrative Secretary.  
Marlene D. Wright, Special Assistant.

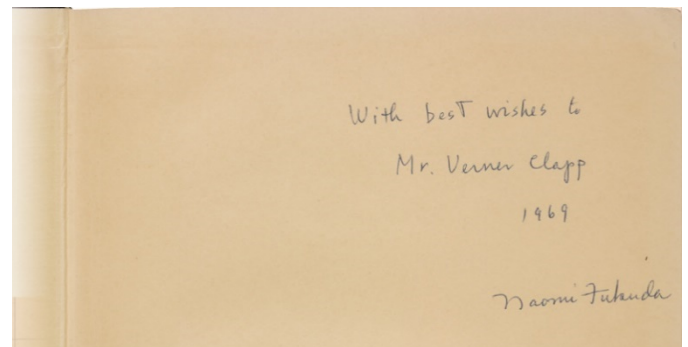
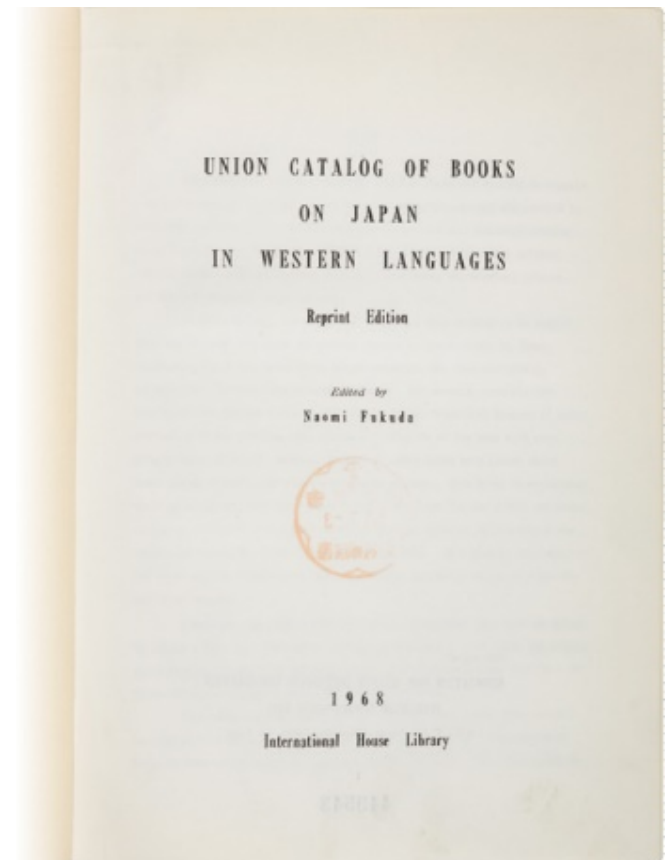
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN  
VERNER W. CLAPP, Chief Assistant Librarian.  
Exhibits Office: Herbert J. Sanborn, Exhibits Officer.  
Information Office: Milton M. Plumb, Jr., Information Officer.

Mr. Clapp is listed as the Chief Assistant Librarian.

but of some fifty American libraries having Japanese interests, spent six months, October 1947 to March 1948, in Japan in the interest of acquisitions. His visit resulted in the procurement of more than 11,000 pieces of material. At the request of General MacArthur's headquarters Mr. Verner W. Clapp, Chief Assistant Librarian, was detailed for a period of three months, in company with Dr. Charles H. Brown of Iowa State College, to advise the National Diet of Japan in the organization of library facilities. Dr. Leslie W. Dunlap, Assistant Chief of the General Reference and Bibliography Division, spent two weeks in Mexico studying the problem of a new library for the University of Mexico and preparing a report for the Rector, Dr. Salvador Zubirán.

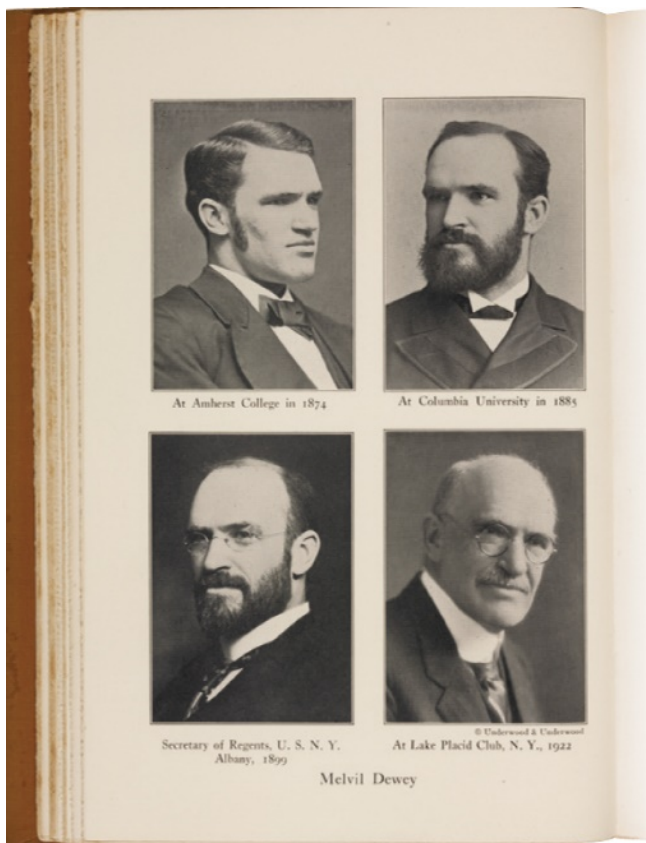
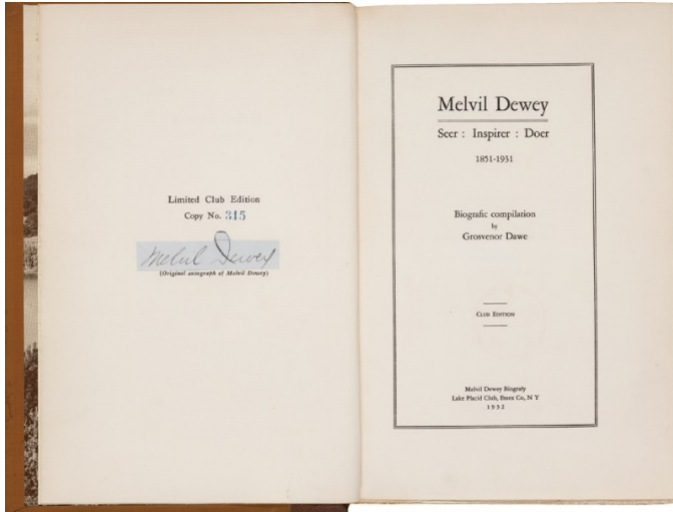
A description of the U.S. Library Mission can be found on page 25 of the Annual Report of the Librarian of Congress for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1948.

**Union Catalog of Books on Japan in Western Languages, Reprint Edition. Edited by Naomi Fukuda. International House Library, 1968 [GB1-3]**



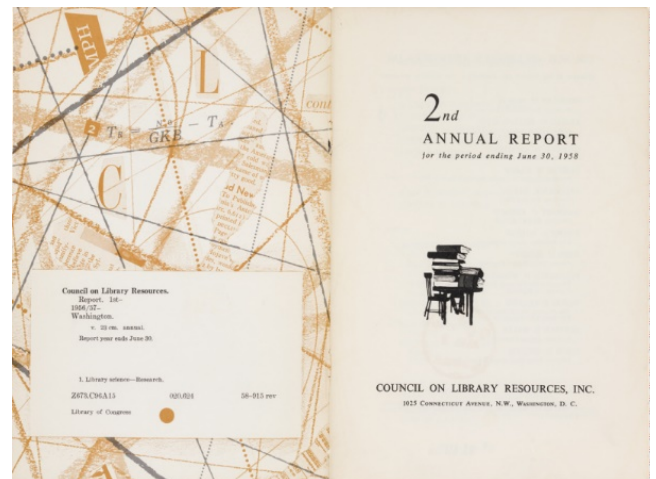
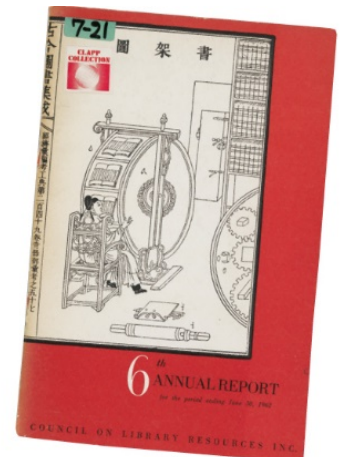
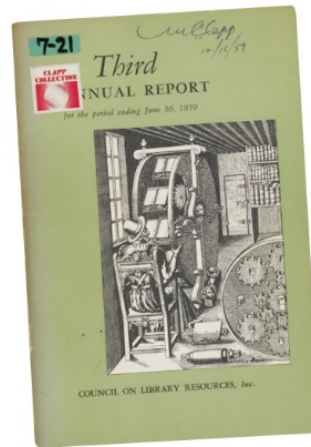
This copy of the Union Catalog of Books on Japan in Western Languages includes an inscription on the flyleaf that reads "With best wishes to Verner Clapp 1969 Naomi Fukuda." Ms. Fukuda (1907–2007) worked at the International House of Japan, which was established with the help of the Rockefeller Foundation and contributed to the establishment cooperative relationships between US and Japanese libraries.

**Melvil Dewey, Seer : Inspirer : Doer, 1851-1931. Biographic compilation by Grosvenor Dawe. Club Edition. Melvil Dewey Biography, 1932. Signature of Dewey pasted in 【GK425-28】**



This book is a biography of Melvil Dewey, the inventor of Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC). His signature is pasted on the verso of the front endpaper. The DDC was initially developed in 1873 and was first published in 1876. The most recent version, the 23rd, was published in 2011. Today, the DDC is maintained by the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) and is used in 200,000 libraries in more than 135 countries.

**Annual Report. Council on Library Resources 【UL3-13】**



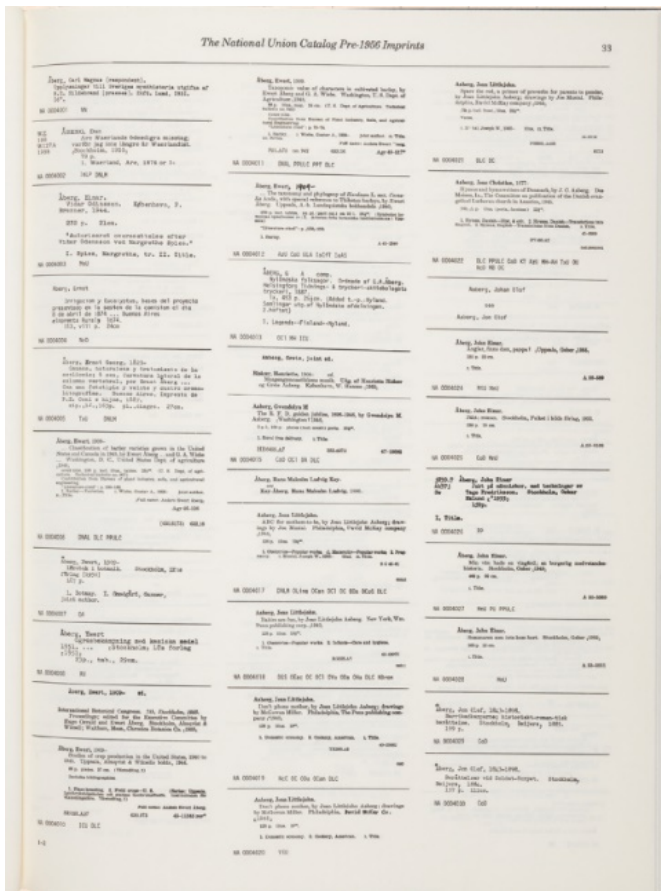
Mr. Clapp was the first president of the Council on Library Resources and served in that capacity until 1967. The Council was established in 1956 to address common problems faced by libraries in an era of explosive library growth and the emergence of new technologies. The Council also received added impetus from the Sputnik crisis of 1957 and, as the concept of library science expanded to become library information science, conducted research on library automation. In 1997, the Council on Library Resources was merged with the Commission on Preservation and Access, and its name was changed to the Council on Library and Information Resources.

**The National Union Catalog Pre-1956 Imprints. Mansell, 1967 [YP21-4]**

**References:**

[Selections from NDL collection Clapp Collection \(No.138, August 2004\)](#)

[Memories of Verner W. Clapp: An interview with Rebecca Roe \(No.222, February 2019\)](#)



For  
**VERNER W. CLAPP**  
*this acknowledgment by the publisher  
of his part in bringing about the publication of*  
**The National Union Catalog  
Pre-1956 Imprints**  
JUNE 1967

The National Union Catalog (NUC) is a bibliographic project run by the Library of Congress that began in 1901 with the goal of noting the location of every important book in the US. The NUC Pre-1956 Imprints comprises more than 528,000 pages, published in 754 volumes between 1968 and 1981 by Mansell Publishing of London. It includes copies of index cards from libraries in the US and Canada, which is why it is so voluminous. The flyleaf contains a dedication to Mr. Clapp in recognition of his contributions to the project. Although now stored in the closed stacks of the Tokyo Main Library (NDL Call No. UP6-21), until recently it could be found on the open shelves in the catalog hall, where it was referred to frequently both by library patrons and NDL librarians.

(Translated by HYUGA Tomoaki)

News from NDL

## Illustration Search Functionality in the Next Digital Library

Research and Development for Next-Generation Systems Office, Digital Information Planning Division, Digital Information Department

This article is a slightly revised version of a Japanese article in that first appeared in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 717](#) (January 2021).

### Overview of the service

The NDL Lab launched the Next Digital Library (<https://lab.ndl.go.jp/dl/>) in March 2019 as an experimental service that allows users to try out the results of our research into digital libraries. One of the purposes of the Next Digital Library is to verify the technical effectiveness of full-text searches, automatic processing using machine learning, and the International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) API. The Next Digital Library contains functionality for performing image searches of 336,000 digitized books including rare and old materials for which copyright has expired that are available online in the [NDL Digital Collections](#). Of these, full-text searches are also available for about 30,000 items classified under Category 6 (industry) of the Nippon

Decimal Classification (NDC) system. This service has been confirmed to be compatible with the latest versions of Firefox and Chrome.

### Functionality introduced in this article

In addition to the metadata and full-text searches that are available per a Keyword Search function, the Next Digital Library includes an Illustration Search function. The Illustration Search further includes four separate types of image searches: Illustration Search from Sample, Illustration Search from Metadata, Illustration Search from Local Image, and Illustration Search from Your Illustration. This article presents an explanation of illustration searches using either local images or metadata.

### Illustration search from local image

This function allows Next Digital Library users to search for images that are similar to an image file saved to their computer. This search can be executed by dragging and dropping the image file into the window and clicking the Analyze button.

The screenshot displays the 'Illustration search' interface. At the top, three tabs are visible: 'Illustration search from sample', 'Illustration search from the metadata', and 'Illustration search from local image'. The 'Illustration search from local image' tab is selected and highlighted with a red box. Below the tabs, a text prompt reads 'Select illustration to search books that contains similar illustrations'. A red arrow points from this prompt to a red box containing the text 'Drag and drop an image file into this window.' In the bottom left corner, there is an 'Analyze' button, also highlighted with a red box. A red arrow points from this button to a red box containing the text 'Click the Analyze button to search. Click the trash can icon to clear the search.' The main area of the interface shows a grid of search results, each featuring a small image of a book cover and a search bar with 'Search' and 'Book Get' buttons. A large red arrow points from the 'Analyze' button area towards the search results grid.

For example, an image of a woodblock print<sup>1</sup> by KAWASE Hasui found via Japan Search (<https://jpsearch.go.jp/>)<sup>2</sup> can be used to easily find a variety of woodblock prints available in the NDL Digital Collections. Among the works that appear in the results is *Kiyochika gajo* by KOBAYASHI Kiyochika, a Meiji-era artist.

<sup>1</sup> KAWASE Hasui, *Autumn Rainbow, Hatta Kaga*, woodcut on paper, owned by Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art, retrieved from *The collection of Aichi Prefectural Museum of Art*. ([https://jpsearch.go.jp/item/apmoa\\_mapps-18637](https://jpsearch.go.jp/item/apmoa_mapps-18637))

<sup>2</sup> For more information, see "Official version of Japan Search has become available!" [National Diet Library Newsletter, No.233](#), November 2020, pp.14-17.

## Illustration Search finds similar images

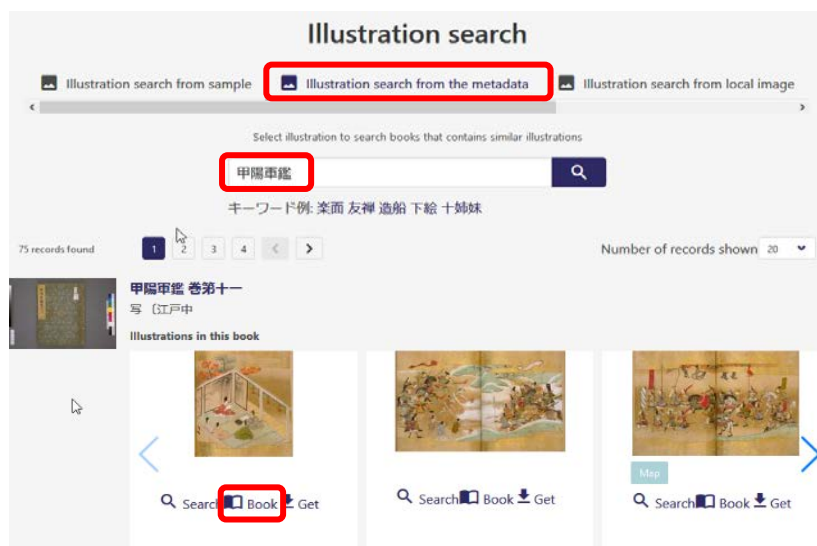
Illustration Search sometimes gives unexpected results. We did a search using an image from *Kokugyujuzu*<sup>3</sup>, an illustrated book of Japanese cattle that was published during the Kamakura period, and were surprised by the results.



You might expect that this function would return only images of other farm animals, but the results include illustrations of fish and crabs. This is because the Next Digital Library uses a machine learning classifier that quantifies images and retrieves those with similar numerical values. This classifier uses a dataset called [ImageNet](#), which is an image database primarily of color photography. Because ImageNet data is color photos on the Internet that tend to be different from illustrations in books, the search results may be quite different from what you expect. So, even though the search results might not find you exactly what you are looking for, we hope that Illustration Search will provide users with a tool for exploration that results in enjoyable serendipity.

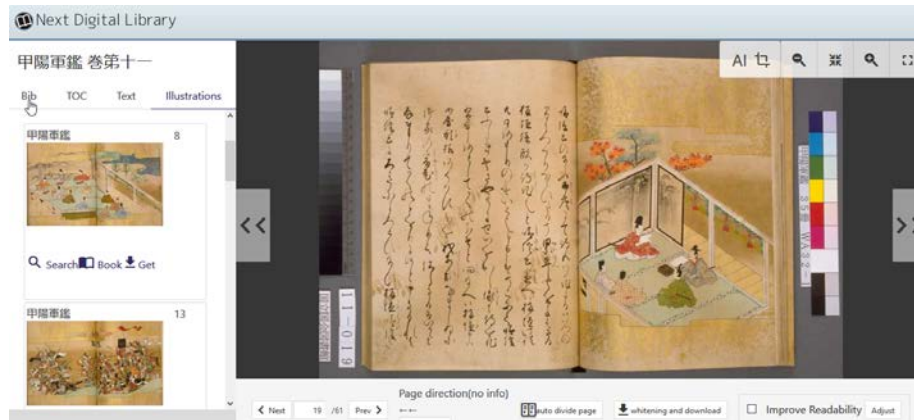
## Illustration search from metadata

This function allows Next Digital Library users to search for materials using metadata, such as a title or table of contents, and to view images within those materials. This search can be executed by inputting keywords and clicking the magnifying glass icon. This is a useful way for users to find a specific material or image.



For example, a search on the keyword 甲陽軍鑑 (*Kōyō gunkan*, the military treatise of the Takeda clan) will find each volume of this work that contains color illustrations. Clicking the Book icon under the image will take you to the page with that illustration and will also display the text.

<sup>3</sup> KAWAHIGASHI Naomaro, *Kokugyujuzu*, [1---], manuscript, NDL Call No. 特 1-3274. \*[Available in the NDL Digital Library](#)



*Koyo gunkan*, vol. 11, mid-Edo period, manuscript, NDL Call No. WA32-1.

\*[Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#)

In addition to the Next Digital Library, the NDL Lab (<https://lab.ndl.go.jp/>) also offers experimental services such as the NDC Predictor application, which automatically estimates the classification number of any text. Please give it a try.

(Translated by NAKAZAWA Aya and HATTORI Mao)

#### References:

- NDL Lab > [About us](#)
- SATOMI Wataru, AOIKE Toru, and KAWASHIMA Takanori. [New Functionality for Digital Libraries: Enhancing discoverability at the National Diet Library](#). Presented at IFLA WLIC 2019 - Athens, Greece - Libraries: dialogue for change. International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. 2019-8-26.

News from NDL

## A new English version of the Research Navi is released

Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

First launched in 2009, the National Diet Library's Research Navi provides information on how to conduct web searches, where to find useful materials, and how to use the NDL's Special Materials Rooms as well as recommended databases and websites.

The new English version includes a collection of articles in English about the Research Navi. These articles were written by employees who work in the Special Materials Rooms at the NDL. The Research Navi website is compatible with smartphones and tablets. Patrons can also receive notification of updates via an RSS feed reader.

The Research Navi website

Articles are organized by category and keyword. Patrons can also search by title and text.

### Categories

- Publication, Journalism, Library, Information Science
- Political Science, Law, Public Administration
- Economy, Industry
- Society, Labor, Education, Sports
- Science, Technology, Medicine
- History, Geography
- Philosophy, Religion

- Art, Language, Literature
- Children's Literature

### Keywords

- Bibliographies
- COVID-19
- Digital Images
- Maps
- Newspapers, Periodicals
- Rare Books, Special Collections
- Statistics



## What kinds of articles are there?

- [Japanese laws and regulations](#) (Category : Political Science, Law, Public Administration)

This article briefly explains Japanese laws and regulations and how to search for them on the Internet.

- [Initiatives by libraries to deal with COVID-19](#) (Keyword : COVID-19)

This article describes initiatives by libraries to deal with COVID-19.

- [Ukiyo-e Illustrations](#) (Category : Art, Language, Literature)

This article provides an introduction to useful tools for finding images of ukiyo-e by artist or other criteria.

- [Digital archives which allow easy secondary use](#)

[\(Libraries in Japan\)](#) (Category : Rare Books, Special Collections, Keyword : Digital Images)

This guide provides an introduction to digital archives in Japan with content that may be reused without applying for permission.

We will continue to update and expand our content. Please put the Research Navi to good use.

### Contact Us

Service Planning Division

Reader Services and Collections Department

National Diet Library

E-mail: [sankiref@ndl.go.jp](mailto:sankiref@ndl.go.jp)

**RESEARCH NAVI**  
National Diet Library

About Humanities Links 日本語版(Japanese)

[Home](#) > Publication, Journalism, Library, Information Science

**Publication, Journalism, Library, Information Science**

- Book Reviews in the Japanese Language
- Learning in General, Encyclopedias, and Museums
- Library Catalogs
- Library and Museum Bibliographies (Subject Bibliography) Published in the Japanese Language
- Library and Information science
- Nunokawa Collection
- Publishing and copyrights
- Search Engines

**Categories**

- [Publication, Journalism, Library, Information Science \(11\)](#)
- [Political Science, Law, Public Administration \(23\)](#)
- [Economy, Industry \(2\)](#)
- [Society, Labor, Education, Sports \(1\)](#)
- [Science, Technology, Medicine \(2\)](#)
- [History, Geography \(14\)](#)
- [Philosophy, Religion \(2\)](#)
- [Art, Language, Literature \(21\)](#)
- [Children's Literature \(2\)](#)

An example of categories

**RESEARCH NAVI**  
National Diet Library

About Humanities Links 日本語版(Japanese)

[Home](#) > Ukiyo-e Illustrations

**Ukiyo-e Illustrations**

Updated on November 24, 2020 by [Humanities Room](#) [Art, Language, Literature](#)

We introduce below tools to search for ukiyo-e illustrations by artist and other criteria.

The call number of the National Diet Library is in brackets [ ] following the bibliographic information.

**Contents**

1. [Searching by Author](#)
2. [Searching by Title](#)
3. [Searching by Theme](#)
4. [Internet Image Databases](#)
5. [About the Nishiki-e Collections of the National Diet Library](#)

**Categories**

- [Publication, Journalism, Library, Information Science \(11\)](#)
- [Political Science, Law, Public Administration \(23\)](#)
- [Economy, Industry \(2\)](#)
- [Society, Labor, Education, Sports \(1\)](#)
- [Science, Technology, Medicine \(2\)](#)
- [History, Geography \(14\)](#)
- [Philosophy, Religion \(2\)](#)
- [Art, Language, Literature \(21\)](#)
- [Children's Literature \(2\)](#)

**Keywords**

1. [Searching by Author](#)

An example of articles

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

## The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 718, February 2021

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\* (in Japanese).

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

### [No. 718, February 2021 \(PDF: 6.01 MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month - from NDL collections>  
His Lordship's pipe organ—*Nanki bunko fuzoku gotairei hoshuku kinenkan daifukin*
  - <Strolling in the forest of books (25)>  
Edo period recipe books—Food that is fun to read about and good to eat (Part Two)
  - Travel writing on Japanese libraries: Kyoto Prefectural Library
- Artists whose works have graced the cover of the NDL Monthly Bulletin (Part Two)
  - <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Watching legislative trends around the world
  - <Books not commercially available>
    - *Hamada Norimi kyuzo tonko monjo korekushon mokuroku*
  - <NDL Topics>