

News from NDL

## Digitizing Materials on Modern Japanese Political History— Digitized Images of the Ito Hirobumi Papers

This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in *NDL Monthly Bulletin No.696 (April 2019)*.



The NDL is digitizing the collections of personal papers of political figures in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, and making a significant part of them available online.

All of the documents (1,008 items) of the Ito Hirobumi Papers (No.1) have been available on the National Diet Library Digital Collections since March 2018. Part of the materials are only available at the NDL.

The following table shows the main currently existing materials of the Ito Hirobumi papers and whether reprinted/photographic facsimile editions have been published.

Ito Hirobumi Papers	Location of the materials	Summary	Transcriptions, photographic facsimiles, digitized materials
Ito Hirobumi Papers (No.1)	Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, NDL	<p>Most of the items were donated by the Ito family in 1950.</p> <p>【Letters】 The NDL holds approximately 5,500 items. Most of the letters were written to Ito Hirobumi, from over 500 senders.</p> <p>【Documents】 The NDL holds 1,008 items, including materials about the establishment of</p>	<p>【Letters】 <i>Ito Hirobumi kankei monjo</i>, 9 volumes. Edited by Ito Hirobumi Kankei Monjo Kenkyukai, reprint published by Hanawa Shobo, 1973-1981.</p> <p>【Documents】 All of the items have been made available on the National Diet Library Digital Collections. (Part of them are available</p>

		constitutional government in Japan, memorandums handwritten by Ito Hirobumi, letter drafts, position documents, and drafts of Imperial messages. The collection mostly consists of documents written during the first 40-plus years of the Meiji period.	onsite only.) Most of the documents handwritten by Ito Hirobumi were transcribed and published under the following 2 titles: <i>Ito Hirobumi Hiroku</i> , 2 volumes (edited by Hiratsuka Atsushi, published by Shunjusha, 1929-1930). <i>Sorokaku zanpitsu</i> (edited by Ito Hiroyoshi, published by Yashima Shobo in 1938).
Ito Hirobumi Papers (No.2)	Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room, NDL	Purchased from antique art dealer in 1998. 【Letters】 The collection consists of 114 letters. Most of the letters were written to Ito Hirobumi, from 94 senders. 【Documents】 The collection consists of 18 items, including his travel diary from when in Prussia.	Part of the collection is available at the NDL Digital Collections.
<i>Hisho ruisan</i>	Archives and Mausolea Department, the Imperial Household Agency of Japan; Ito family	Donated to the Imperial Household Agency of Japan by the Ito family in 1917. The collection consists of 127 items classified into subjects including the constitution, parliament, and the Sino-Japanese war. The items include binding position documents, reports, drafts of Imperial messages and treaties, and many kinds of documents written during the second and third decade of the Meiji period. Only one item, regarding the Otsu incident, is in the possession of the Ito family.	1. These materials have been transcribed as <i>Hisho ruisan</i> (24 volumes, published by Hisho ruisan kankokai, 1933-1936). Some were published separately as <i>Kenpo shiryō</i> , in 3 volumes, which was transcriptions of selected content dealing with the constitution from <i>Hisho ruisan</i> . All the volumes were reprinted in <i>Meiji hyakunenshi sosho</i> (published by Hara Shobo, 1969-1970), except the item dealing with the Otsu incident. (Part of the collection is available at the <a href="#">NDL Digital Collections</a> .) 2. All volumes of <i>Hisho ruisan</i> were published in photographic facsimile in <i>Ito Hirobumi Monjo</i> , 127 volumes (edited by Hiayama Yukio, supervision of Ito Hirobumi Monjo Kenkyukai, published by Yumani Shobo, 2007-2015). (Available onsite only.)
<i>Ito-kou zassan</i>	Archives and Mausolea Department, Imperial Household Agency of Japan	All of these 14 items, which consist of documents dealing with the establishment of the constitution and imperial law, were donated by the Ito family in 1917.	1. These materials have been partially transcribed in <i>Hisho ruisan zassan</i> volumes 1 to 4 (published by Hisho ruisan kankokai, 1936). ( <a href="#">Available at the NDL Digital Collection</a> .) 2. All volumes of <i>Ito-kou zassan</i> were published in photographic facsimile in <i>Ito Hirobumi monjo II</i> , 14 volumes (edited by Hiayama Yukio, supervision of Ito Hirobumi Monjo Kenkyukai, published by Yumani Shobo, 2015-2016). (Available onsite only.)

(Translated by Moyu Yabe and Mika Oshima)

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- [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)