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Selections from NDL collections

Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The UZAWA Fusaaki Papers
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. 728 (December 2021).

Introduction
The National Diet Library holds approximately 420,000 documents on modern Japanese political history, including the personal papers of politicians, high-ranking officials, and military officers, dating from the end of the Tokugawa Shogunate to the present day. This article is one of a series introducing materials available at the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room in the Tokyo Main Library.

These materials on modern Japanese political history primarily comprise documents that were donated by the families of prominent figures, and are made available to the public after they have been organized and catalogued by the NDL. We hope that this article will provide readers with a glimpse into the appeal of this invaluable collection, which supports scholarly research in political history and related fields.

The UZAWA Fusaaki Papers
(981 items, available since February 2021)

UZAWA Fusaaki was prominent as a lawyer, a politician, and an educator, becoming a member of the House of Representatives, and then a member of the House of Peers in addition to serving as president of Meiji University. The NDL received a donation of 981 materials related to him.

Image 1: Memorandum of the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, dated March 8 to May 3, 1946. NDL Call No. UZAWA Fusaaki Papers 484. Dated memoranda written by UZAWA, who served as head of defense counsel at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East.

Image 2: Notice of registration to the roll of attorneys, dated August 8, 1899. NDL Call No. UZAWA Fusaaki Papers 592. This notice of registration to the roll of attorneys was to UZAWA by the Prosecutor’s Office of the Tokyo District Court.
These materials comprise diaries dated from 1903 to 1955; documents related to the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, in which UZAWA served as head of defense counsel for the Japanese defendants; legal manuscripts; and documents related to his work as a politician and educator. (Images 1 and 2)

Also included are letters from approximately 350 persons. Image 3 is a letter from INUKAI Tsuyoshi, offering encouragement to UZAWA prior to parliamentary interpellation during the 58th Imperial Diet, which was convened on April 21, 1930. The issue at hand, which became known as the Tōsui ten kanpan mondai (problem of infringement on supreme authority), arose in the aftermath of the signing of the London Navy Treaty, which exposed a sharp conflict between the Navy General Staff, which insisted that decisions on troop strength were the prerogative of military command on behalf of the Emperor, and the HAMAGUCHI Osachi Cabinet, which argued that the Cabinet should oversee such decisions.

INUUKAI himself argued with Prime Minister HAMAGUCHI over this issue during a plenary session of the House of Representatives, and UZAWA later interpellated HAMAGUCHI during a meeting of the Budget Committee in the House of the Peers on May 10.

In this letter dated May 4, INUKAI severely criticizes the Prime Minister's conduct in the House of Representatives for refusing to answer questions and failing to have the courage to propose directly an amendment to the Navy General Staff Regulations. Sent by express delivery, the letter conveys the sense of urgency felt by INUKAI. Thereafter, UZAWA interpellated HAMAGUCHI over the significance of national defense during a Budget Committee meeting.

Image 3: Letter from INUKAI Tsuyoshi to UZAWA Fusaaki, dated May 4, 1930.
NDL Call No. UZAWA Fusaaki Papers 26-1.

UZAWA Fusaaki (1872–1955)
UZAWA Fusaaki was born in 1872 in Chiba. After graduating from Tokyo Imperial University, he registered as an attorney and opened a law office. He was involved in some of the best-known incidents of the day, including the High Treason Incident in 1910, the League of Blood Incident in 1932, and the Aizawa Incident or the assassination of NAGATA Tetsuzan in 1935. After WWII, he served as head of defense counsel for the Japanese defendants at the International Military Tribunal for the Far East. He also served as a member of the House of Representatives from May 1908 to December 1914, and again from December 1915 to January 1924 as a member of the Rikken Seiyukai (Friends of Constitutional Government Party). He held several other important posts, including as president of the Dai-Ichi Tokyo Bar Association, president of Meiji University, and president of Daito Bunka Academy. He wrote numerous books and articles, including Horitsu to dotoku tono kankei (The Relationship between Law and Morals). He died in 1955.

The portrait is from Asahi Gurafu, vol. 48, no. 6, August 1947, NDL Call No. UZAWA Fusaaki Papers 485.

(Translated by HATTORI Mao)
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, December 2015)**
- **Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (7) (No. 225, August 2019)**
- **Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (8) (No. 226, October 2019)**
- **Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (9) (No. 233, November 2020)**
- **Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (10) (No. 235, January 2021)**
- **Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (11) (No. 241, October 2021)**
- **Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (12) (No. 242, December 2021)**
- **Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The YAMAGATA Aritomo Papers (No. 251, June 2023)**
- **Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The MOTONO Ichiro and Seiichi Papers (No. 252, August 2023)**

Related content from the National Diet Library Website

- **Research Navi**: Holdings of The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room (Japanese)
Selections from NDL collections

Exhibition: *Seek Knowledge throughout the World*

Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

*This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 743 (March, 2023).*

The first special exhibition at the Tokyo Main Library in two years, *Seek Knowledge throughout the World: Culture of Translation before and after the Meiji Restoration*, was held from November 11 to December 9 in 2022 and was a great success. The exhibition featured more than 200 translated books and other materials from a variety of genres, which was the largest number of materials exhibited at one time in the last 20 some years. And many visitors were pleased both to encounter old favorites as well as to make new discoveries.

We hope this article will enable those who were unable to attend in person to appreciate the ambience of the exhibition.

**The most impressive material**

The results of a questionnaire showed that many visitors found *Kaitai shinsho* (New text on anatomy), an 18th-century medical text, to be the most impressive material on exhibit. Translated into Japanese from a Dutch-language version of Johann Adam Kulmus’ *Tabulae Anatomicae*, *Kaitai shinsho* is often credited in Japanese textbooks as being the first complete translation into Japanese of a work originally in a European language. As such, many Japanese were fascinated to see the original of something familiar to them from their school textbooks.


*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/collection/).*
Origin of the term sakoku

During the Edo period, Japan remained secluded under a foreign policy of isolationism called 鎖国 (sakoku, closed country). The term sakoku actually comes from the Japanese translation of a passage in a book entitled De beschryving van Japan that was written by a German doctor named Engelbert Kämpfer, who lived in Nagasaki for a time. SHITSUKI Tadao, a Dutch-studies scholar during the late Edo period, translated Kämpfer's description of Japan's isolationism as 鎖国論 (sakokuron, closed-country policy).


A pocket dictionary

The Eiwa taiyaku shuchin jisho (English–Japanese pocket-sized dictionary) is featured on the poster promoting the exhibition. Created by a group of linguists centered around HORI Tatsunosuke, it was Japan's first English–Japanese dictionary. Two different editions were exhibited: one published in 1867 and the other in 1869.1 Due to its thickness, this dictionary is commonly known by the nickname makura jisho, which means “pillow dictionary.” In fact, the original version of this book was a pocket-sized English–Dutch dictionary, which is why the word shuchin, which means “pocket-sized,” is included in the title.

1 Eiwa taiyaku shuchin jisho, revised and enlarged edition, 1869. This edition is available in the NDL Digital Collections.

Western-style fortifications

During the late Edo period, there were several attempts to use technology found in Dutch books for constructing castles that could withstand cannon bombardment. Examples of this include the Goryokaku in Hokkaido and Tatsuoka Castle in Nagano. The construction of Goryokaku, which literally means “five-point fort,” began in 1857. Chikuijo tenkei (Principles of castle construction), which was translated by OTORI Keiske2 from the Dutch in 1860, includes illustrations of shapes that are very similar to Goryokaku.


1 Vassal of the Shogun, afterwards a government official. *Portrait available at the online gallery Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures.
On Liberty and Jiyu no ri

Jiyu no ri, John Stuart Mill, author. NAKAMURA Masanao (Keitaro), translator. Kihira Ken'ichiro, publisher. 1872. NDL Call No. 特39-274.

The figure shows the opening of Jiyu no ri, NAKAMURA Masanao's translation of John Stuart Mill's On Liberty. During the early Meiji period, the English words "liberty" and "freedom" were variously translated into Japanese as jishu (自主), fuki (不羈), and jizai (自在), but the word jiyu (自由) seems to have gained popular acceptance, largely due to the influence of this book, as can be seen in the figure from the NDL Ngram Viewer, an experimental service of the NDL.

The NDL Ngram Viewer shows usage frequencies for words based on analysis of OCR-generated text data from digitized materials. Notice that usage of the word jiyu (自由) increased markedly after 1872, when Jiyu no ri was published.

Shakespeare in the Meiji era

Shown here are some translations of Shakespeare's works that received favorable comments in visitor's surveys and social media. Translations of The Merchant of Venice were published under the titles Ninniku shichiire saiban: seiyō chinsetsu and Sakuradoki zeni no yononaka, while The Tragedy of Julius Caesar was Jiyu no tachi nagori no kireaji: shiza kidan. Many said their interest was piqued by these titles, because at first glance they did not look like foreign works.


Dictionaries in the Meiji era

Also related to this exhibition was an exhibition of dictionaries at the NDL Gallery in the NDL's Tokyo Main Library. The exhibition featured a number of dictionaries from the Meiji era as well as German, Russian, and specialized dictionaries.

3 NDL Ngram Viewer enables the visualization and enumeration of the frequency of occurrence of query words and phrases (*keywords*) by publication date from OCR-generated text data. (https://lab.ndl.go.jp/ngramviewer/)

4 Translated by INOUE, Tsutomu, Kinkodo, 1883. *Available in the NDL Digital Collections.

5 Translated by TSUBOUCHI, Shoyo, Toyokan, 1884. *Available in the NDL Digital Collections.
NDL Gallery features monthly displays of a wide range of materials.

**Enjoy the exhibition via internet!**

About 100 materials from the exhibition can be viewed together with commentary on the NDL’s website.\(^6\)

The NDL Digital Collections enables patrons to view the entirety of materials that could only been viewed in a two-page spread at the exhibition.

We hope that those who were not able to come to the exhibition will enjoy this website, which can also be viewed on your smartphone.

![Top image of the exhibition page on the NDL’s website.](translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

The National Diet Library undertakes a wide variety of preservation activities to ensure the permanent availability of the materials in our collections, including digitization or other media conversion, disaster prevention, maintenance of preservation environment, and restoration.

The Preservation Division of the Acquisitions and Bibliography Department plays a major role in these activities, and staff members who specialize in material conservation use their expert judgment to carry out repair and restorations as required according to the characteristics and condition of the materials. We also manage the environment of the stacks and implement countermeasures against insect and fungal damage.

This is the final article in a series focusing on the tools used for conservation and restoration in the Preservation Division. Although only a few examples of our work are introduced here, we hope it will give you a glimpse into our efforts to preserve cultural assets. See Related articles from the NDL Newsletter for the past articles.

Monitoring temperature and humidity

Temperature and humidity data logger

Ensuring that library materials remain available for long-term use requires that they be stored at an appropriate temperature and humidity in order to prevent damage and deterioration. Ordinary paper materials should ideally be stored at a temperature of 22°C and a relative humidity of 55%.

Temperature and humidity data loggers measure and record temperature and humidity at regular intervals. These devices are used to monitor the temperature and humidity where the materials are stored, thereby confirming that an environment suitable for preserving library materials is being maintained. They are also useful when performing insecticidal treatment or other operations that require strict temperature control.

Data loggers that display the current readings can be used to check the temperature and humidity at a given time and place.

Monitoring temperature and humidity in stacks

To measure temperature and humidity, place a data logger in a stack for a certain period of time.
Connect the logger to a PC to read the data.

Changes over time in temperature and humidity are displayed in a graph.

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**Monitoring insects and mold**

**Stereomicroscope**

When pests are found to be infesting library materials, an overall improvement of the storage environment is called for. The stereomicroscope shown here is used to identify small insects and their traces that cannot be seen with the naked eye. It can also be used to inspect library materials for dirt and other substances that adhere to surfaces or for determining the condition of paint.

**Insect traps**

Insect traps are placed in stacks, exhibition rooms, and other places where library materials are stored for a certain period of time to monitor the species and number of insects caught.

Traps that use a scent or bait to attract insects can give inaccurate results, because they might attract insects from other places. For accurate monitoring, we use unscented and unbaited, adhesive-only traps.

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First we perform a naked-eye inspection of the inside of the traps.

Suspicious-looking areas are then inspected more closely with a stereomicroscope.

The equipment shown here can quickly quantify the amount of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), which is a biologically derived substance. If the amount of ATP contained in dirt found in books or on bookshelves is high, we determine that the dirt is of biological origin and treat it as active mold. Mold is a significant threat to library materials, and treatments such as book cleaning and fumigation are needed to remove and annihilate it.

**ATP measurement**

Dirt found in library materials or on bookshelves must be checked for mold, starting with a naked-eye inspection. ATP is derived not just from mold but from other organisms as well. But if inspection shows a potential source of mold, an ATP measurement must be taken as soon as possible to verify whether or not mold is present.
Insert the swab in the test tube and shake vigorously.

Immediately place the test tube in the luminometer.

The result appears in 15 seconds. The decision on whether anti-mold treatment is necessary is made based on the test results and the overall condition of the library materials.

A-D Strips are made of blue paper that changes color when exposed to acid. The extent of the deterioration can be judged by comparing the color of the exposed A-D Strip with the color swatches on the indicator pencil.

A-D Strips are used to detect acid, which is mainly used to measure the deterioration of cellulose acetate microfilm.

A-D stands for “acid detection,” and the strips will change color from blue to yellow in the presence of acid. Cellulose acetate films will hydrolyze to produce acetic acid, which causes rapid degradation, so A-D Strips are a useful way to monitor the extent that microfilm has deteriorated.2

As film deteriorates with age, it generates acetic acid, which can adversely affect other materials. Such film must be quarantined or otherwise given special handling. If repairing the film itself is not feasible, we will consider preserving the information through media conversion or other means.

For the details of the preservation of microfilm, please refer to the following page.
Monitoring the acidity level of microfilm

A blue A-D Strip is inserted between the microfilm and the reel so that it touches the film.

After 96 hours, the color of the A-D Strip is compared with the color swatches. A yellow strip indicates that significant levels of acidity were detected.

Tools for exhibitions
Passive indicators

The NDL uses passive indicators to check for the presence of gases that might affect materials inside enclosed spaces, such as an exhibition case. By checking the color four or seven days after placing a passive indicator inside the case, the approximate concentration of ammonia and organic acids in the enclosed space can be determined. The color will change from blue to green in the presence of high concentrations of organic acids and from pink to yellow in the presence of high concentrations of ammonia. When necessary, we try to improve the environment inside the display case by opening it for a long period of time or by using forced air to dissipate the gases inside.

Passive indicators for organic acids (left) and for ammonia (right)

Indicators are placed in a holder and stood upright in the display case, as shown in the picture.
Illuminometers

Illuminometers are used to measure the brightness of light. Although a certain level of brightness is necessary to easily view materials in an exhibition, light can cause fading or otherwise deteriorate materials, so it is necessary to control the brightness of the light as well as the duration of illumination.

To ensure that the brightness remains within the range of recommended values for each type of material, a measurement is taken directly adjacent to the exhibit material, and the illumination is adjusted accordingly.

This article presents just a few examples of these tools and their uses.

(Translated by MACHIDA Sumika and OGAWA Kanako)

Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

- Protecting Our Books—Tools for preservation and restoration (1) Cutting and folding (No. 251, June 2023)
- Protecting Our Books—Tools for preservation and restoration (2) Applying paste and sticking (No. 252, August 2023)
- Protecting Our Books—Tools for preservation and restoration (3) Pressing (No. 253, October 2023)
Events

Lecture: National Libraries in the Digital Era—focusing on the strategies of the National Library of the Netherlands

Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division, Administrative Department

A lecture entitled National Libraries in the Digital Era—focusing on the strategies of the National Library of the Netherlands was held on October 11, 2023, with nearly 150 people in attendance.

The event opened with remarks from Mr. YOSHINAGA Motonobu, director general of the National Diet Library (NDL), after which Dr. Lily KNIBBELE, director general of the National Library of the Netherlands (KB), and Ms. Elsbeth KWANT, strategic advisor at the KB, took the rostrum to present their lectures. Joining Dr. Knibbeler and Ms. Kwant during the subsequent panel discussion were Professor TAKEUCHI Hiroya, vice president and professor of Library and Information Science at Chiba University, who acted as facilitator, and Mr. OBA Toshiyasu, director general of the Digital Information Department at the NDL. Closing remarks were made by Ms. KATAYAMA Nobuko, deputy director general of the NDL, which brought the event to a satisfying conclusion.

Lecture

Dr. Knibbeler’s lecture: National Libraries in the Digital Age

Dr. Knibbeler spoke of the KB’s new policy plan for 2023–2026, "Words connect people," which is based on the following three core principles: people first, networks of value, and digital first. She also discussed an essential awareness of what the KB can contribute as a library in the digital age as well as the importance of networking with other institutions.

Ms. Kwant’s lecture: Words Connect People

Ms. Kwant discussed the KB’s efforts to contribute to the following five library-related items from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): promoting (digital) literacy, reducing inequality, safeguarding heritage, enhancing research, and public access to information.

Panel discussion

After a brief introduction by Mr. OBA of the NDL’s efforts to promote the digital shift, panelists discussed the following topics: the role of libraries as a venue during the development of a digital society; preserving content and guaranteeing long-term access; initiatives toward generative AI; and the significance of research and development at national libraries.
Participants in a successful collaboration between the KB and the NDL

Reference:

The lecture materials and video have been made available on our website, as shown below.

- Lecture materials
  Lecture: National Libraries in the digital era—focusing on the strategies of the National Library of the Netherlands

- Lecture video
  Lecture: National Libraries in the digital era—focusing on the strategies of the National Library of the Netherlands
  (YouTube video in English)
News from NDL

Notice of Temporary Suspension of Services for Integration of the NDL Online and NDL Search web services, etc.

The National Diet Library, Japan, (NDL) plans to integrate two of its current web services: the National Diet Library Online Search and Request Service (NDL Online) and NDL Search. These two will be relaunched as a new NDL Search web service in January 2024.

Notice of Temporary Suspension of Services

A portion of the NDL's online services will be unavailable from 19:00, December 27 (Wed.), 2023, to January 4 (Thu.), 2024, due to the system switchover. For detailed information, please see the following page.

Temporary Suspension of Some Online Services December 27, 2023, to January 4, 2024

Extension of expiry date of user information

The NDL will be closed from December 28 (Thu.), 2023 to January 4 (Thu.), 2024 for the year-end and New Year's holidays. In addition, due to the system switchover, patrons will not be able to log in to NDL Online or NDL Search from 19:00, December 27 (Wed.), 2023, to January 4 (Thu.), 2024.

Since the National Diet Library Digital Collections should generally be available during the system switchover, patrons can extend the expiry date by logging in to the National Diet Library Digital Collections. If you are unable to log in because you do not know your User ID or password, please note that neither can be reissued from 19:00, December 27 (Wed.), 2023, to January 4 (Thu.), 2024.

We recommend that patrons extend the expiry date of their user registration by following the instructions on the website below by December 27 (Wed.), 2023.

Extension of expiry date of user information is not available via NDL Online, etc. during the year-end and New Year's holidays.

Providing Japanese National Bibliography, etc.

The download function of bibliographic data will be expanded with the new NDL Search. For detailed information, please see the following page.

Providing Japanese National Bibliography, etc.


Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:
- Integration of the NDL Online and NDL Search web services (No. 253, October 2023)
Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

The NDL Monthly Bulletin
No. 751, November 2023/ No.752, December 2023

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).

No. 751, November 2023 (PDF: 5.21 MB)
- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
  Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Seas and Plato’s Atlantis
- An interview with historian TORIUMI Yasushi:
  Researching and editing the papers of ITO Hirobumi
- Materials newly available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room
- ILCL exhibition “Yummy Children’s Books”
- <Using NDL Ngram Viewer>
  (2) Graphing the occurrence of Japanese words with similar meanings: Nonpori and hiseliji
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
  Digitizing doctoral dissertations
- <Books not commercially available>
  Ranji: Shirarezaru yushutsucha raberu no sekai: Saita kinenkan tokubetsuten
- <NDL Topics>

No.752, December 2023 (PDF: 4.61 MB)
- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>
  Kawai Dance Graphic: A Geisha Ballet Company and Modernism
- Travel writing on world libraries
  Revisiting the Gordon W. Prange Collection
- An introduction to Visual Search Tools: How to find images of animals
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>
  Working at the Reference Desk: Helping patrons find the information they seek
- <Books not commercially available>
  Jamukomi = JAMSTEC comics
- <NDL Topics>
  Annual index to the National Diet Library Monthly Bulletin, Nos. 741-752