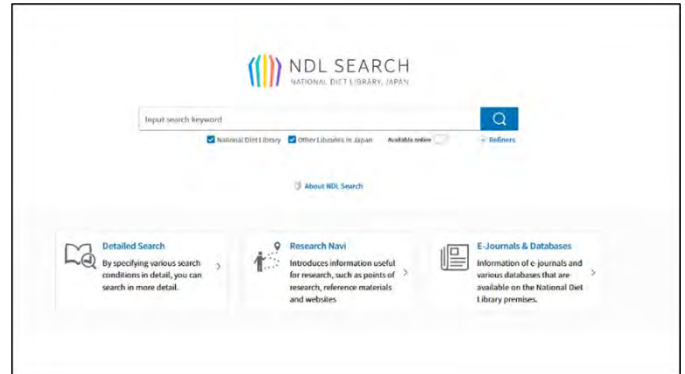
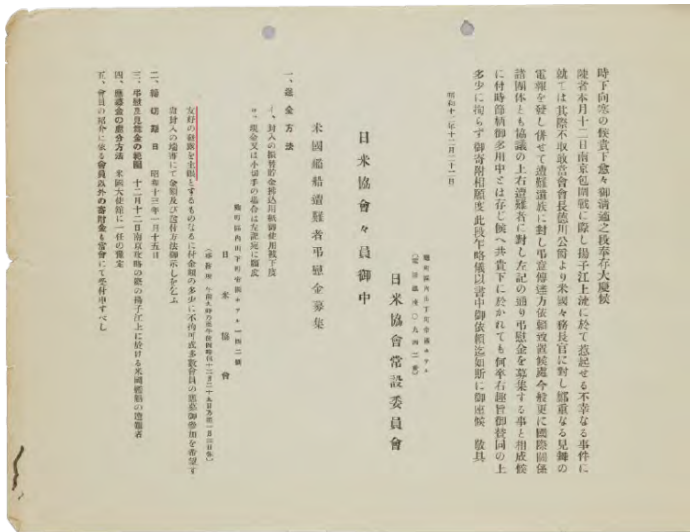


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 255, February 2024



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Selections from NDL collections

## "Shogatsu manzaisetsu no zu" by YOSHU Chikanobu From *Edo fuzoku junikagetsu*



Published in 1890. 35.6×23.5cm, three sheets

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

*Edo fuzoku junikagetsu* (Annual events in old Edo) is the collective title of a series of large, *nishiki-e* triptychs that were published from 1889 to 1890 and depict seasonal events and customs during the Edo period (1603–1868). The print shown here, "*Shogatsu manzaisetsu no zu* (Celebrating the New Year)," features people happily sharing the joys of the New Year holiday.

During the Edo period, *manzai* was a style of comic storytelling performed by two partners, who visited people's homes to celebrate the New Year. Shown in this picture are partners Tayu and Saizo. Tayu holds a fan while delivering a congratulatory speech. Many different styles of *manzai* flourished throughout Japan, but during the Edo period, the Shogunate gave preferential treatment to *manzai* from Mikawa Province\* by allowing it to be performed in Edo. In this scene from *Edo fuzoku junikagetsu*, Tayu is on the right-hand side and Saizo is in the center, surrounded by people wearing colorful kimonos. The room interior is depicted in fine detail, which also helps to vividly convey the holiday ambience. One can almost hear Tayu's cheerful voice as Saizo drums

playfully and the children laugh.

YOSHU Chikanobu (1838–1912) was an *ukiyo-e* artist whose pictures of beautiful women (*bijin-ga*), actors (*yakusha-e*) and historical events (*rekishi-ga*) were quite popular. He was born into a samurai family, studied painting, and having gone through the turbulence of the late Edo period and the Meiji Restoration devoted himself in earnest to painting around 1877. When *Edo fuzoku junikagetsu* was published, the increasing modernization of lifestyles provided impetus for a growing trend in Japan to look back nostalgically at the Edo period. Chikanobu might have created this *nishiki-e* out of a longing for the former glory of Edo.

\*Mikawa Province was the birthplace of TOKUGAWA Ieyasu, founder of the Edo Shogunate. Today, it is the eastern part of Aichi Prefecture.

(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)

Selections from NDL collections

# Materials in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The America-Japan Society Papers

Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

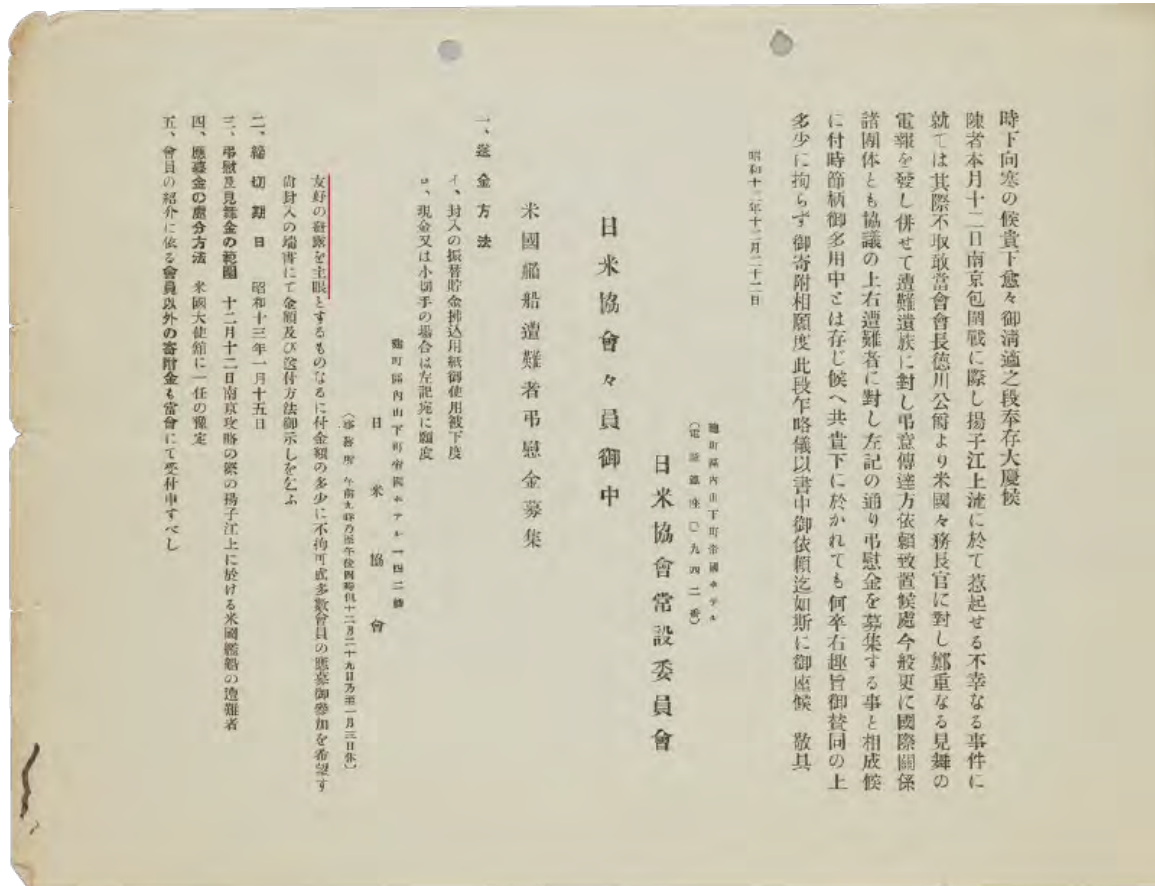
*This article is a partial translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 728 \(December 2021\)](#).*

Image 1: Soliciting contributions for compensation to victims of the Panay Incident. NDL Call No. The America-Japan Society Papers 18-11.

## 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 America-Japan Society Papers

(727 items, available since July 2021)

The America-Japan Society was established in 1917 to promote exchange between American and Japanese citizens. The materials donated by the Society and made available to the public in this collection describe events that took place primarily during the 1930s. For example, one document is about YOSHIHARA Seiji, a pilot who successfully flew from Berlin to Tokyo in 1930 and the following year was invited to a welcome party held by the America-Japan Society. Another describes ASHIDA Hitoshi, a diplomat turned politician, who in 1938 gave a talk about traveling by air to 16 countries. These materials offer a glimpse into the nascent days of air travel.

On the other hand, 1930s were an era during which international relations became increasingly complicated, and U.S.-Japan relations deteriorated after the outbreak

in 1937 of the Second Sino–Japanese War. In December of that year, the Panay Incident, in which Imperial Japanese Navy aircraft mistakenly fired upon a U.S. Navy gunboat on the Yangtze River, further exacerbated the situation. Following this incident, the America–Japan Society sent a telegram of sympathy to the Secretary of State of the United States in the name of Society President TOKUGAWA Isato and, together with a number of related organizations, collected money as an additional goodwill gesture to send in compensation to U.S. casualties. (image 1) Goodwill activities such as these by the private sector continue unchanged even in during political difficulties.

### The America–Japan Society

The America–Japan Society was established in Tokyo in 1917 to promote exchange American and Japanese citizens. Its activities included sponsoring prominent Americans on visits to Japan and other cultural events. Although the severing of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Japan caused the Society to temporarily halt activities during WWII, it later resumed its activities after the war.

(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, October 2018)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room \(6\)](#) (No. 221, December 2018)
- [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)
- [Materials available in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room: The UZAWA Fusaaki Papers](#) (No. 254, December 2023)

### Related content from the National Diet Library Website

- [Research Navi](#): Summary of Modern Japanese political history materials (in Japanese)

Selections from NDL collections

## Horticultural Magazines during the Meiji and Taisho Eras and Pioneers of Modern Horticulture, Part 1

NAKASHIMA Keiko, Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in *NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 730 (February 2022)*.



A greenhouse at the residence of Count OKUMA Shigenobu (painting by YAMAMOTO Shokoku). The man depicted in the lower right seems to be Count OKUMA Shigenobu.

*Fuzoku gaho*, No. 273, Toyodo, Aug. 1903. NDL Call No. 雑 23-8.

### Introduction

February is an exciting time for gardening enthusiasts. Cyclamen, pansies, and violas are in full bloom, with daffodils and hellebores about to join them. At gardening stores throughout Japan, blue daisies, ranunculus, and other greenhouse-grown flowers are in full bloom, reminding us that, despite the cold winds, spring will soon be here.

And there to serve as a guide to cultivating flowers as well as an introduction to the latest varieties that have been improved to be even more beautiful and easier to grow than ever are a wide variety of gardening magazines.

Whether engaged in horticulture as a business or enjoying it as a hobby, one thing no gardener can do without is information. Ever since the Meiji era (1868–1912), horticultural plants from around the globe have

been imported to Japan, where they have put down roots. Naturally, when cultivating in Japan plants that are accustomed to the soil and climate of their native lands, the characteristics of each plant must be given proper consideration. Some plants prefer fertile soil while others are not so particular. Some are sensitive to the heat and humidity of summer, others to the cold and dryness of winter. Some prefer drier soil, and some are vulnerable to direct sunlight. And it goes without saying that knowledge of pests and diseases is a must.

Gardening magazines first appeared in Japan around the middle of the Meiji era. Here is a look at three horticultural magazines that were first published during the Meiji or Taisho eras and the editors who were passionate about publishing them.

Horticulture encompasses a wide range of activities

related to plants. It can be classified according to what is being grown. For example, floriculture is the cultivation of flowers, pomology is the cultivation of fruit, and olericulture is the cultivation of vegetables. Or by the purpose of cultivation, such as production horticulture or hobby horticulture. It also deals with areas such as wine processing horticulture, landscaping, and flower arrangement.<sup>1</sup> If you live in a city, it is probably fair to say that most of the plants you see, from the wreaths that decorate storefronts to the trees that line the streets, are products of horticulture.

Despite this great diversity, most of the horticultural magazines presented in this article focus on floriculture, while a few deal with pomology as well as processing and decorative horticulture.

The Meiji and Taisho eras were something of an age of enlightenment for horticulture, and in identifying their target readers, these magazines tended to ignore any distinction between professional horticulturist and amateur gardener. In fact, it seems that professional and amateur alike hoped that these magazines would promote the overall development of Japanese horticulture by sharing knowledge and experience regarding the cultivation of plants that were newly introduced from the West as well as the new attempt to introduce Japanese plants overseas.

### **Japan's first horticultural magazine, *Nihon engeikai zasshi* (April 1889–September 1944)**

First published in April 1889, *Nihon engeikai zasshi* (Magazine of the Horticultural Society of Japan) was the forerunner of Japanese horticultural magazines. Originally published as the official bulletin of Japan's first horticultural organization, the Nihon Engeikai (the Horticultural Society of Japan), it was later renamed *Nihon engei zasshi* (Japan horticultural magazine).

During the early Meiji era, the new Government began to import superior varieties of Western plants for cultivation at the Naito Shinjuku Experiment Station, the Mita Breeding Station, and other government-run sites throughout Japan. In 1881, the Dainihon Noukai<sup>2</sup> (Agricultural Society of Japan) was established to promote the improvement and development of agriculture through the sharing of knowledge and expertise. Horticulture was considered a branch of agriculture at the time, but it developed far more slowly.

Nihon Engeikai was established in February 1889 for the purpose of improving and developing the horticulture industry, with Vice Minister of Agriculture and Commerce HANABUSA Yoshimoto as its first president. Thereafter, OKUMA Shigenobu, a politician who served as the Prime Minister of Japan and a well-known horticulture enthusiast, was appointed the second president and served for 21 years. The Society's meetings, flower shows, and other events, were often held at OKUMA's residence, and its greenhouse, which featured chrysanthemums and a collection of rare tropical orchids, was well known in horticultural circles. Serving as vice presidents of the society were naturalist TANAKA Yoshio as well as other prominent figures of horticulture and industry such as MAEDA Masana and FUKUBA Hayato.<sup>3</sup>

Surprisingly, however, the founder of Nihon Engeikai was neither a horticulturist nor a prominent scholar nor a bureaucrat. He was a professional translator and interpreter named YOSHIDA Susumu.



Portrait of YOSHIDA Susumu, from *Jissai engei* (Practical horticulture), Vol. 16, No. 8. NDL Call No. 雑 40-13.

<sup>1</sup> KAWAKAMI, Yukio. "Engei." *Nihon daihyakka zensho* (Japan Knowledge).

<sup>2</sup> Dainihon Noukai website <https://www.dainihon-noukai.or.jp/>

<sup>3</sup> KONDO, Mitsuo. HIRANO, Masahiro. *Ezu to shashin de tadoru meiji no engei to ryokka : Hizo shiryō de akasareru gendai engei ryokka no rutsu*. Seibundo Shinkosha, 2017, pp.8-13. NDL Call No. RB51-L58.



Front cover of the first issue of *Nihon engeikai zasshi*.

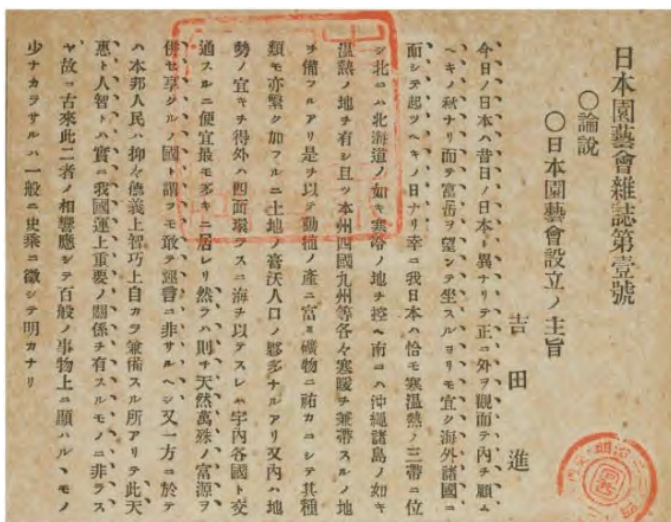
There is much about YOSHIDA's background that is unknown, but in 1932 he gave an interview to the magazine *Jissai engei* (Practical horticulture),<sup>4</sup> in which he talked about starting the Nihon Engeikai. He originally became interested in horticulture during his interactions with a French teacher named Sarazen and a legal advisor to the Japanese government named Boissonade, through whom he learned that there was an academic discipline in Europe for the study of technology used by gardeners and farmers. Later, while accompanying a bureaucrat on a trip to Europe, Yoshida was deeply impressed by the advanced horticultural techniques he saw, which inspired him to help advance horticulture in Japan and led to the establishment of the Nihon Engeikai.

In particular, a speech made by the President of the French Horticultural Society about improving cultivation of Japanese chrysanthemums in France and exporting superior varieties to Japan<sup>5</sup> instilled in him a strong desire to take action. Upon his return to Japan, he established the Nihon Engeikai and published the first issue of its bulletin, *Nihon engeikai zasshi*.

At the beginning of the first issue is a mission statement entitled *Purpose of establishing the Nihon Engeikai*, in which YOSHIDA enthusiastically writes "The Japan of today is not the Japan of the past. The time has come to truly look outward and reflect inward. We can no longer sit and gaze complacently upon Mt. Fuji. We must stand and take our place among the countries of the world."

YOSHIDA cites the strengths of Japanese horticulture, including the varied climate from Hokkaido to Okinawa and the diverse range of endemic plants that attract Westerners, such as lilies and camellias. In fact, of the 7,000 species of plants that are native to Japan, about 40% are endemic.<sup>6</sup> He recommends that Japanese horticulturalists should take advantage of these strengths by importing superior varieties from overseas to locations that are suitable for domestic cultivation, where they can be multiplied and re-exported, as well as improving plants that are endemic to Japan for export.

For 18 years until his retirement in 1906, YOSHIDA was primarily responsible for editing and other work for the Nihon Engeikai. He occasionally augmented the meager funds available with income from his main job as a translator. Interestingly, he was so busy that he never grew his own plants. Rather, he used his language skills to write many articles based on the knowledge he gained from foreign magazines and books on horticulture.



The mission statement of the Nihon Engeikai (from *Nihon engeikai zasshi*, No. 1.)

<sup>4</sup> *Jissai engei*, Vol. 12, No. 3, Seibundo Shinkosha, Jul. 1932, pp.269-273. NDL Call No. YA5-1059.

<sup>5</sup> *Nihon engeikai zasshi*, No. 1, Nihon Engeikai, Apr. 1889, p.3. NDL Call No. YA5-1058.

<sup>6</sup> Conserving Biodiversity (Endangered Plants in Japan) on Tsukuba Botanical Garden website <http://www.tbg.kahaku.go.jp/diversity/protect/endangered/conditions/index.html>

A major feature of *Nihon engeikai zasshi* is its editorial focus on horticulture overseas, especially in Western countries. There were many articles that surveyed overseas markets, providing information on conditions and events in Europe and the United States as well as price lists for plants in Japan and abroad. From this we can gain an appreciation of the Nihon Engeikai's passion for providing those working in Japan's horticultural industry with the kinds of information they would need to expand into the global market. In addition to academic articles, there were also practical guides describing the monthly routines required to raise a wide variety of plants, just as can be found in today's horticultural magazines. YOSHIDA also intended to promote Japanese horticulture by distributing the magazine overseas, which is why the title on the front cover is given in English, French, and German.

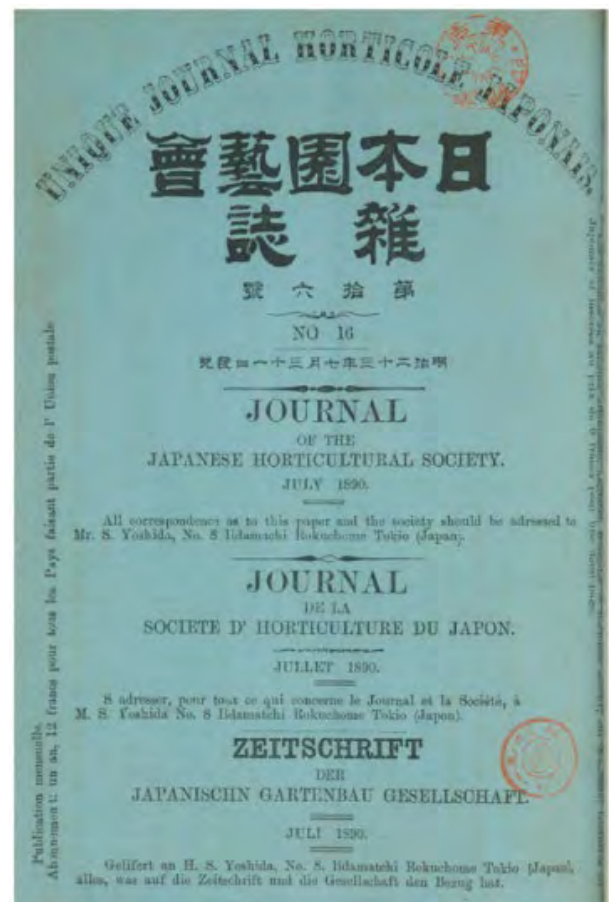
From its first issue to its last, for 56 years the magazine contributed greatly to the development of horticultural technology and business in Japan.



A description and sketches of *Sedirea japonica* (*nagoran*), which can be found throughout southwestern Japan. The article also mentions the reputations and prices of horticultural species in Western countries. (*Nihon engeikai zasshi*, No. 1)

○英國倫敦植物相場表	
本年三月二十五日接受シタルモノニ係ル	
Dentzia gracilis, Sieb. et Zucc.	
ヒメウツギ 一名 コウツギ	虎耳草科
一個 六志(凡我一圓五十錢)九志(凡我二圓二十五錢)	
「ダース」	十二志(凡我三圓)
Hydrangea paniculata, Sieb. (Grandiflora)	同
ノリノキ 一名 ノリウツギ ○ニベ ○トロノキ	
一個	十二志(凡我三圓)
「ダース」	十八志(凡我四圓五十錢)

The price of plants in London, U.K. (*Nihon engeikai zasshi*, No. 1.)



Front cover of the *Nihon engeikai zasshi*, No. 16, with the title in multiple foreign languages.





Orchidaceae cultivated by FUKUBA Hayato (*Nihon engeikai zasshi*, No. 29)

Following on the heels of *Nihon engeikai zasshi*, a number of other horticultural magazines were published. *Engei no tomo* (Friends of horticulture) was first published by the Nihon Engei Kenkyukai (The Japanese society for horticultural research) in 1905 with the goal of providing

the general public with information about gardening. *Katei no engei* (Home gardening) was first published by Kateinoengeisha (Home gardening publishers) in 1913 and recommended gardening as an educational tool with which women could enrich their home life. And *Nogyo oyobi engei* (Agriculture and horticulture) first appeared in 1926 by Yokendo (Hall of wisdom publishers) to enlighten growers and students alike with practical new knowledge. Two magazines in particular that caught the author's interest were *Engei* (Horticulture), which was first published at the end of the Meiji era, and *Jissai engei* (practical horticulture), which was first published at the end of the Taisho era.

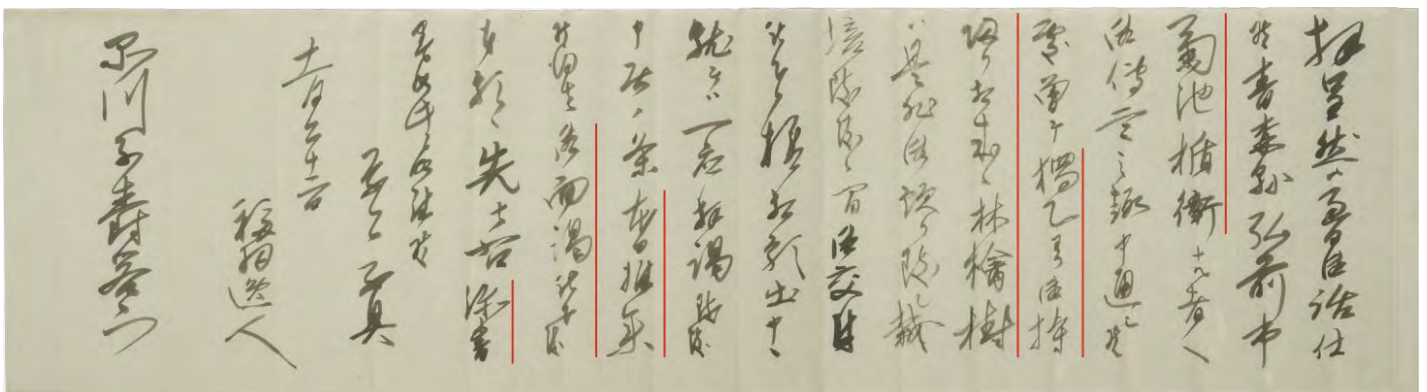
(Continue to part 2.)

### Horticultural Tidbits 1:

#### FUKUBA Hayato writes a letter concerning apple trees

YOSHIDA Susumu did not grow plants himself, so he often gave seeds that he acquired in the course of his work<sup>7</sup> to FUKUBA Hayato, a horticulturist who was vice president of Nihon Engeikai. FUKUBA is known for introducing European horticultural theory and practice to Japan<sup>8</sup> as well as for successfully producing Japan's first domestic strawberry, the FUKUBA strawberry, which he grew at the Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden.

Some of FUKUBA's letters are preserved in the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the National Diet Library. The letters concerning his government-funded study in Europe show his passion for horticulture, his extraordinary energy, and his privileged contacts within the government, which enabled him to go to Europe to study horticulture at a time when that field was not necessarily considered of national importance.<sup>9</sup>



Letter of introduction from FUKUBA Hayato to SHINAGAWA Yajiro on behalf of KIKUCHI Tatee, NDL Call No. SHINAGAWA Yajiro Papers (1) 124-1.

<sup>7</sup> See footnote 4. *Jissai engei*, Vol. 12, No. 3, p.272.

<sup>8</sup> The National Gardens Association, Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden website <https://fng.or.jp/shinjuku/gyoen/history/>

<sup>9</sup> SHINAGAWA Yajiro Papers (1) 124-4, 124-5 (Microfilm R5)

This letter, on the other hand, has to do with a horticulturist whose enthusiasm and energy surprised even FUKUBA. It was written by FUKUBA to Viscount SHINAGAWA Yajiro, who served as plenipotentiary minister to Germany. Having a keen interest in promoting agriculture and forestry, SHINAGAWA had brought apple trees back to Japan from Germany and asked FUKUBA to help find someone to cultivate them. FUKUBA approached a man in the city of Hirosaki named KIKUCHI Tatee, and KIKUCHI expressed a willingness to cultivate the trees. Not long after that, KIKUCHI suddenly visited FUKUBA with a request to meet SHINAGAWA. This is the letter of introduction written by FUKUBA.<sup>10</sup>



FUKUBA Hayato

in an effort to find locations suitable for cultivation. KIKUCHI saw the future potential for cultivating Western apples in Aomori and carried out research to promote the cultivation. His sudden visit to FUKUBA was no doubt the result of his ardor for cultivating apples.



An apple orchard in Shimizu (present day Hirosaki), Aomori Prefecture (1908).

*Noji zappo*, Vol. 11 (126), Noji Zapposha, Oct. 1908. NDL Call No. 雑 38-15.

(Translated by OGAWA Kanako)

#### Reference (in Japanese):

- Nihon Engei Kenkyukai ed. *Meiji engeishi*. Nihon Engei Kenkyukai, 1915. NDL Call No. 358-86.
- FUKUBA, Hayato. Kankyosho Shizen Kankyokoku supervised. Kokumin Koen Kyokai Shinjuku Gyoen ed. *Fukuba hayato kaikoroku Kaisetsuhen*. Kokumin Koen Kyokai Shinjuku Gyoen, 2006. NDL Call No. GK54-H51.
- Engei tantei no hondana, Karuchibe : Noko to engei ONLINE, Seibundo Shikosha website <https://karuchibe.jp/read/category/tantei/>
- Source of the portrait on p. 9
  - FUKUBA Hayato: FUKUBA, Hayato. FUKUBA, Shinjo ed. *Kaki saibaiho : Fukuba hayato iko*. FUKUBA Shinjo, 1931. NDL Call No. 608-288.
  - SHINAGAWA Yajiro: Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures <https://www.ndl.go.jp/portrait/e/datas/100/>
  - KIKUCHI Tatee: *Zenkoku tokunoka retsuden*. Aichiken Nokai, 1910. <https://dl.ndl.go.jp/pid/778253/1/135>

URL last accessed on January 16, 2024.

*Nihon engeikai zasshi* is currently available on microfiche.



(From left) KIKUCHI Tatee and SHINAGAWA Yajiro

KIKUCHI Tatee is now known as the founder of the Aomori apple.<sup>11</sup> During the early Meiji era, the Government ordered a variety of excellent fruit trees from Western countries and distributed them throughout Japan

<sup>10</sup> SHINAGAWA Yajiro Papers (1) 124-1 (Microfilm R5)

<sup>11</sup> Representative figures who have contributed to the development of the Aomori apple, Aomori Prefectural Office website <https://www.pref.aomori.lg.jp/soshiki/nourin/ringo/ringo-rekisi08.html>

## Events

## The 39th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China



NDL delegation and senior officials of the NLC

The 39th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library (NDL) and [the National Library of China \(NLC\)](#) was held in Beijing from November 20 to 26, 2023.

Headed by Mr. ITO Yoshitaka, Director General, Kansai-kan of the NDL, the delegation also included:

- Ms. UNO Rieko, Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department
- Ms. IGARASHI Mariyo, Assistant Director of Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department
- Mr. YUNO Motoo, Overseas Legislative Information Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau (interpreter)
- Mr. NAKAYAMA Masayoshi, Asian Resources Division, Kansai-kan (interpreter).

The main program is shown in the table below. Detailed presentations were made in each session, under the theme of “Preservation and dissemination services for cultural heritage,” followed by lively discussions during the Q&A session.

In the latter part of the program, the delegation also visited [the First Historical Archives of China](#), [Peking University Library](#), [China National Archives of Publications and Culture](#), [Fudan University Library](#), [Shanghai Library](#) and Xuhui District Library.

Opening Session  
(Keynote speeches)  
November 21, 2023

- Current Status and Issues of the NDL 2022-2023  
Mr. ITO Yoshitaka, Director General, Kansai-kan of the NDL
- Keynote Speech of the NLC  
Mr. WEI Chong, Deputy Director, NLC

<p>Session 1 November 21, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preservation and Restoration of Rare Books and Old Materials at the NDL Ms. UNO Rieko, Preservation Division, Acquisitions and Bibliography Department, NDL</li> <li>• Practice of Transmission and Protection of Ancient Books at the Office of China National Center for Preservation &amp; Conservation of Ancient Books Ms. WANG Honglei, Director of Office of China National Center for Preservation &amp; Conservation of Ancient Books, NLC</li> </ul>
<p>Session 2 November 22, 2023</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing Access to Information in Support of Individual Study at the NDL—Focusing on Exhibitions Ms. IGARASHI Mariyo, Assistant Director of Service Planning Division, Reader Services and Collections Department, NDL</li> <li>• New Opportunities for Dissemination Service of Ancient Books and Culture at the National Museum of Classic Books Mr. GU Heng, Director of Exhibition Department, NLC</li> </ul>

Main program

**Reference:**

- [Chronology of Mutual Visit Programs between the National Diet Library and the National Library of China](#)

**Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:**

- [Reports of past programs in the NDL Newsletter](#)

News from NDL

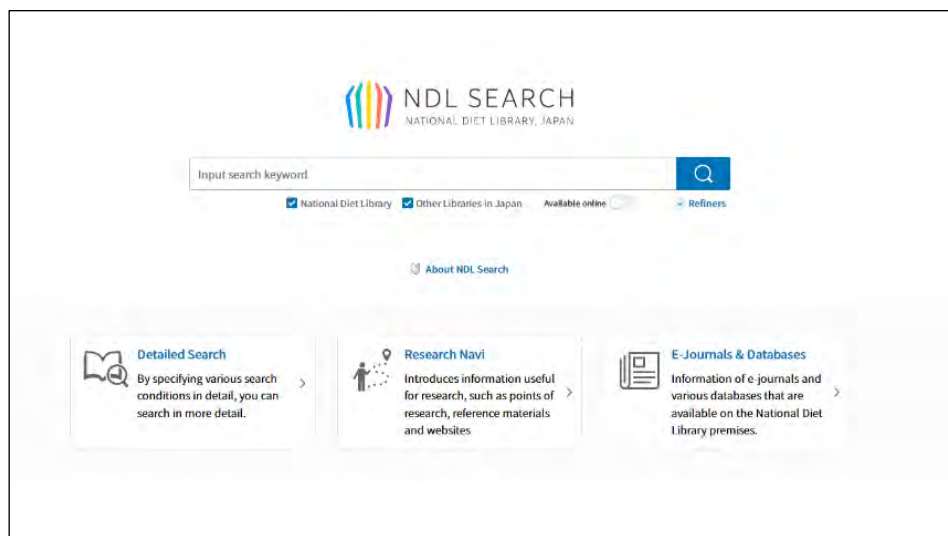
## The new NDL Search has launched

The National Diet Library (NDL) has integrated two of its web services—the National Diet Library Online Search and Request Service (NDL Online) and the NDL Search—and launched them as the new [NDL Search](#) web service on January 5, 2024.

### The main points of renewal of the new NDL Search

#### 1. Functions for Searching and Requesting

Patrons are able to search for NDL library materials and digital content as well as apply for a variety of services. They will also be able to search bibliographic and holding information for books at prefectural and government-designated city libraries or to search for library materials and digital content available from public, university, and specialized libraries as well as academic research institutions in Japan, all via a single web service.



New NDL Search Top Page: <https://ndlsearch.ndl.go.jp/en/>

#### 2. Providing information in support of the desire for knowledge

Search results in the new NDL Search include information that is useful for research. Using reference information provided by the Research Navi and Collaborative Reference Database, the new NDL Search supports our patrons' desire for efficient access to a wide range of information.

#### 3. A new and improved user interface

A newly redesigned interface makes all our services easier to use for both new and experienced patrons. Improved usability and accessibility will make it easier to use digital content, including the National Diet Library Digital Collections, from the new NDL Search.

#### 4. Providing our extensive bibliographic data

Bibliographic records can be downloaded in a variety of formats, including MARC format, MARC tag format and TSV. The new NDL Search features a new search interface that focuses on a specific range of bibliographic data, such as Web Japanese National Bibliography (standard bibliographic data for Japanese publications and foreign publications in Japanese acquired by the National Diet Library).

The API provided by the old NDL Search is available in the new NDL Search.

#### 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. 753, January 2024/ No.754, February 2024

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. 753, January 2024 \(PDF: 5.53 MB\)](#)

- New Year Greetings for 2024
- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>  
Hikaru Genji's New Year: Holiday events in *Genji monogatari*
- Special New Year's Feature:  
Delivering the Message in Japanese
- Finding and using materials about regional subjects with Japan Search
- The New NDL Search to launch in January 2024
- The NDL in figures: From the Annual Report of the NDL, FY2022
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
How much do you know about the National Diet Library?
- <Books not commercially available>  
*Kokuritsu tenmondai shozo kicho shiryō tenji zuroku. 2009 - 2022*
- <NDL Topics>

#### [No.754, February 2024 \(PDF: 6.25 MB\)](#)

- <Book of the month — from NDL collections>  
*Japanese folk-toys (Tourist library; 26)*: Sharing the attractions of Japan with the world
- World Library and Information Congress:  
88th IFLA General Conference and Assembly
- Newspaper article databases: List of databases available at the NDL
- <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
Implementing databases: Between ideals and reality
- <Books not commercially available>  
*Kowai na ! Kyofu no bijutsukan*
- <NDL Topics>