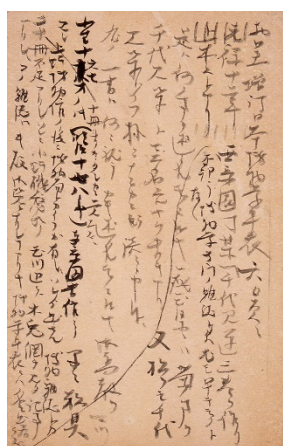
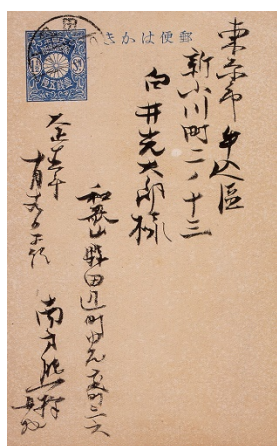
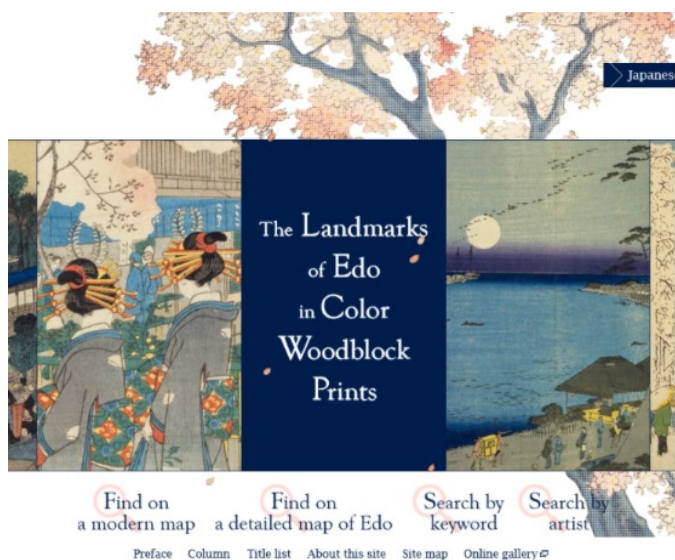


# National Diet Library Newsletter

No. 238, April 2021



## Free Data Service of the National Diet Library, Japan



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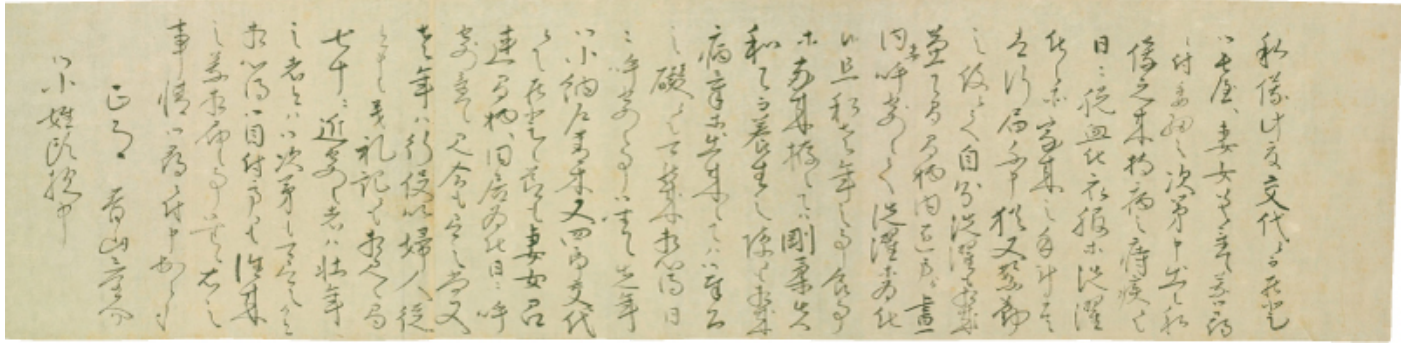
- The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 720, April 2021

Selections from NDL collections

## I am afraid I cannot be transferred alone: Aoyama Nobuyuki and his wife's life in Edo

ONUMA Yoshiki, Humanities, Maps, Rare Books and Old Materials Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 684 \(April 2018\)](#).



*Aoyama Nobuyuki Letters*. Written by AOYAMA Nobuyuki.

Autograph manuscript in 1839. 16.1×65.7 cm.

*Aoyama nobuyuki nobumitsu shokan*. No. 16. NDL Call No. WA25-34

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

AOYAMA Nobuyuki (1776-1843), a Confucian of Mito Domain, was a mentor of TOKUGAWA Nariaki, lord of Mito Domain in the last days of the Tokugawa Shogunate. He had also served as president of Shokokan, the editorial office of *Dai Nihonshi* (a famous Japanese history book edited by the Mito Domain). Nobuyuki was ordered to work in Edo for one year from August 1838. As Nobuyuki was getting old, turning 63 that year, he obtained permission to take his wife with him to Edo. He had his wife live in the home of MAGARA Takumi while he lived in a tenement house.

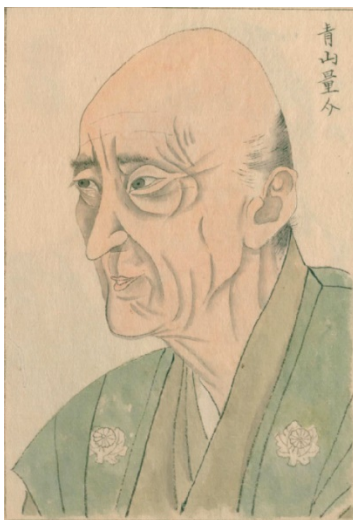


Image 1: Portrait of AOYAMA Nobuyuki.  
From *Suihanjinbutsushozo*.  
NDL Call No. 本別 4-4

This letter is a draft document which Nobuyuki submitted to the head of pages in order to explain the reason why his wife had been at the tenement he was living at in January 1839. Those days in Mito Domain, the retainers would work from Edo and Mito in turn. While working in Edo, the retainers were supposed to live on their own in the tenement within the Mito Domain's mansion. Therefore it may have attracted people's attention that Nobuyuki's wife lived in Edo and visited often to take care of him.

The first reason that Nobuyuki stated was his chronic illness.

I have hemorrhoids as a chronic illness, which causes bleeding daily. I am afraid that my servant will not be able to manage to wash my clothes. Needless to say, I will be too busy at work to do that. To manage all this, I must have my wife come to my place to wash them, only during the daytime, from Magara Takumi's home.

Nobuyuki seems to have been a serious person, and his explanation was honest and realistic.

As I am old, the meals my servant would prepare would not be good for my health. If I got ill, it would cause great trouble in performing my duties for my master. This is why I need to call my wife.

Having stated all these reasons, Nobuyuki went on to add that there had been a precedent: the person called AOKI Matashiro also had his wife stay at Magara's place. This

additional statement seems to make his explanation good enough, but Nobuyuki, Confucian scholar as he was, never forgot to add the following reasoning in the end:

According to Raiki, one of the five sutras of Confucianism, old men should be accompanied by women on business trips, and I should be regarded as an old man as I am nearly 70 years old.

Nobuyuki cited a sentence from Raiki in order to justify his claim to be treated with special care.

“A high-ranked man retires from his job at the age of 70. If retirement is not allowed, he should be given an elbow pillow and a stick by his master. When going on a business trip, he should go with accompanying women. When going to other regions, he should be given a horse carriage for old people... (the rest is omitted)”<sup>1</sup>. At this point Nobuyuki was 64 years old and seems to exaggerate his age. He was, however, also known as a person who likes arguments so much as to make his master, Nariaki, fed up with his talks.<sup>2</sup> He not only insisted that his conditions were wretched, he also never forgot to back up his arguments.

Nobuyuki's wife became ill in June 1839 and passed away in July the next year.<sup>3</sup> Her life was devoted to a serious Confucian. While sometimes lacking everyday meals, she helped earn a living by reeling threads. Nobuyuki lamented her death as he wrote, “my wife went through hardships together with me, but never had a chance to enjoy the fruitful results.”<sup>4</sup> This is only one piece of an old document, but is good enough to make us imagine how the old couple lived together those days.

(Translated by OSHIMA Kaoru)

<sup>1</sup> *Shinshaku Kanbun Taikei*. Volume 27. Raiki, part 1. Meiji Shoin, 1971. p.17. Interpretation of Chinese passages by TAKEUCHI Teruo.

<sup>2</sup> AOYAMA Isamu. *Aoyama Nobuyuki sensei seiko ryaku*. Manuscript by YOSHIKI Takejiro during the Meiji period.

<sup>3</sup> AOYAMA Nobuyuki. *Sessai shoshu*. Published in 1848. Volume 3. *Bosai Sano-shi bohyo*.

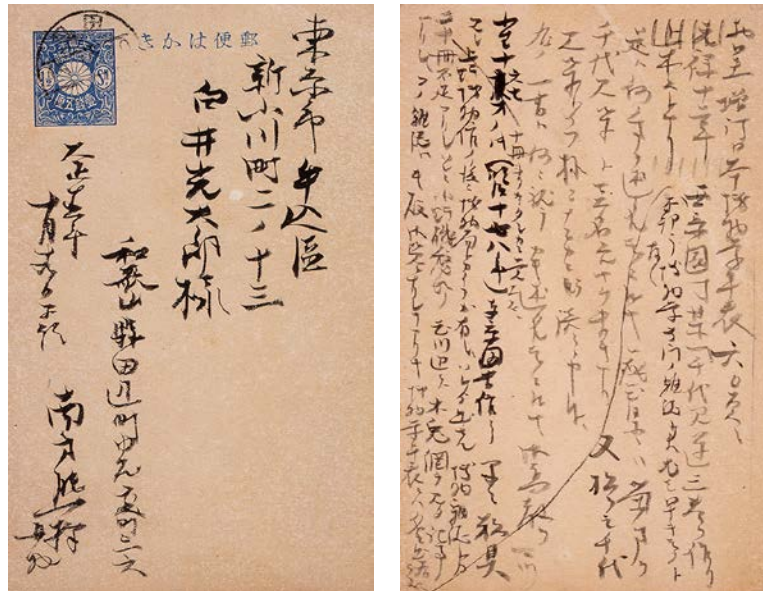
<sup>4</sup> Ibid. note 3. *Bosai Sano-shi bohyo*.

Selections from NDL collections

## Minakata Kumagusu's letters to Shirai Mitsutaro

TOYODA Saori, Humanities, Maps, Rare Books and Old Materials Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

This article is a translation of the article in Japanese in *NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 643 (October 2014)*.



Left: Postcard dated October 19, 1926. Right: Postcard dated October 24, 1927.  
 Letter from MINAKATA Kumagusu to SHIRAI Mitsutaro and others, NDL Call No. W391-N40 (31).  
 Held at the Rare Books and Old Materials Room. Available for browsing on microfilm,  
 NDL Call No. YD-古-6863.



Left: Portrait of MINAKATA Kumagusu.  
 Right: Portrait of SHIRAI Mitsutaro

MINAKATA Kumagusu (1867–1941) was a natural historian whose life spanned the Meiji, Taisho, and Showa eras. He traveled to the United States and England at a young age, where he studied zoology and botany almost entirely on his own. After returning to Japan, he collected and studied slime molds while also writing a number of

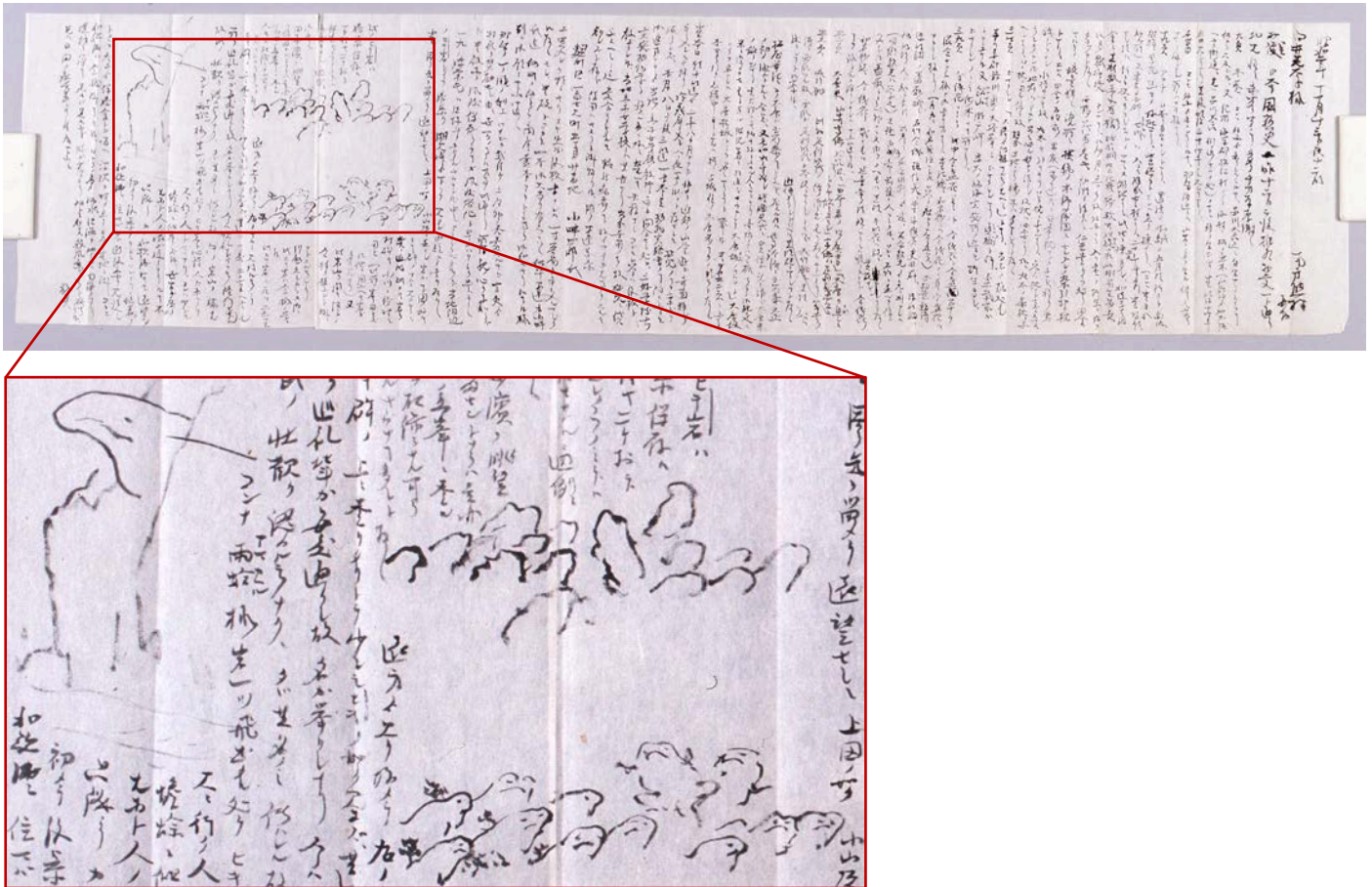
treatises on folklore. The National Diet Library holds 14 letters written by Kumagusu between October 1926 and November 1927, all of which were addressed to the botanist SHIRAI Mitsutaro (1863–1932). Shirai was a professor at Tokyo Imperial University who specialized in plant pathology but also studied Edo-era herbology. His collection of some 6,000 books on herbology is now held by the National Diet Library.<sup>1</sup>

Kumagusu and Shirai were introduced to each other by ethnographer YANAGITA Kunio (1875–1962) in 1911, and Kumagusu and Shirai began to exchange letters. In addition to herbology, Kumagusu and Shirai had other common interests, including their opposition to government policies promoting the merger of Shinto shrines.<sup>2</sup> They actively corresponded until Shirai's sudden death in 1932.

<sup>1</sup> Digital Exhibition *Fauna and Flora in Illustrations –Natural History of the Edo era–* Introduction to the Shirai Collection. [https://www.ndl.go.jp/nature/colle/colle\\_2.html](https://www.ndl.go.jp/nature/colle/colle_2.html)

This digital exhibition includes a number of materials from the Shirai Collection.

<sup>2</sup> The Meiji Government enacted policies for merging Shinto shrines, so that there would be only one shrine per town or village. This resulted in the disappearance of shrines and that forests that surrounded them, with many harmful effects to historic sites and the natural environment. Kumagusu argued against these policies and Shirai actively cooperated with Kumagusu.



Letter dated November 13, 1927.

Here are two letters that give a glimpse of their friendship.

In a postcard dated 24 October 1927, Kumagusu begins by asking Shirai about a book titled *Chiyomigusa* which was referenced in Shirai's book, *Nihon hakubutsugaku nenpyo* (expanded edition). Even after ending the body of the letter with "Waiting for your kind response. Best regards," Kumagusu adds a postscript with another question about whether Shirai owns a magazine titled *Hakubutsu zasshi*. Running out of space in which to write, he continues his postscript in the margins of the third line. Such repeated postscripts are characteristics of Kumagusu's letters.

Kumagusu mentions that he came across a copy of *Hakubutsu zasshi* at the Tokyo Library when he was 16 or 17 years old. The Tokyo Library is one predecessor of the National Diet Library, and most of its collections were bequeathed to the NDL. So the National Diet Library does, in fact, have this copy of *Hakubutsu zasshi*.<sup>3</sup> Kumagusu reminisces about his own personal circumstance in a letter known as his "resume"<sup>4</sup> writing that "I did not pay

too much attention to my classes, but instead regularly visited the Ueno Library (Tokyo Library) to read Japanese, Chinese, and Western books to my heart's content. As a result, I was absent a lot and my grades suffered."<sup>5</sup> It is quite likely that the NDL holds a number of books that Kumagusu read in those days.

A letter dated 13 November 1927 begins with a question about Shirai's book titled *Nihon Engeishi*, and in the latter half of the letter are charming illustrations of frogs. They are drawings of a well-known groups of rocks shaped like toads, which are known as *hikiwa-gun* and are located in present-day Tanabe in Wakayama Prefecture, where Kumagusu lived. These *hikiwa-gun* are now in a national park and are protected as a historical landmark, but at that time there was a plan to crush and use the rocks to repair a creek. Kumagusu was quite upset about the prospect of "the *hikiwa-gun* being completely destroyed in the not-too-distant future."

In addition to their collaboration on matters concerning biology and herborology, Shirai shared Kumagusu's concern

<sup>3</sup> Microfiches are available. NDL Call No. YA5-81.

<sup>4</sup> A letter to YABUKI Yoshio, dated January 31, 1925. When Yabuki asked Kumagusu for a simple resume, Kumagusu send him a letter in a scroll that was nearly 8 meters long.

<sup>5</sup> *Minakata kumagusu zenshu*, vol.8, Kengensha, 1951, p.4.

over the conservation of nature. It is likely that Kumagusu, who continued his research despite not having an academic position, was critical of scholars in academic positions, but whatever their differences, they each appeared to appreciate the other's work.

### **Materials formerly owned by YANO Munemoto and HASEGAWA Hitoshi**

The 14 letters from Kumagusu were in the possession of entomologist YANO Munemoto (1884–1970) who studied under Shirai. Yano's collection of books was left to one of his students, HASEGAWA Hitoshi, after whose death, these materials were donated in 2010 July by his family to the National Diet Library. The donation included materials related to Shirai as well as ITO Keisuke and ITO Tokutaro (former owners of the Ito Collection), and is a valuable complement to the herborology collection of the National Diet Library. Materials formerly owned by YANO Munemoto and HASEGAWA Hitoshi are held in the Rare Books and Old Materials Room of the Tokyo Main Library. NDL Call No. W391-N40(1) - (217)

(Translated by HATTORI Mao)

### **Reference (in Japanese):**

- GOMA Hideo, "Minakata Kumagusu to hakubutsugakusha Shirai Mitsutaro," *Kumagusu studies*, (7), 2005.3, pp. 328–306.
- GOMA Hideo, "Minakata Kumagusu to Hakubutsugakusha Shirai Mitsutaro (continued)," *Kumagusu studies*, (8), 2006.3, pp. 386–364.
- MATSUI Ryugo and TAMURA Yoshiya eds., *Minakata Kumagusu daijiten*, Bensei shuppan, 2012.
- UNDO Hitoshi, *Minakata Kumagusu to kindai Nihon*, Wasedaigaku shuppanbu, 2013.

## Events

# The 10th Mutual Visit Program between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service

Research and Legislative Reference Bureau

The tenth visit program with [the National Assembly Library](#) (NAL) and [the National Assembly Research Service](#) (NARS) of Korea was held online in light of preventing the spread of COVID-19, on Dec. 16, 2020, and Feb. 4, 2021, respectively.

## Joint Seminar with the NAL

### Theme: Utilization of IT in Libraries

- NDL presentation by Ms. TOKUHARA Naoko, Director, Research and Development for Next-Generation Systems Office, Digital Information Department
- NAL presentation by Ms. CHAE Jiyong, Librarian, Political and Administrative Information Division, Parliamentary Information Office

In the joint seminar with the NAL, Ms. Tokuhara reported on the research using machine learning (AI) and its results in the Research and Development for Next-Generation Systems Office. Ms. Chae reported on the use of big data at the NAL, the parliamentary information service using Argos, and future issues.

During the Q&A period, in response to the NDL's presentation, the NAL asked about the technology for whitening the background of digitized material images and automatic assignment of NDC classification.



NAL participants

## Joint Seminar with the NARS

### Theme: Policy for the Realization of a Carbon-Free Society

- NDL presentation by Mr. MAGOME Takashi, Agriculture, Forestry and Environment Division, Research and Legislative Reference Bureau
- NARS presentation by Ms. LEE Hye Kyung, Legislative Researcher, Environment and Labor Team

In the joint seminar with the NARS, Mr. Magome reported on the Paris Agreement and COP26, as well as Japan's goals and policies for realizing a carbon-free society. Ms. Lee reported on the current status of policies in Korea, prospects for future discussions, and the current status of discussions in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

During the Q&A period, in response to the NDL's presentation, the NARS asked about the level of participation of Japanese local governments in decarbonization and the status of carbon taxation.



NARS participants

## Reference:

- [Chronology of Mutual Visit Programs between the National Diet Library, the National Assembly Library of Korea and the National Assembly Research Service](#)

## Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:

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

Articles by NDL staff

## Reporters and photographers at the National Diet of Japan— Reporting and recording what happens at the Diet (Part 3)

ASHINA Fumi, Modern Japanese Political Documents Division, Reader Services and Collections Department

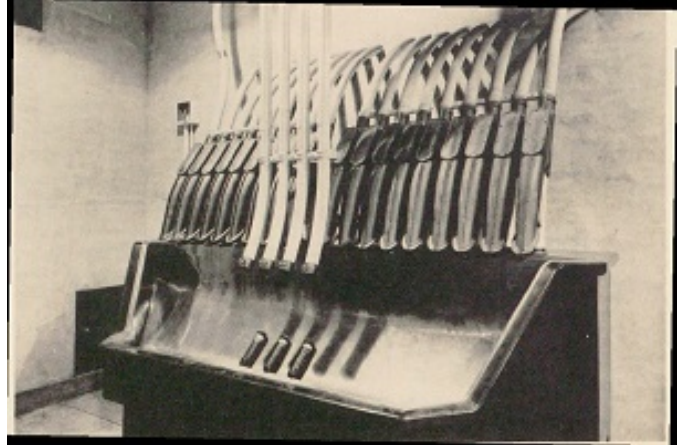
This article is based on an article in Japanese in [NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 709 \(May 2020\)](#).

### Construction completed in 1936

In the main chambers of the current Diet Building, which was completed in November 1936, the seating for journalists are at a different height than those for observers from the general public. The stairways used by reporters are separate from those used by the general public, and they have separate entrances and exits as well as separate waiting rooms. This was done so that reporters are not affected by crowding in the seating for the general public.

In the House of Peers, 96 round swivel chairs made of Japanese cherry were furnished for journalists and another 93 were furnished in the House of Representatives. Two offices of 30.938 tsubo (102 m<sup>2</sup>) each, which face the corridor connecting to the press stairs, were reserved for journalists.

A couple of new innovations were also added. One was pneumatic tubing that enabled reporters to deliver their manuscripts and other materials from behind the press seating through the aisles and the first floor. Another was that the press seating designed with a double handrail that reduced the height of the front and made it feel lighter. And as a safety precaution, it also had a groove on the top of the front handrail to catch items that might accidentally fall from the press seating.



Central transmission equipment using pneumatic tubing  
*Teikoku gikai gijido kenchiku hokokusho* (report on construction of the Imperial Diet Building), edited and published by the Government Buildings Department of the Ministry of Finance, 1938. NDL Call No. 758-145.

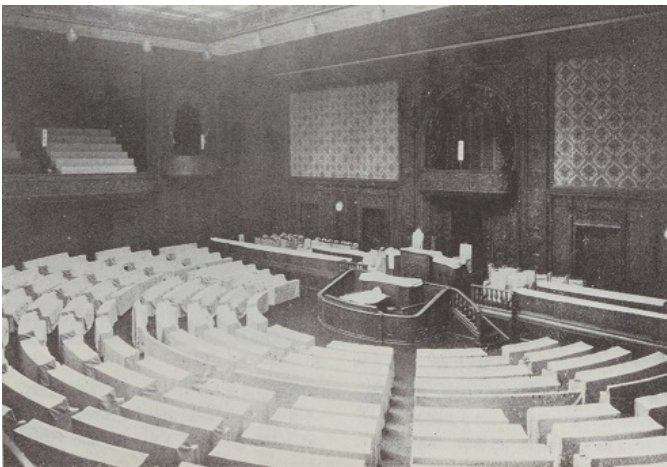
\*[Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries).



Press seating in the Chamber of the House of Representatives. Note the round chairs, simple desks, and the groove in the handrail.

*Teikoku gikai gijido kenchiku hokokusho* (report on construction of the Imperial Diet Building)

\*[Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries).



This photo shows the Chamber of the House of Representatives immediately upon completion of construction. Notices that the seats are still covered with white cloth.

*Koji gaho*, edited by Koji Gahosha, Nov. 1936, from *Doboku kenchiku koji gaho*, published by Atene shobo, 1995. NDL Call No. Z16-B330.



## Complaints from reporters

After completion of the Diet Building, however, some journalists became nostalgic for the old building, saying "Sure, it's impressive from the outside, but inside it is actually inconvenient to work in." "What's more, going to the House of Peers (present-day the House of Councillors) from the House of Representatives is a bother."<sup>1</sup>

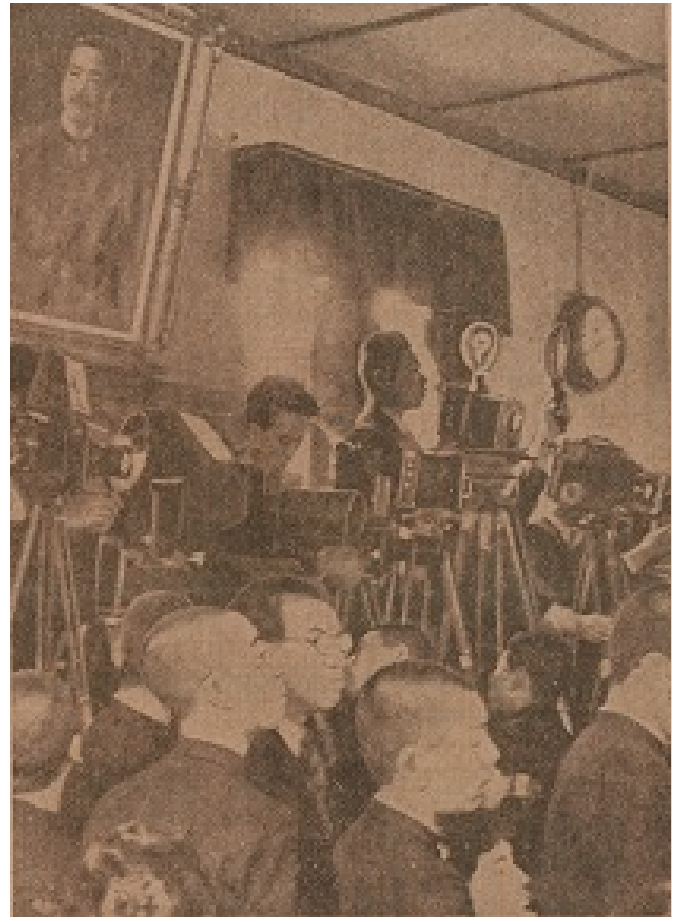
The site was 2.6 times larger and the total floor area about 2.2 times larger than the third temporary Diet Building in Hibiya, so it is safe to assume that the journalists had to walk farther to get around.

Some reporters felt that the room where meetings of the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives were held was relatively cramped and inconvenient for journalists. The Budget Committee Room in the old Diet Building in Hibiya was actually more spacious and better for them to work in. Although the new building had been designed to make the elevators easy to use, the fact of the matter was that the journalists seemed to feel that the old Diet Building was more user-friendly for their purposes.<sup>2</sup>



A Budget Committee meeting in the third temporary Diet Building, around 1936.

*Karigijido kinen shashin* (commemorative photographs of temporary Diet Buildings), edited by the House of Representatives, NDL Call No. YKA11-19



Reporters attending a Budget Committee meeting in the third temporary Diet Building  
Article "Cameras in the House (9)", Tokyo asahi shinbun, Feb. 7, 1935. NDL Call No. Z81-1.

## The waiting room for journalists in the current Diet Building

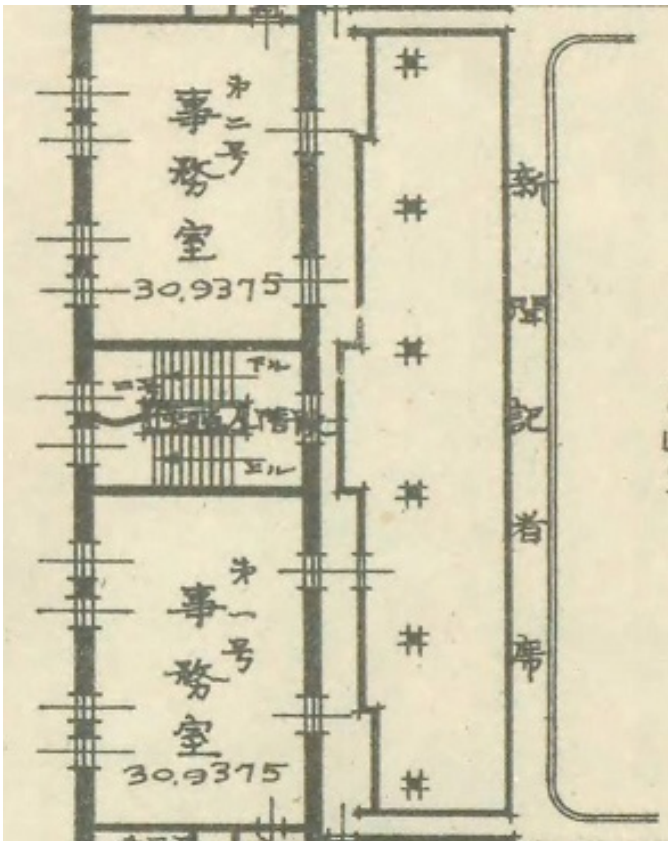
The journalists also expressed their dissatisfaction with the waiting room and workspace, which was a large, rather bare and bleak room with a sign that read "Newspaper Reporters Waiting Room, located directly in the rear of the second floor of the Chamber. ... Even the political parties had their own anterooms, so it was only natural that the journalists would complain that this unpartitioned space made it impossible for them to do their jobs when there were so many newspaper companies engaged in a fierce battle to deliver the news."<sup>3</sup>

The rooms that were described as "bare and bleak" are the two marked "office space" in the drawing below. Reporters who covered the Prime Minister and the Cabinet also seemed frustrated that there was no press room near the Prime Minister's office in the Diet Building.

<sup>1</sup> ""Teikokugikai to hodo" yowa (Side story of the Imperial Diet and the press)," written by ARITAKE Shuji, Shinbun kenkyu, page 24, 202, May 1968. NDL Call No. Z21-88.

<sup>2</sup> ""Teikokugikai to hodo" yowa (Side story of the Imperial Diet and the press)," written by ARITAKE Shuji, Shinbun kenkyu, page 24, 202, May 1968. NDL Call No. Z21-88.

<sup>3</sup> *Seiji kisha no techo kara*, written by NAGASHIMA Matao, published by Kawade Shobo, page 240, 1953. NDL Call No. 915.9-N212s.

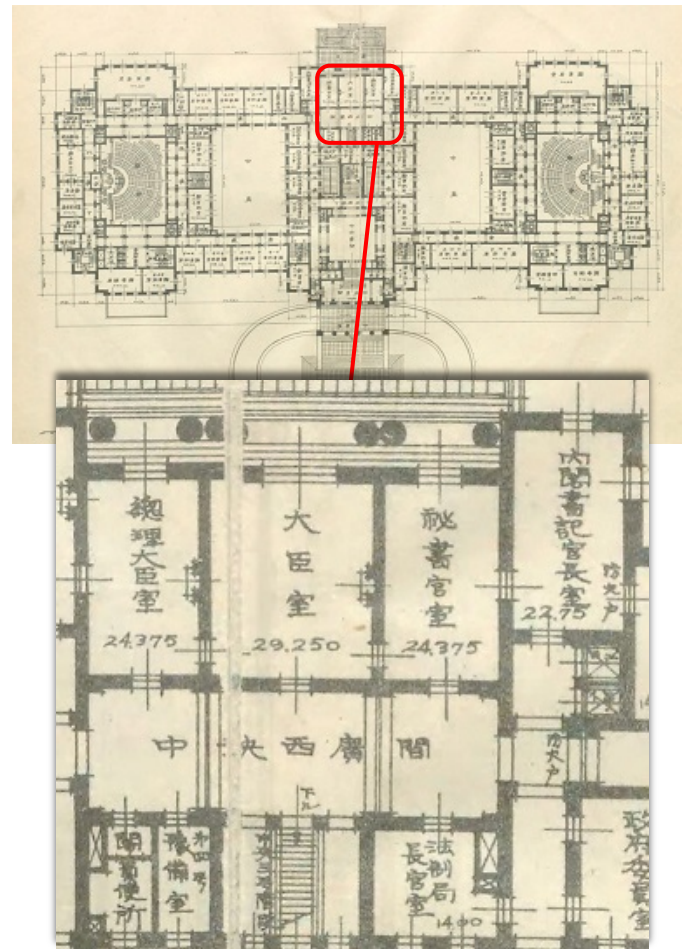


Floor plan of the third-floor mezzanine of the current Diet Building, showing two rooms on the left marked as "office space" (事務室).

When TAKI Masao was Director-General of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau as part of the First KONOE Fumimaro Cabinet, apparently there were some reporters who removed the sign from the Director-General's Office and started to use it as a Cabinet press room. Ultimately, the Chief Cabinet Secretary (KAZAMI Akira) ended up having to sharing his office space with the Director-General of the Cabinet Legislation Bureau.

One thing that is certain is that the room designated "Office of the Director-General of the Legislation Bureau" in the as-built plans made after the completion of construction is indeed used by the Press Club that covers the Prime Minister's Office today.

Although the large room on the third-floor mezzanine was intended at the time to be used as an anteroom for reporters, as it turned out, the waiting rooms and Press Clubs are now scattered throughout the building.



Floor plan of the second floor of the present Diet Building *Teikoku gikai gijido kenchiku hokokusho* (report on the construction of the Imperial Diet Building)  
\*[Available in the NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries).

### Records of radio and video news reportage

For a long time, news coverage of Diet proceedings was provided primarily through newspapers. In fact, there was no video or photographic reportage available in the early days of the parliamentary system.

For example, in the United Kingdom, there was quite an antagonistic relationship between official reporting of parliamentary proceedings and the public news media. And while newspaper reporters were allowed in the Palace of Westminster as far back as 1803, it was not until April 21, 1966, that news photographers were able to join them.

The start of audio and video broadcasting also varies from country to country. Radio relay of the British Parliament was not introduced until 1978 and television relay not until 1985, well after the spread of either technology. There was continued opposition in the Parliament to the introduction of such coverage, due to the risk of parliamentary deliberations becoming performance oriented.

In Japan, broadcasting via radio and newsreels of Diet sessions in both the House of Peers and the House of Representatives dates back to a policy speech given by Prime Minister TOJO Hideki on November 17, 1941. An audio recording of Tojo's speech in the House of Peers was broadcast at 7 p.m. of the same day on the radio program "General Policy Speech of the Prime Minister at the 77th Imperial Diet." And a film of his speech in the House of Representatives that afternoon was released to the public in movie theaters as a part of the "Japan News" newsreel.

Similarly, a speech by Prime Minister SHIDEHARA Kijuro to the House of Representatives on November 28, 1945, to open the 89th session of the Imperial Diet was a pioneering example of the broadcasters themselves editing and broadcasting parliamentary news without relying on reportage from news agencies.



An article commemorating the first broadcast of Diet proceedings

*Hoso kenkyu* 1 (2), published by Nihon hoso kyokai, Nov. 1941. NDL Call No. 雑 48-178.

\*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries).



"Diet Proceedings are Filmed for the First Time"

*Tokyo asahi shinbun*, Feb. 15, 1933. NDL Call No. Z81-1.

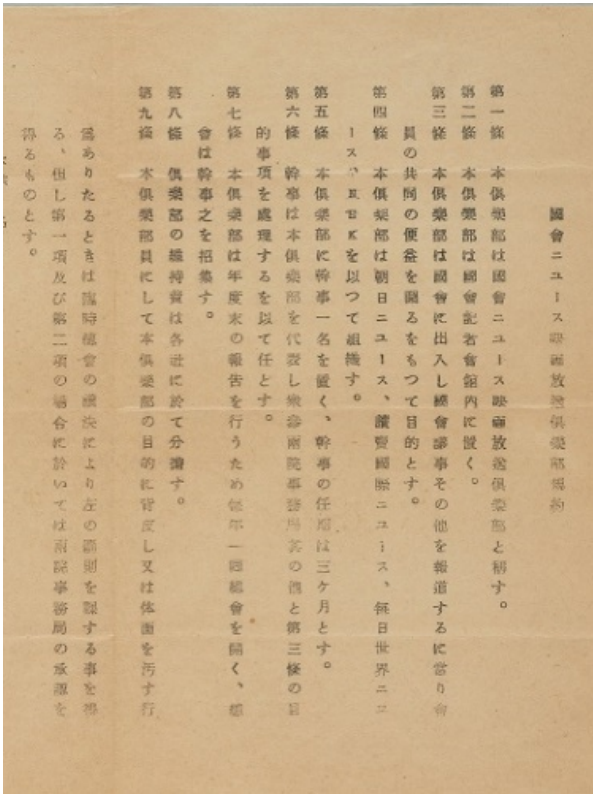
## Recording Diet proceedings with eyes and with ears

Both photographic images and written records of Diet proceedings have a major impact on how people view Diet sessions. Ultimately, the things observed by both photographers and reporters reach the eyes and ears of readers and viewers from the general public.

The manner in which we record the things we observe with our eyes and ears—indeed, with all five senses—have a profound effect on the creation not just of press coverage but of the official public records of proceedings.

The National Diet of Japan has an unusually complete stenographic record of its plenary sessions since the first session of the Imperial Diet.

Looking back over the history of parliamentary systems around the world, it seems fair to say that the constraints of printing technology and the need to ensure careful deliberation resulted in the development of parliamentary deliberations in the United Kingdom based on the reading of bills. Which is to say, information was conveyed aurally. The U.K. Parliament and the U.S. Congress continue to distinguish between stenographic records, which are a complete record of what was spoken and heard aurally, and journals, which record the participants and their decisions. In Japan, both journals and stenographic records are combined to form the official minutes of Diet proceedings at the point in time when the Imperial Diet was disbanded and succeeded by the National Diet.



Rules of the National Diet News Film Broadcast Club, Aug. 1952, from NISHIZAWA Tetsushiro Papers (1052)



The Stenography Section Office, Secretariat of the House of Representatives, around 1936, in the third temporary Diet Building. In the background can be seen a sign showing "Diet members with the same surname" and a framed photograph of the plenary hall.

*Karigijido kinen shashin* (commemorative photographs of temporary Diet Buildings)

### Images of the spoken word

SUZUKI Takao served as both Secretary General of the House of Representatives and Director General of the National Diet Library. With his extensive knowledge of

both the Imperial Diet and the National Diet, he authored books such as *Kokkai un'ei no riron* (theory of Diet management). He once wrote that "stenography results in images of the spoken word," and then went on to ruminate about the significance of and problems involved in the integration of journals and stenographic records of Diet proceedings as the official minutes of Diet proceedings. He wrote that "the Speaker is the official eye of the House" and "the stenographer is the official ear of the House." He also opined that, in principle, "[stenography] transcribes what originally came in through the ear to allow it to be read by the eye" as well as that "the work of stenographers today has come to include not only the work of going from the ears to the eyes, but also the work of going from the eyes to the eyes."

Through our five senses, we recognize a variety of vocalization, decisions, commotions, and other events that take place during Diet proceedings. These events are then conveyed to others in the form of official minutes, video on news programs, and sometimes photographs accompanying news articles.

There is significance not just in holding meetings but also in communicating their results to the public. And when we think about the essence of parliamentary deliberations, we feel that the relationship between parliamentary records and the press can be reevaluated as an intersection of various perspectives.



Newspaper Press Club Building (near the third temporary Diet Building), around 1936

*Karigijido kinen shashin* (commemorative photographs of temporary Diet Buildings)

(Translated by OGAWA Kanako)

**Reference (in Japanese):**

- *Teikoku gikai gijido kenchiku hokokusho*, edited and published by Okurasho Eizen Kanzaikyoku, the Government Buildings Department of the Ministry of Finance, main volume, pp. 217, 219, 221, 225, 269-270, 1938. NDL Call No. 758-145.
- ““Teikokugikai to hodo” yowa (Side story of the Imperial Diet and the press),” written by ARITAKE Shuji, *Shinbun kenkyu*, page 24, 202, May 1968. NDL Call No. Z21-88. \*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries)
- *Teikoku gikai gijido kenchiku no gaiyo*, edited and published by Okurasho Eizen Kanzaikyoku, 1936. NDL Call No. 722-17. \*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#)
- “Kokkai gekijo chukei ha kohun no rutsubo Kokkai ha shichoritsu no kasegeru tarento no hokoda (Diet theater broadcast is a melting pot of excitement. The Diet is a treasure trove of talent that can generate ratings.),” *HB*, 94, page 79, Jun. 2002. NDL Call No. Z21-B147.
- *Seiji kisha no techo kara*, written by NAGASHIMA Matao, published by Kawade Shobo, pp. 240, 264, 1953. NDL Call No. 915.9-N212s. \*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries).
- *Yomiuri shinbun*, Apr. 23, 1966. NDL Call No. Z81-16.
- “Gikai no kojoteki terebi hoso wo meguru jakkan no mondai (Some Issues on constant television broadcasting of the Diet),” written by SHIMIZU Mutsumi, *Hogaku shinpo*, pp. 151-176, 96 (11, 12), Sep. 1990. NDL Call No. Z2-20.
- *Asahi shinbun*, Nov. 17, 1941. NDL Call No. Z81-1.
- Japan News 76, available at Nippon Hoso Kyokai (NHK) website [NHK War Testimony Archives](#)
- *NHK nenkan Showa 22nenban*, edited by Nihon Hoso Kyokai, published by Nihon Hoso Shuppan Kyokai, page 51. NDL Call No. 699.059-N677n. \*Available in the [NDL Digital Collections](#) (Limited access on the premises at the NDL and partner libraries).
- “Gikai no kaigi no kokaisei towa (What is a disclosure system of Diet meetings?)”, SUZUKI Takao Papers (147-1) stored by Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room of the NDL
- “Kokkai no kaigiroku ni tsuite (Regarding minutes of the Diet proceedings)”, *Monthly jurist*, 83, Jun. 1955, pp. 17-22. NDL Call. No. Z2-55

**Related articles from the NDL Newsletter:**

- [Browsing library materials—deciphering photographs \(3\) Reporters and Photographers at the National Diet of Japan —Reporting and recording what happens at the Diet \(Part 1\)](#) (No. 232, October 2020)
- [Browsing library materials—deciphering photographs \(3\) Reporters and photographers at the National Diet of Japan —Reporting and recording what happens at the Diet \(Part 2\)](#) (No. 234, December 2020)

Articles by NDL staff

## Digital contents of the National Diet Library (Part 1)

Branch Libraries and Cooperation Division, Administrative Department



With the COVID-19 pandemic, remote library services are becoming more and more important. In this article, we would like to introduce the NDL's online services and examples of their use.

### Digital Exhibitions of the National Diet Library

#### 1. Outline

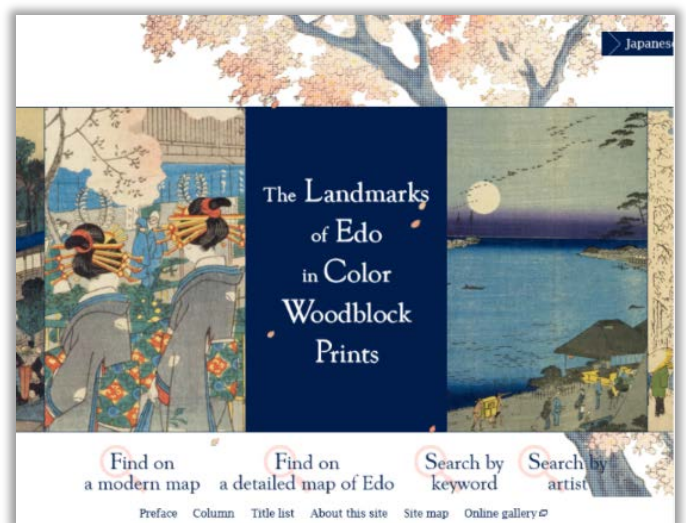
The digital exhibitions introduce unique collections of the NDL with easy-to-understand explanations. In this article, some of our exhibitions which can be used for studying, research, and reference services are introduced.

The images in these exhibitions may be reproduced in other media without applying to the NDL for permission. If users wish to reproduce the contents, please make sure to read "[Utilizing the contents of the website of the National Diet Library](#)" on the NDL website in advance.

#### 2. The Landmarks of Edo in Color Woodblock Prints

This exhibition presents 484 nishiki-e picturing landmarks of Edo. It is possible to find woodblock prints from modern maps and kiriezu as well. Each page of a landmark gives a description, present-day address, and other names for the landmark along with nishiki-e

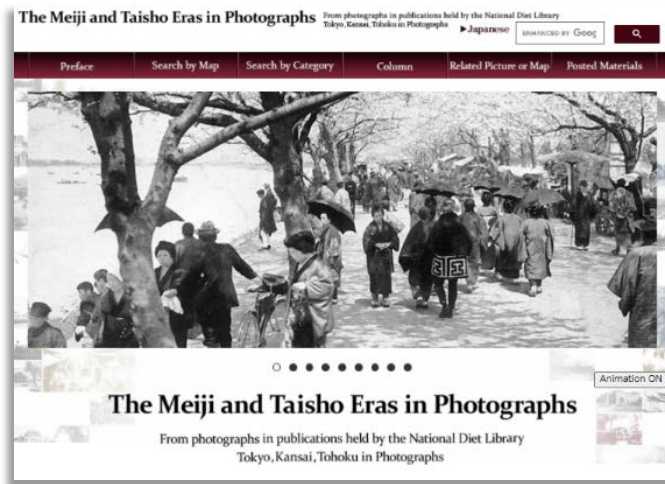
thumbnails. From colorful woodblock prints, we are able to catch a glimpse of the prosperity and the scenes of the landmarks of Edo and the entertainment of the seasons. Please enjoy the landmarks of Edo in color woodblock prints.



### 3. The Meiji and Taisho Eras in Photographs

This exhibition introduces approximately 1,300 photographs of famous buildings and sights from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century, selected from the photo books in our collection. These photos can be cross-searched from maps and keywords, and links are provided to the NDL Digital Collections and related digital exhibitions.

We hope this exhibition proves useful and allows a glimpse of the atmosphere of the Meiji and Taisho eras.



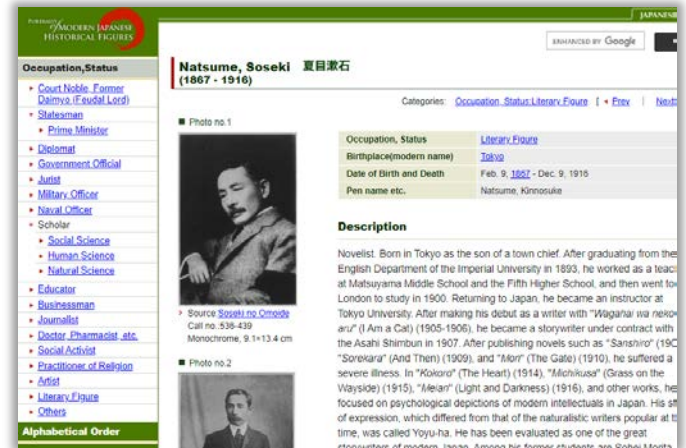
### 4. Birth of the Constitution of Japan

This exhibition provides online access to important documents concerning the formulation of the Constitution of Japan. It explains the process leading to the enactment of the Constitution of Japan, with commentary on materials in NDL collections as well as materials created in Japan and overseas.



### 5. Portraits of Modern Japanese Historical Figures

This exhibition presents portrait photographs of approximately 600 statesmen, government officials, military officers, businessmen, scholars, and artists who had an impact on building modern Japanese society.



### 6. Kaleidoscope of Books: Establishment of the Diet (only in Japanese)

The Kaleidoscope of Books is a series of small digital exhibitions which introduces books on various themes from the NDL collections. The "Establishment of the Diet" Kaleidoscope of Books shows the transition of the National Diet from temporary buildings to the birth of the present building which supported the development of modern Japan. In "Diet Building in Visuals," many visual collections which show the buildings at different points in history are introduced.



## Web Archiving Project (WARP)

### 1. Outline

WARP has been collecting and preserving websites published in Japan since 2002. As information on the Internet is frequently updated or delated, information of the past will be lost. The role of WARP is to collect and preserve information for the future.

### 2. Case study

Since 2010, the NDL has been collecting websites of public organizations in Japan including national and local government, independent administrative agencies and national universities according to the National Diet Law. Users can get past statistics information from WARP such as budget related materials from the Ministry of Finance and statistics from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.



(Translated by NOZAWA Asuka)



News from NDL

## Open dataset of books on Japan in foreign languages are available as part of the Free Data Service of the NDL

Digital Information Distribution Division, Digital Information Department

# Free Data Service of the National Diet Library, Japan



The National Diet Library (NDL) has long been acquiring books on Japan in foreign languages published in and out of the country. Since January 2002, bibliographic data of books on Japan in Western languages have been provided online. These data, along with bibliographic data of books on Japan in Asian languages and children's books on Japan published in other countries, are now available at the [Free Data Service](#) on the NDL website in the form of open datasets, which can be freely used without requesting permission of the NDL.

### About the BJFL dataset

The open dataset of books on Japan in foreign languages (hereafter referred to as the BJFL dataset) includes bibliographic data for books in the following categories:

- Books on Japan in Western languages
  - Books in Western languages on subjects related to Japan
  - Books in Western languages authored by Japanese citizens or people of Japanese heritage
- Books on Japan in Asian languages
  - Books in Asian languages on subjects related to Japan
  - Books in Asian languages authored by Japanese citizens or people of Japanese heritage
- Children's books on Japan published in other

countries

- Children's books in foreign languages on subjects related to Japan
- Children's books in foreign languages authored by Japanese citizens or people of Japanese heritage
- Japanese children's books translated into foreign languages

The BJFL dataset comes in two versions, which are to be updated every six months. One is the entire bibliographic data compiled since January 2002, and the other contains data created within the last six months. The cumulative version comes in TSV format, while the other version is available as an Excel document and TSV.

There are no restrictions on the use of the BJFL dataset. The NDL assumes no responsibility or liability for any actions taken as a result of using the dataset.

### About the bibliographic data included in the BJFL dataset

The BJFL dataset includes selected fields of bibliographic data as follows:

- URI
- Bibliographic ID

- NDL call number
- ISBN
- Title
- Creator
- Edition
- Series information
- Publication information
- Page number
- Size
- Language code ([MARC Code List for Languages](#), external link)
- Country code ([MARC Code list for Countries](#), external link)
- NDLC
- Headings for personal names (authority data ID)
- Headings for corporate body names (authority data ID)

### **Free data service of the NDL**

Other than the BJFL dataset, the NDL provides the following datasets, all of which are available on the [Free Data Service](#) on the NDL website:

- Bibliographic Data of the NDL Digital Collections
- Bibliographic Data of Japanese Publications (Most Recent Year)
- Bibliographic ID List: list of identifiers which collate bibliographic data in different databases
- Beta Version of International Standard Identifier for Libraries and Related Organizations (ISIL) LOD
- Bibliographic Data of the Former Collection of the Shanghai Xinhua Bookstore

The NDL is periodically updating these datasets, and hopes that these datasets will be helpful to our users.

Selected list of articles from NDL periodicals

## The NDL Monthly Bulletin No. 720, April 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. 720, April 2021 (PDF: 6.86 MB)

- <Book of the month - from NDL collections>  
*Chie no akebono*—Children’s magazine full of the spirit of civilization
  - Vision 2021-2025  
The Digital Shift at the National Diet Library  
—Seven initiatives for connecting information resources and intellectual activities—
  - Discussion: Promote the Digital Shift at the National Diet Library
- Lecture by IMADA Yuka “Hopes for Picture Books—Picture Book Authors, Editors and Readers in the Heisei Era (1989-2019)”
  - Digital exhibition “Diaries—Collections from Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room”
  - <Tidbits of information on NDL>  
The answer is in a book
  - <Books not commercially available>
    - *Zenkoku chijikai nanajunenshi*
  - <NDL Topics>