

Japanese Books in the British Library printed before 1700

on microfiche



Published by Hon-No-Tomosha (Tokyo) in association with the British Library

The microfiche edition of "Japanese Books in the British Library printed before 1700" comprises all works contained in Kenneth Gardner's *Descriptive Catalogue of Japanese Books in the British Library printed before 1700*, published in 1993.

The collection, distributed outside Japan by IDC Publishers and published by Hon-No-Tomoshia (Tokyo, Japan) in association with the British Library, will be issued in 4 stages, starting with Part I: Japanese Literature, and will be followed by three separate parts of Chinese Works, Buddhist Works and Japanese Works (other than Literature).

History of the British Library Collection

The complete microfiche edition will contain all 637 works in the British Library printed before 1700, including 73 *jin-ban* (*Kasuga-ban*, *Kōya-ban*, *Jōdokyō-ban*, *Gozan-ban* and other examples of medieval printing at Buddhist monasteries), as well as four imperial *chokuhan* editions, some 120 movable-type editions, and seven *kirishitan-ban*.

The majority of rare books were acquired from four sources. The first of these was the small collection of books and maps formed by the German physician Engelbert Kaempfer, who stayed at Deshima from 1690 to 1692 as a medical officer with the Dutch East India Company. The books which he brought back to Europe were acquired from his nephew between 1723 and 1725, along with his autographed manuscripts and natural specimens, by the founder of the British Museum, Sir Hans Sloane. The Kaempfer collection (all 43 works surviving from his collection are included in this publication) consists mostly of practical books in small format, such as *dōchūki*, *iroha* primers, calenders, *ko-jōruri-bon* and *utaihon* texts; it also comprises 10 maps. Because of their utilitarian and ephemeral nature, all such items are extremely rare in Japan today. The scholarly importance of this Kaempfer collection is enhanced by the way it relates to his celebrated *History of Japan*, which was to shape European views of Japan for nearly 200 years.

The second major acquisition was the library of 1,008 works in 3,441 volumes amassed by Philipp Franz von Siebold during his stay in Japan from 1823 to 1829 - also as a medical officer at Deshima - and again from 1859 to 1862. The books were purchased from his son Alexander in 1868. The Von Siebold collection is characterised by its encyclopedic subject range and a varied assortment of some 125 manuscripts. In this collection, 66 works are printed before 1700 and these are therefore included in this microform publication.

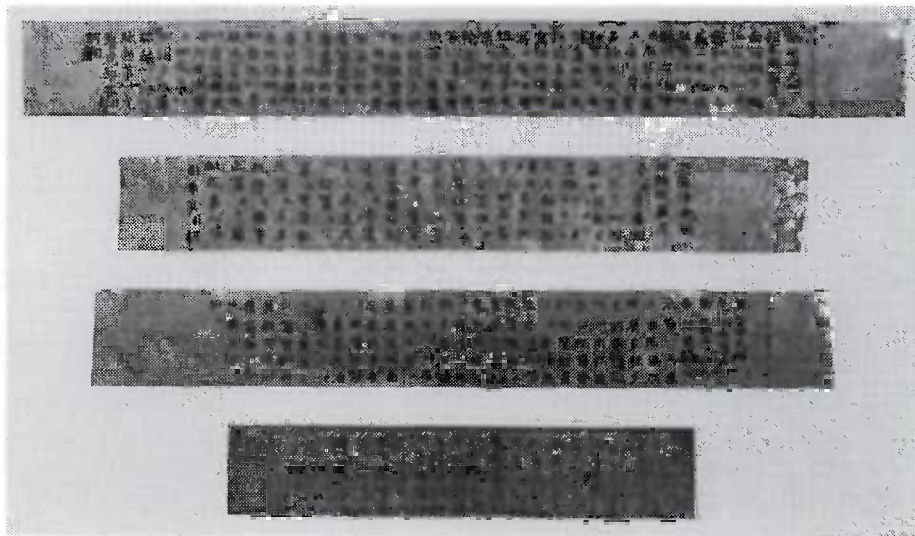
The third and most important single source of old Japanese books was the collection acquired from the British diplomat Sir Ernest Satow, which was formed during his two terms of service in Japan from 1862 to 1883 and from 1895 to 1900. His distinctive ex-libris seal "Eikoku Sadō zōsho" has long been familiar to Japanese bibliographers. He was one of the very few Westerners then actively interested in Japanese antiquarian books - indeed, he was the only one who actually utilized the books he had collected to write what was a pioneering account of the history of Japanese printing, including Jesuit printing activities in Japan.

Thus, the Satow collection contains many exceedingly early and rare editions, some of which are the only surviving copies in the world. There are 47 works printed before 1600 and no fewer than 72 movable-type editions, including all four *chokuhan*. Among the unique copies in this collection are a *Jōdokyō-ban* of 1280, the 12th *Shinjō* edition of the Lotus Sutra, and a 1504 illustrated edition of the *Kannongyō* commissioned by a swordsmith from Mino. Likewise, *Tsukihi no sōshi*, an early work of fiction catering for the emerging reading public, is the only copy with this title so far traced inside or outside Japan.

The last pre-1900 collector to be introduced here is Dr. William Anderson, who is perhaps the least known collector of Japanese books but who was the British Library's greatest benefactor in so far as artistic works are concerned. Anderson collected some 2,000 volumes of *ehon* and *e-irihon* as an *oyatoi* foreigner employed by the Meiji government to head the new naval medical college in Tokyo from 1873 to 1880. The works are at present divided between the holdings of the British Museum and the British Library. It is in the British Library collection that we find some of the earliest *Ukiyo-zōshi ehon*, such as *Kōshoku Yamato-e no kongen* and *Koi no utakagami* illustrated by masters of the Hishikawa school, as well as the *Saga-bon Ise monogatari* and the *Sanjū rokkasen*.

The British Library collection is also famous for having a unique copy of the *kirishitan-ban Feiqe (Heike) no monogatari*, printed in 1592-93 by the Jesuit Mission Press at Amakusa.

[Extract from a commemorative lecture given in Japan in March 1996 by Yu-Ying Brown, Head of Japanese Collections, the British Library, to launch Hon-No-Tomoshia's microfiche publication.]



167. *Hyakumantō darani*, c764-70. Blockprint.

Cover illustration: 63. *Chōgonka zushō*, 1677. Blockprint.

The microfiche collection

Many of the Japanese books in the British Library have been rebound in Western-style binding, which sometimes made text near the gutter difficult to reproduce. Where a fiche contains such folios, a special book-copying process has been used in order to make these parts legible: such copies were then refilmed and have been added as supplementary fiches (marked [S]) at the back of each Unit.

The arrangement of the microfilm edition follows the subject categories of Kenneth Gardner's *Descriptive Catalogue* (hereafter abbreviated as *KGDC*, followed by the item numbers in the catalogue). Within each of the four Parts, several of these subjects have been grouped together in Units and can be ordered separately.

Part I: Japanese Literature (available now)

Scope 237 works (*KGDC* 265-501)
Number of fiches 1,245 plus 326 supplementary fiches [S]

The Units are organized as follows:

- Unit 1 KANBUN: 29 + 2 [S] fiches
5 titles (*KGDC* 265-269)
- Unit 2 FICTION I: 48 titles: 336 + 69 [S] fiches
Early *monogatari*: 37 titles (*KGDC* 270-306)
Setсуwa bungaku: 8 titles (*KGDC* 307-314)
Rekishi monogatari: 3 titles (*KGDC* 315-317)
- Unit 3 FICTION II: 100 titles: 547 + 154 [S] fiches
Gunki monogatari: 27 titles (*KGDC* 318-344)
Muromachi jidai monogatari: 20 titles (*KGDC* 345-364)
Kana-zōshi: 38 titles (*KGDC* 365-402)
Ukiyo-zōshi: 15 titles (*KGDC* 403-417)
- Unit 4 PROSE: 19 titles: 72 + 28 [S] fiches
Diaries: 4 titles (*KGDC* 418-421)
Zuihitsu: 14 titles (*KGDC* 422-435)
Letter writing: 1 title (*KGDC* 436)
- Unit 5 POETRY: 41 titles: 191 + 67 [S] fiches
Manyōshu: 3 titles (*KGDC* 437-439)
Waka: 31 titles (*KGDC* 440-470)
Renga: 5 titles (*KGDC* 471-475)
Haikai: 1 title (*KGDC* 476)
Kyōka: 1 title (*KGDC* 477)
- Unit 6 DRAMA: 24 titles: 70 + 6 [S] fiches
Kōwaka: 5 titles (*KGDC* 478-482)
Nō: 8 titles (*KGDC* 483-490)
Kyōgen: 3 titles (*KGDC* 491-493)
Jōruri: 7 titles (*KGDC* 494-500)
Kabuki: 1 title (*KGDC* 501)

Part II: Chinese Works (available now)

Scope 97 works (*KGDC* 1-97)
Number of fiches 948 plus 13 supplementary fiches

The Units are organized as follows:

- Unit 1 ENCYCLOPEDIAS: 165 + 1 [S] fiches
5 titles (*KGDC* 1-5)
- Unit 2 CHINESE CLASSICS: 93 + 12 [S] fiches
19 titles: (*KGDC* 6-24)
- Unit 3 PHILOSOPHY, including Confucianism & Taoism: 86 fiches
12 titles (*KGDC* 25-36)



339. *Soga monogatari*, 1646. Blockprint.



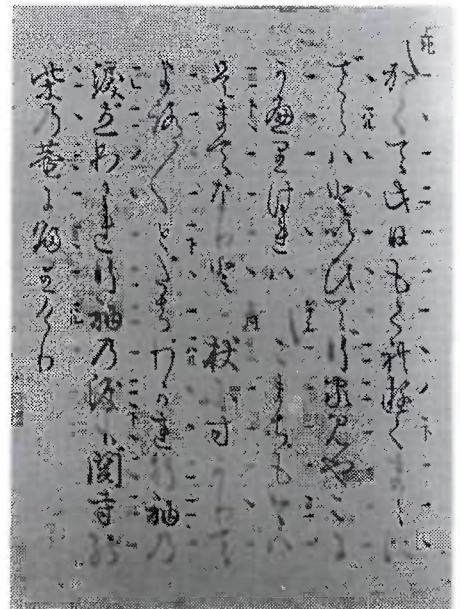
318. *Feiqe no monogatari (Heike monogatari)*, 1592-93. Movable type.

- Unit 4 HISTORY & BIOGRAPHY: 147 fiches
14 titles (KGDC 37-50)
- Unit 5 LANGUAGE, including dictionaries: 77 fiches
6 titles (KGDC 51-56)
- Unit 6 LAW, GOVERNMENT, ADMINISTRATION & ECONOMICS: 65 fiches
5 titles (KGDC 57-61)
- Unit 7 CHINESE LITERATURE: 208 fiches
23 titles (KGDC 62-84)
- Unit 8 MEDICINE, AGRICULTURE, FINE AND AMATEUR ARTS &
MILITARY SCIENCE: 107 fiches
13 titles (KGDC 85-97)

Part III: Buddhist Works will comprise 131 titles (KGDC 98-228), and

Part IV: Japanese Works (other than Literature) 172 titles (KGDC 229-264, 502-637).

These two parts are scheduled to be published in the course of 1997-98.



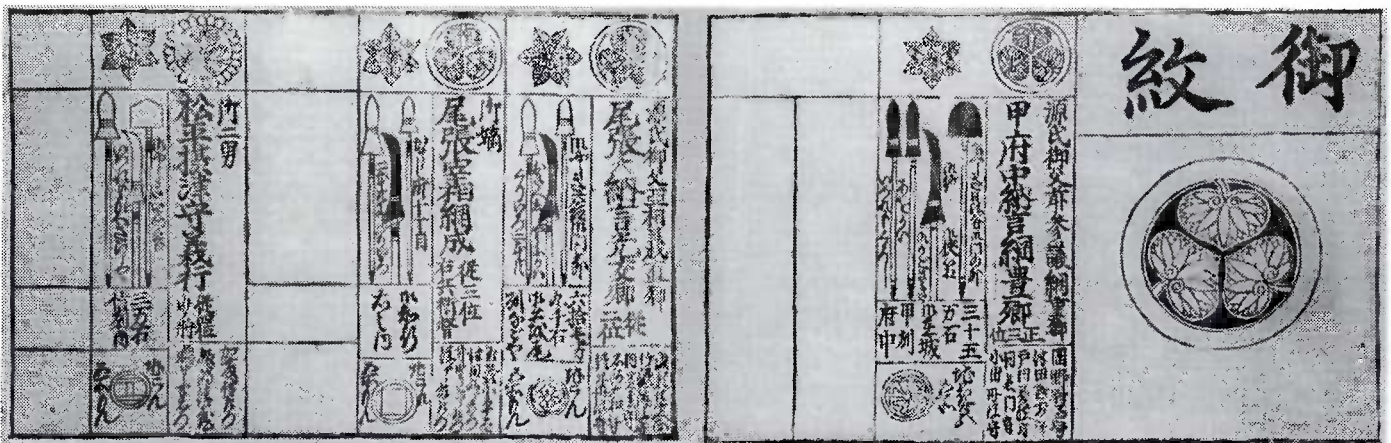
485. (Kanze-ryū utaibon) Ōmu komachi, c1600-10. Movable type.

The Catalogue

Each Unit is accompanied by a catalogue in Japanese which contains the following information:

1. Running number and title of the work in *KGDC*;
2. Microfiche numbers;
3. Subject classification in *KGDC*;
4. British Library shelfmark;
5. Author, editor or compiler, if known;
6. Book format;
7. Number of chapters and volumes;
8. Remarks, if any;
9. Place and date of edition, publisher;
10. Reference to supplementary [S] fiches, if any;
11. An index listing on which frame each chapter of the work begins.

Each Unit catalogue also contains a fiche index of the complete publication.



575. Edo kagami, 1691. Blockprint.