



## FEATURE

Publisher: Hiroshima University Library [www.lib.hiroshima-u.ac.jp](http://www.lib.hiroshima-u.ac.jp)

November's Special on Classics

## The History of Japanese Classic Literature

November 1st was designated as "Classics Day" as it marks the oldest recorded date (November 1, 1008) confirming the existence of "The Tale of Genji" in "The Diary of Murasaki Shikibu." Let's trace the history of Japanese classical literature through representative classical texts (Note: the transcription and publication dates are from later periods) held by Hiroshima University Library. You can view digital images from the National Literature Database and Hiroshima University Digital Collection via the QR codes.

(Reference: "Premium Color Japanese Language Handbook" by Suken Publishing)

◆ : Bibliographic Information of Materials in the Central Library's Rare Books Room



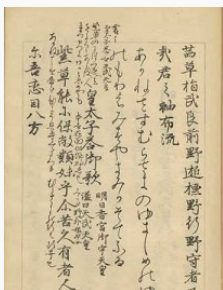
### Early Period (Through Nara Era)

Transition from oral literature to written literature. Works include "Kojiki," "Nihon Shoki," "Man'yōshū," etc.

#### Man'yōshū

The oldest existing Japanese poetry collection, comprising over 4,500 poems compiled in twenty volumes. On the left is a famous exchange of love poems: "Walking in the purple fields, walking in the marked fields, hasn't the field guard seen you waving your sleeves?" (By Nukata no Ōkimi) "Though the purple-clothed maiden is dear to me, should I love her because she is another's wife?" (By Ōama no Ōji)

◆ **Man'yōshū** Two volumes, publication date is unknown, originated from ancient manuscript



### Heian Period

The golden age of literature in kana script. Flourishing of diaries, tales, and historical narratives, including "Tosa Diary," "Tales of Ise," "Makura no soshi," "The Tale of Genji," "Ōkagami," etc.

#### Tosa Diary

A travel diary by Ki no Tsurayuki describing the journey

Tosa to Kyoto. It is the first diary written in kana script, composed in the voice of a woman. The left shows the famous opening line: "Since men have been writing these things called diaries, I shall see if a woman can do the same."

#### Tales of Ise

The oldest surviving collection of poem tales. It is said to be a biography of a man modeled after Ariwara no Narihira.



◆ **Tosa Diary Commentary** by Hitomi Bokyu, Two volumes. Published by Izumo-ji Izumon-no-jo in Kyoto, Kanbun 1

◆ **Tales of Ise (Nara Picture Book)** Two volumes, writing date and scribe unknown



### Medieval Period

(Kamakura through Azuchi-Momoyama Periods) Literature shifted from aristocratic to warrior and common classes. Development of tales, war chronicles, and linked verse. Works include "Hōjōki," "Tsurezuregusa," "The Tale of the Heike," etc.

#### Tsurezuregusa (Essays in Idleness)

Written by Kenkō Hōshi in the late Kamakura period. A representative work of medieval recluse literature consisting of 243 varied sections. The left shows Section 92: "On Learning Archery," which warns against the lazy habit of approaching a target with two arrows.

◆ **Tsurezuregusa with Illustrations** Five volumes, Published by Kagaya Zenzō in Bunsei 11 (1828)



### Early Modern Period (Edo Period)

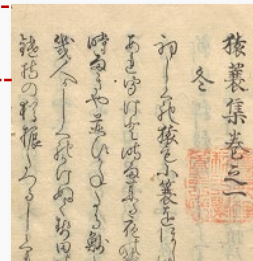
With the development of printing technology, literature spread to the merchant class, giving birth to various genres including haikai poetry, kanazōshi prose, yomihon novels, and kabuki theater. Notable authors include Ihara Saikaku, Matsuo Bashō, Chikamatsu Monzaemon, and Jippensha Ikku.

#### Nansō Satomi Hakkenden (The Eight Dog Chronicles)

Written by Takizawa Bakin. A representative yomihon from the late Edo period

#### Sarumino (Monkey's Raincoat)

A collection of haiku poems by Matsuo Bashō's school, edited by Kyorai and Bonchō. It opens with Bashō's famous haiku: "First winter rain— even the monkey seems to want a little coat"



◆ **Nansō Satomi Hakkenden** 106 volumes. Published in Bunka 11 (1814)  
◆ **Sarumino** Two volumes. Published in Genroku 4 (1691)



### Further Reading

New Collection of Classical Japanese Literature (Iwanami Shoten) (Maruzen eBook Library)

Free trial service available until March 31, 2025  
All volumes can be accessed.



# INFORMATION

## November's Announcements & Events

### Hiroshima University History Exhibition: 75+75 Journey

Central

This year marks 150 years since the founding of Hakushima School (predecessor) and 75 years since Hiroshima University's establishment. The exhibition features historical photographs, books, and pamphlets chronicling the university's journey, including the history of library book stamps.

**November 1 (Fri)  
- December 11  
(Wed)**

The library's stamps collection history will also be on display

Location: Central Library 1F  
Regional & International  
Exchange Plaza



Main Library (1981)

### Exhibition "Key to the Wide World vol.2"

Central

Second installment featuring Shinchosha Crest Books, a series known for introducing quality world literature and beautiful book designs.



"Renny and Margot at 100" by Marianne Cronin (2022)

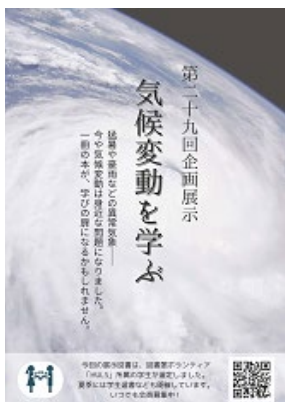
"The Swimmers" by Julie Otsuka (2014)



### Exhibition: "Learning About Climate Change"

West

A student-curated exhibition by HULS library volunteers. With extreme heat and heavy rains becoming everyday concerns, a single book might open the door to understanding climate change.



Location: West  
Library

Available with  
practice  
exercises!



### October Library Orientation Video

We've released orientation videos for October intake international students, graduate students, and transfer students. Topics include library facilities, user guide, finding resources, literature search methods, and using OPAC.



↑ Access here

### Seeking Audience for Bibliobattle

**November Library Calendar** (Note: Bibliobattle is a popular Japanese book recommendation contest where participants compete to present their favorite books in a limited time)

Nov 9 (Sat) 14:00 - Central Library BIBLA



### CALENDAR

#### Central Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### East Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### West Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### Kasumi Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

#### Higashisenda Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

■ Closed

Opening hours →

