

## AN INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE BOOKS AT THE SOCIAL SCIENCES LIBRARY

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Japanese books stored at the Social Sciences Library have been collected from the Ecole Française d'Extrême - Orient, several were added from Scientific Central Library, and the Social Sciences Library and the Institute of Social Sciences Information.

Books notated in four ways:

- N (abbreviation for "Nihon" or "Nippon", Japanese) with number. For example, N25, N174
- J (abbreviation for "Japon", French) with number. For example, J5, J100
- NBb (abbreviation for "tiny Japan", Vietnamese) with number. For example, NBb 7, NBb 148. These are small size books.
- NBv (abbreviation for "medium Japan", Vietnamese) with number. For example, NBv 3, NBv 42. These are medium size books.

J and N books could be called ancient Japanese books. They were published between the time of the Jōkan years (Trinh Quán 859-877) and of Meiji (Minh Trị 1867-1912). Several books were published as early as:

All ten volumes of *Zoku Hihon Goki* (*Post-memoirs of Japan- Continued*)

written by Fujihara Yoshifusa, are notated N 12, Jōkan the eleventh year (869).

Six volumes of *Jigi* (*Meaning of words*), written by Tanaka Daizo, are notated N 94, Bunsho (Văn Chính) the seventh year (1472).

Fifty-four volumes of *Genji Monogatari* (*Tales of Minamoto family*), a saga written by Murasaki Shikibu that describes the royal life of Heian dynasty (794-1192) in Japan are notated N 22, Eisho (Văn Chính) the first year (1504).

Twenty-two volumes of *Nihon gaishi* (*Japanese annals*), are notated N 31, Bunsei (Văn Chính) the twelfth year (1515).

Nine volumes of *Fuzoku Bunsen* (*Custom collection*) written by Goro Seikyōroku, are notated N 115, Hoei (Bảo Vĩnh) the third year (1709).

N notation books were published earlier than those classified with a J. J notation books were published during the dynasties of Meiji (1867-1912), Taisho (Đại Chính, 1912-1926) and at the beginning of Showa (Chiêu Hoà, 1926-1989). About ten thousand books notated N and J were collected from the Far Eastern Archaeological Centre. After having received the books from the Ecole

Francaise d'Extrême - Orient, the Scientific Central Library and the Social Sciences Library did not add more Japanese books to their library, partly because of a lack of funds and few readers. Several NBb and NBv books were published during the dynasties of Taisho, Showa, and from the time of 1930s to 1950s. Most of the NBb and NBv books were not bought but exchanged or presented, and then gathered from research institutes belonging to the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences such as the History Institute, the Philosophy Institute, or the Institute of Social Sciences Information. The library contains less than 450 books, several are magazines that were published in recent decades.

With over 11,000 books, the Japanese library is a precious source for documents. Many of the books are ancient, published hundreds or thousands of years ago. Their content is varied, from social science and culture to natural science and technique. The library is classified as follows:

### ***1. Complete works***

The Library has now stored hundreds of collections of books, each one containing dozens of volumes related to science. Typical sets of books are:

-*Shiseki Shuran (Miscellaneous History)* notated N 299 with 47 volumes, and *Zoku Shiseki Shuran (Miscellaneous History, Continued)* notated N 297 with 66 volumes. Both of them were edited by Kondo Kamoki and published during the thirty-third to thirty-fifth years of the Meiji dynasty (1899-1901). This collection is the documentation of Japanese history since the reign of Mikado Jimmu.

-*Koji Ruien (archaic events encyclopedia)*, notated J 11 with 53 volumes, edited by Hosogawa Junjiro and published from the forty-fourth year of Meiji to the third year of Taisho reign (1910-1914). This encyclopedia included many topics such as monarchy, politics, foreign affairs, rites, law, military, religion, art, economy, literature, human behavior, jewelry, names, cuisine, and travel in Japan from ancient times onwards.

-*Dai Nippon Shiryo (documentary collection of Japanese history)*, notated J 21 with 73 volumes, edited by the Board of historical document compilation and the Japanese Imperial University, and published from the thirty-fourth year of Meiji (1900) to the fourteenth year of Taisho (1925). This collection gathers documents of Japanese history from the third year of Ninna (887) to the second year Genna (1616).

-*Dai Nippon kobunsho (Japanese ancient documents)*, notated J 22 with 64 volumes, printed during the time from the thirty-fourth year Meiji (1900) to the tenth year Taisho (1921). This collection includes ancient documents from the second year Taiho (702) to the end of Bakufu reign (Mạc Phủ)<sup>(\*)</sup> when Mikado Meiji started assuming power.

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(\*) Central Government mainly ruled by samurai. It started in 1192 with the power assumed by General Minamoto Yorimoto and ended in 1867 with the ruling of General Tokugawa Yoshinobu, as Mikado Meiji came to the throne. The capital was in Kamakura (1192-1333); 9 reigns, Minamoto family and others); Muromachi (1338-1573; 16 reigns, Ashikaga family) and Edo (1603-1867; 15 reigns; Tokugawa).

-*Teikoku bunko* (*Imperial archives*), J 118 with 50 volumes and *Zoku Teikoku bunko* (*Imperial archives, continued*), J 119 with 50 volumes, from the twenty-sixth to thirty-sixth year Meiji (1892-1902). This is a great collection of literature. Each volume deals with a genre of literature or a specific author. For example, Volumes 23 and 24 were the complete collection of Ihara Saikaku's writings; Volumes 25 and 26 are comic works; Volumes 47 belongs to the Joruji genre, a kind of story together with sounds of samisen; Volume 48 includes knight-errant stories.

-*Nippon bungaku zenshu* (*Complete works of Japanese literature*) notated NBb 1-72, 76-92 with 89 volumes, printed in the forty first and second Showa (1966-1967). This collection contains works of famous writers in the history of Japanese literature.

-*Nippon minzoku densetsu* (*complete collection of Japanese nation's legends*), NBv 46- 72 with 9 volumes, published in the thirty-first year Showa (1956). The collection gathers Japanese legends of ancient times.

## **2. Encyclopedias, dictionaries, bibliographies, yearbooks, reference books**

These books occupy a great amount of space in the library. Typical books are as follows:

-*Koji Daijiten* (*Great Dictionary of Archaic Events*) edited by Kondo Motozumi, N 296 with 3 volumes, printed in the thirty-third year Meiji (1899).

-*Dai Nippon Meika zensho* (*Japanese celebrities encyclopedia*) edited by Miyasaki Sachimaro, notated N 449 with

7 volumes, reprinted in the thirty-third year Meiji (1898).

-*Nippon jimei jisho* (*Japanese place-names dictionary*), notated J 1 with 7 volumes, reprinted in the fourteenth year Meiji (1880).

-*Kokushi daijiten* (*Great dictionary of Japanese history*), notated J 2 with 2 volumes, published in the forty-first year Meiji (1907).

-*Tetsugaku daijiten* (*Great Dictionary of Philosophy*), notated J 616 with 4 volumes, published in the forty-fifth year Meiji (1911).

-*Heibonsha Daihyaku zensho* (*Heibonsha Great Encyclopedia*), printed in the first year Kyowa (1801).

-*Zen Nippon Shuppanbutsu Somokuroku* (*General Index of Japan's printing products*), notated J 2336 with 4 volumes, printed during the twenty-third to twenty-sixth year Showa (1948-1951).

-*Nippon teikoku tokei nenkan* (*Japanese Imperialist's statistical yearbook*), notated J 194 with 33 volumes, printed in the fifteenth year Meiji (1881).

## **3. Scientific books**

*Books of history research (Japan and other countries in the world)*

- As for *Japanese history*, there are many famous works that contain both historical and literary features such as: *Kojiki* (*Memoirs of Archaic Events*), the most ancient collection of historical stories in Japan that took shape from the legends and genealogies of Mikadoes since the creation of the world to the reign of Mikado Suiko (Suy Cō, 554-628); *Nippon Shoki* (*Historical Periods of Japan*), the first official historical chronicle of Japan, edited under the royal decree of Mikado

and completed in the fourth year Yoro (720). The work recorded historical events taken place from the Myth age (Jindai or Kamyio age, the time before Mikado Jinmu assumed power) to the reign of Mikado Jito (Tri Thong, 690-697). Among Japan's historical books, besides the great historical book collections, they focus on periods of Japanese history and the history of industries and science. For instance, the history of Japan's nationhood (J 505); *The history of the founding of Japan* (J 244); *Japan's ancient history* (N 21, J 477); The Nara Age (J478); The Heian Age (J 479); The Kamakura Age (J 480); History of the North-South dynasty (J 481); The Muromachi Age (J 482); History of the partitioning of the country (J 625); Japan's modern history (J 504); Japan's Religious History (J 287); Japan's Buddhist History (J 42, J 532, J 689, J 690); The History of the Japan-Qing dynasty war (J 117, J 192, J 339); History of the Japan-Russia war (J 414, J 415, J 416, J 734).

- *As for world history*, the library now has many precious book collections such as: History of Qing dynasty (J464); History of Korea (N 265); Ancient history of South Korea (J 592); History of Mongolia (J 465); History of Chinese literature (J 69); History of Chinese Philosophy (J 583); History of Indian Philosophy and Religion (J679); History of East Asian foreign affairs (J 278); History of the West's invasion of the East (J 442); History of exchanges between Japan and Europe (J 87).

- *As for philosophy*, there is a number of books such as: Discussion on Buddhism philosophy, notated J 341, printed in the thirty-eighth year Meiji (1905);

Philosophy of Japanese Buddhism, notated J 54, published in the thirty-sixth year Meiji (1903); Yang Ming school's philosophy, J 47, published in the thirty-fifth year Meiji (1902); Philosophy of Japan's Archaeology, J 48, the thirty-fifth year Meiji (1902); Philosophy of Yang Ming and Ma Zi school, J 49, the thirty-fifth year Meiji (1902); War Philosophy, J 53, the thirty-seventh year Meiji (1904); Philosophy of Zhou Zi school, J 245, the thirty-eighth year Meiji (1905); Hitara Atsutane Philosophy, notated J 520, the forty-second year Meiji (1909). Several newer ones are notated NBv and NBb such as: Modern Philosophy and Materialism, notated NBb 110, the forty-third year Showa (1968); Ideology of Japan's Feudal Regime, NBv 27, the forty-third year Showa (1968); History of Japanese Materialism, NBv 29, the forty-fourth year Showa (1969); History of Japan's Philosophy Ideology, NBv 28 the forty-second year, Showa (1967); Modern Philosophy and Materialism, NBb 110, the forty-third year Showa (1968); Philosophy and Politics, NBb 115, the forty-fourth year Showa (1969); Modern Science and Materialism, NBb 116, the forty-fourth year Showa (1969); Ideas Contrary to Modern Japan, notated NBb 117, the forty-fourth year Showa (1969); Complete Works of Hirata Atsutane (1776-1843), J 579; Complete Collection of Tosaka Jun (1900-1945), NBv 30, 5 volumes, the forty-first year Showa (1966).

- *As for geographical areas and foreign countries*, the number of Japanese books stored at the Social and Scientific Library shows that books written about Western Europe were few as there were only several printed in the early part of the

twentieth century. Most books are about countries around Japan such as China, Korea, India, Vietnam, and others in South East Asia. The books were written about the history, culture, religious ideology, geographical features, and resources of the above countries. The appearance of these books proved that Japan had a comprehensive view of the countries in the region in order to set up the Great East Asia Commonwealth; in fact, it was the intention of Japanese Imperialists to expand during the Second World War, hence books written before and at the beginning of the Second World War tended to focus on the region. The following are books written about Vietnam, Indochina, and countries in South East Asia:

Books about periods of Vietnam's history: History of Annam, notated N 135, the thirteenth year Meiji (1879); Memoirs of Annam, notated N 532, the thirty-sixth year Meiji (1902); History of Annam, J 1641, the seventeenth year Showa (1942). Books introduced about Indochina: Indochina Under French Domination, J 140, the thirty-sixth year Meiji (1902); Indochina Under French Domination, J 1097, the thirteenth year Taisho (1924); Indochina Under French Domination, J 1710, the sixteenth year Showa (1941); Panorama of a renewed Indochina Under French Domination, J 1726, the sixteenth year Showa (1941); Current State of Indochina Under French Domination, J 2030, the sixteenth year Showa (1941); Research on Indochina Under French Domination, J 1079, the sixteenth year Showa (1941); Indochina Under French Domination (politics-economy), J 1458, reprinted for the third time in the sixteenth year Showa.

Books written about Indochina and Vietnam include: New Economic Policy of Indochina under French Domination, J 1585, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Agriculture and Forestry Resources of Indochina under French Domination, J 1587, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Mineral Resources of Indochina under French Domination, J 2006, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Cotton Sources of Indochina under French Domination, J 1626, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Investigation of Labor in Indochina, J 1733, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Brief Summary on Labor Situation in Indochina, J 2031, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Inhabitants and Custom of Indochina Under French Domination, J 1613, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Peoples in Annam, J 1894, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Religions in Annam, J 1639, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Custom of Annam, J 1894, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Indochinese Culture and Nations in Indochina, J 1287 with 3 volumes, the tenth year Showa (1935); Ancient Culture in the North Delta of Indochina Under French Domination, J 1384, the eleventh year Showa (1936); France-Annam relation, N 210 with 4 volumes, the twenty-first year Meiji (1887); France-Vietnam war, J 676, the nineteenth year Meiji (1885). Many books focused deeply on particular issues such as the Archaic Mirror Discovered in the North and Northern Central Region, J 1538, the nineteenth year Showa (1944); Vân Đồn trading port of Annam, J 1432, the fourteenth year Showa (1939); Vân Đồn and Japanese People, J 1373, the twelfth year Showa (1937); Worshiping

Confucius in Annam J 1297, the tenth year Showa (1935). Books about South East Asia obviously expressed the expansion policy of Japanese Imperialists. For instance, Islands on Southern Sea, J 1723, the sixteenth year Showa (1941); Islands on Southern Sea: Nature and Resources, J 1462, the fifteenth year Showa (1940); Muslims in the Great Eastern Asia, J 1621, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Great Eastern Asian Music, J 1622, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Cultural History of South East Asia, J 1719, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Ideas of Setting up Great Eastern Asia's economy, J 1724, the seventeenth year Showa (1942); Geographical features of Eastern Asian Commonwealth, J 1620, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Total Force War, Thought War, Education War, J 1593, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Diplomacy of Imperialism and Great Eastern Asian Commonwealth, J 1629, the eighteenth year Showa (1943); Southward March 3: Indochina under French Domination, J 1895, the sixteenth year Showa (1941).

Religious books included ones generally studying on religion such as Shukyo kenkyu (Study on religion) J 1107 with 12 volumes, the fourteenth year Taisho (1925); Shukyo kai (Religious Circle), J 307 with 9 volumes, the thirty-ninth year Meiji (1905); Nippon shukyoshi (History of Japanese Religion) J 287 with 1 volume, and many other books written about particular religions.

Most of these more specific books were written about Buddhism. There are 140 books with J notation and hundreds of other books written about Buddhism. Classical Buddhism works are: Collection

of Great Prayer-books translated into Japanese in Showa year, J 1164 with 40 volumes, the fourth to sixth year Showa (1925-1928); Collection of Great Prayer-books propagated towards Southern ways, J 1465 with 70 volumes. Classical works about particular sects include: Fundamentals of Buddhism sects, N 232 with 5 volumes, and The Development of Buddhism in Japan, J 1853. There are books about the history of sects, for example the History of Mahayana Buddhism, J 293, the History of Theravada Buddhism, J 294, the Overall History of Chân Tông, J 735, the History of Hoa Nghiêm Sect's Development, J 690, and the Start and Development of the Pure Land Sect, J 1103. Books on the study Buddhism in foreign countries include: Buddhism in the West, J 688, and a History of Buddhism in China, J 966. Other books written about Buddhism beauty spots are Buddhism Art, J 999 with 9 volumes, Modern Buddhism, J 1805 with 12 volumes, and the Basic Concepts of Buddhist Sociology, J 1443.

There is a great deal of books about Shintoism such as Shinto Collection, J 98 with 9 volumes; Collection of Shinto Doctrine, J 555; Relation between the History of Ancient Japan and Shintoism, J 59; History of Shintoism's Development, J 290; Shintoism and Japan's National Prestige, J 777; Rites of worshiping at Shinto Temples, N 393; Complete Works about Shinto Temples, J 179 with 5 volumes.

Books about Catholicism are not as numerous as those about other religions. There are books such as: Catholicism and the Religion of Saint Nhật Liên, J 2078; The Catholic Bible, J 927; A Study on

Nestory (\*) Sect, J 1313; A Study on Epitaphs of Nestory Sect, J 664.

About Bushido, there is Bushido, J 135, A Collection of Bushido books, J 276, and A History of Japanese Bushido, J 436. About Chinese ancient ideologies and their appearance in Japan, there are books such as: Study on Iching and Chung Yung Doctrine, J 2351; Ideology of Lao Zi-Zhang Zi and Taosism, J 2352; Ideology of Zhou Zi, J 138; Ideology of Yang Ming, J 139; Lao Zi's preaching, J 750; Holy References of Confucianism, J 385; Great View of Confucianism, J 518; History of Japanese Confucianism, J 691; History of Japanese Modern Confucianism, J 325.

**4. Art, literature works, and books on the study of art and literature** very plentiful, especially those about traditional art and literature. Monogatari should be mentioned first as it means a great fiction collection. Genji monogatari (Tales of Minamoto Family) is one example. This saga, which was completed in the early part of 11<sup>th</sup> century, in the middle of the Heian dynasty (794-1192), was a masterpiece of monogatari. It was divided into three series with 54 volumes, and described 70 years and four different reigns. Heike monogatari (Tales of Taira Family), the series of fiction telling about the war set up in the early part of the Kamakura dynasty (1192-1333), the author was unknown. This work recorded the history of the war and the prosperity and decadence of the Taira family. It was imbued with the Buddhist concept of

impermanency, combined Japanese and Chinese ideologies, creating much influence on literature in the future.

The library has also archived so many complete works of great writers and researchers in the history of Japan. Among them are the Complete works of Ihara Saikaku (1643-1693), J 450; Complete Works of Arai Hakuseki (1657-1725), J 389; Complete Works of Kondo Seisai (1771-1829), J 391; Complete Works of Koyo Sannin (1867-1903), J 200.

Besides these, there are works of hundreds of great Japanese writers selected in collections similar to those listed above. For instance, The Novel Serial of Hori Tasuo, NBb 1/31; The Novel Serial of Hotta Yoshi, NBb 1/67; The Novel Serial of Inoue Yasashi, NBb 76/83. Books written about traditional art and literature occupy a great deal of space. Such popular genres of Japanese traditional art and literature as Yokyoku, Waka, Joruri, Haikai, Haiku, Hyogen, No music, and Ukiyo pictures (\*) were mentioned quite frequently. Several works of this genre include Waka, Past and Present, N 38, of the second year Manji (1659) with 6 volumes; Comment and Explanation about Past and Present Waka, N 435, J 507 with 5 volumes, of the forty-first year Meiji (1907); Haikai Treasure, J 91 with 24 volumes, of the thirtieth to thirty-fourth year Meiji (1896-1900); Hakai Textbook, N 307, of the thirty-sixth year Meiji (1902); Kyogen Comment and Note, J 321, the twenty-sixth year Meiji (1892). Especially, when referring to the Waka

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(\*) A small sect of Catholicism: Nestory. It was propagated to China during Tang dynasty. Japan had borrow the Chinese name of Nestory and pronounced Keikyo.

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(\*) Yokyoku (Folk songs), words in No music, Waka, one kind of Japanese poetry, each sentence contains 5 and 7 sounds.

genre Manyoshu, a collection of ten thousand leaves, should be mentioned. This is the most archaic collection of harmonic songs that exists. It includes 20 volumes, made up in the latter part of the Nara reign (710-784) or the early Heian reign (794-1192), the editor was unknown. This collection gathers more than 4,500 epics, ditties, and choruses that are classified according to their content such as mixed chorus, duets, and funeral songs. These songs expressed vivid voices of all classes in Japan over three and a half decades, from the Mikado Nintoku reign (Nhân Đức) to the third year Tempyo-Hoji (Thiên Bình-Bảo Tự, 759). There are so many books on Waka including Manyo daishoki, a Manyoshu note book that was completed in the first year Genroku (1688), J 340 with 18 volumes, printed during the thirty-third to thirty-seventh year Meiji (1899-1903); Brief Note on Manyoshu, J 635 with 2 volumes, of the first year Taisho (1912); Manyoshu Kogi (Ancient meaning of Manyoshu), N 323 with 125 volumes, of the twenty-fourth year Meiji (1890).

Among newer Japanese books, books with NBv and NBb notations, there are several about Vietnam. They were mainly written in the second half of 1960s, during the time when Vietnamese people were carrying out the anti-US resistance war. Most of these books expressed Japanese scientists' view toward the war. For example, North Vietnam of Masuoka Yoko, NBb 7, the thirty-ninth year Showa (1964); Selected Works of Hồ Chí Minh-

volume 1, written by Mio Tadashi NBb 68, the fortieth year Showa (1965); Imperialism and National Democratic Revolution- The Focus is Vietnam Issue, written by Hemmi Shigeo, NBb 68, the fortieth to forty-second year Showa (1965-1967); American's war of poisons and toxic gases, written by BCW Research Association, NBb 237, the fortieth to forty-second year Showa (1967); Vietnam's Modern History (General Research on Indochina under the domination of Imperialism) written by Shimbo Junichiro, NBb 2, the forty-third year Showa (1968); Vietnam and the Issue of Ideology, written by Shibata Shingo, NBb 2, the forty-third year Showa (1968); Vietnamese Ideology Issue, NBb 248, the forty-seventh year Showa (1972); Vietnam and the Thought of Human Liberalization, written by Shibata Shingo, NBb 247, the fiftieth year Showa (1975); Nations in Vietnam's Modern History, written by Yoshizawa Minami, NBb 360, the fifty-seventh year Showa (1982); History of Vietnamese Communists' National Policy, written by Furuta Motoo, NBv 178, of the third year Heisei (1991).

The foregoing are major themes among almost all of 11,000 Japanese books stored at the Social Sciences Library. With nearly-one-thousand-year-old books that are considered rare, the Social and Sciences Library has proved its important role in archiving and preserving cultural values of our nation and humankind.