

Regular Exhibition "History of Japanese Literature Based on Books" Materials List, Part V

名称	名称ふりがな	解説
V Modern Literature	きんだいのぶんがく	
		The period from the Meiji period is broadly defined as the modern period in the history of literature as well as the history of Japan. Under the new Meiji government that replaced the Tokugawa shogunate, the country underwent rapid modernization in order to catch up with Europe. Numerous European books, items and thoughts were suddenly introduced to Japan, and literature was also not able to escape from their direct and indirect influence. As the finale in the history of Japanese classical literature, this section covers the period until around 1887, when literature that had continued until the Edo period retreated gradually from the stage and modern literature showed a sign of its prosperity.
Literature in the Early Meiji Era	めいじじだいしょきのぶんがく	Literature from 1868 to 87. The modern Japan started as the Meiji Restoration drastically changed the political and social systems. The first half of the Meiji period was still in the process of the shift from old to new culture. Similarly, in literature, works in the tradition from the Edo period coexisted with ones under the influence of European literature. This period was the beginning of modern literature and the end of classical literature.
Gesaku in the Meiji Period	めいじげさく	Gesaku means dangi-bon, kokkei-bon, share-bon, kibyoshi, gokan, yomihon, and ninjo-bon in and after the late Edo period. Since the Meiji period, there were works that treated subject matters of the new age with the methodology and format of gesaku in the Edo period. Major works include <i>Aguranabe</i> by Kanagaki Robun and <i>Seirou Hankatsu</i> by Mantei Oga, which satirized the society bewildered by rapid Westernization, as well as <i>Takahashi Oden Yasha Monogatari</i> by Robun.
Novels and Critique	しょうせつ・ひょうろん	In the decade from 1877 emerged political novels, which primarily treated politics under the influence of European novels against the background of the Freedom and People's Rights Movement. Representative works include <i>Keikoku Bidan</i> by Yano Ryukei and <i>Kajin no Kigu</i> by Tokai Sanshi. Futabatei Shimei, who learned from Russian literature, published the first volume of <i>The Drifting Cloud</i> in 1887, which marked the beginning of modern novels. The theories of novels based on ones in Europe include <i>Shosetsu Shinzui</i> by Tsubouchi Shoyo and <i>Shosetsu Soron</i> by Futabatei Shimei.
Performing Arts (Kabuki and Rakugo)	げいのう (かぶき・らくご)	The Meiji government advocated the improvement of drama and demanded kabuki to have contents and nature suitable to a civilized nation. Kawatake Mokuami, who had been a major author since the end of the Edo period, responded to it by creating zangirimono, which was sewamono incorporating new social customs, and katsurekimono, which was historical stories based on actual historical events. They were, however, unpopular among the general public. Works in this period include zangirimono <i>Shima Chidori Tsukimi no Shiranami</i> and sewamono <i>Kumo ni Magou Ueno no Hatsuhana</i> . Rakugo master San'yutei Encho was active in the early Meiji period and created <i>Shinkei Kasanegafuchi</i> and other stories. His way of reciting influenced the advent of sentences that unified the written and spoken languages.
Waka and Haikai	わか・はいかい	Waka had been dominated by keien-ha and other old schools until the decade from 1887. The leader was Takasaki Masakaze, a poet of the Outa-Kakari department in the court. Without major poets, haikai poems were actively created by the general public as in the Edo period, and many anthologies were also published. While some poems showed novelty by treating events, items or customs of the new age, almost all poems had a uniform idea or expression. Later, Masaoka Shiki criticized haikai poems after the Tempo period collectively as "tsukunami-cho" or a trite style.
Chinese Poetry	かんしぶん	Even in the Meiji period when European culture dominated, Chinese poetry remained active, valued as part of men's culture. Numerous anthologies, personal collections and textbooks about creating poems were published. Major poets in the early Meiji period include Mori Shunto, Onuma Chinzan and Ono Kozan. Shunto primarily created Qing poems, in contrast to Chinzan creating Sung poems and Kozan writing Tang poems.
Poetry	し	In 1882, Toyama Masakazu, Yatabe Ryokichi and Inoue Tetsujiro published <i>Shintaishi-sho</i> , which was a collection of translated European poems and original poems created after the model of them. While the term "shi" or poetry had only meant Chinese poetry, they called long poems written in Japanese "shintai-shi" or new style poetry, contrary to Chinese poetry. In spite of its restriction of the seven-and-five syllable meter and the literary style, it became the starting point of modern poetry in Japan, followed by a series of other poetry works including <i>Shintai-shiika</i> edited by Takeuchi Setsu, which was published immediately after it.