

Foundation of Hankyu-Gakuen Ikedabunko Library



Outline of the Ikedabunko Library



Ikeda City, home of the Foundation of Hankyu-Gakuen Ikedabunko Library, is located in the northern part of Osaka where Ichizo Kobayashi (his pseudonym: Itsuoh), founder of the Hankyu Toho Group, spent approximately 50 years of his life from 1909 until his death. Ichizo had a dream to create an exemplar of an ideal local social service for the promotion of culture in Ikeda City. The beginning of his dream was realized in 1949 with the establishment of the Ikedabunko Library.

The Ikedabunko Library has a long history originating with a library built in the New Takarazuka Hot Spring (later known as the Takarazuka Family Land) in 1911. The library, although a relatively small structure of open-shelf design, had a collection of newly published magazines and recently published books. Later, Ichizo established the Takarazuka Library of Literature in 1932 with an eye to create a library specializing in theatrical performances. He collected numerous kabuki-related materials including actor prints, painted kabuki theater signboards and playbills (*banzuke*) (i.e. leaflets or posters) in addition to books and magazines relating to literature, theatrical performance and cinema. He also collected a complete set of performance-related materials, photo collections and magazines of the Takarazuka Girls' Opera (later known as the Takarazuka Revue) which began its performance in 1914.



The Ikedabunko Library, born as a result of taking over the collection of materials from the Takarazuka Library of Literature, expanded, improved the organization method for its materials after its foundation, and presently has approximately 120,000 books and 100,000 magazines in its collection. The library is characterized by its repositories of the Hankyu Railway Company, the Takarazuka Revue and kabuki-related materials. The addition of the folkloric performing art-related materials in 2003, which had been collected for approximately 20 years as reference materials used for creating Takarazuka Revue shows, improved its fullness as a library of performing art and theatrical performances.

Exhibitions on a variety of themes are held at its display room twice a year where reserve collection materials, of which originals normally not on display, are open to public view.

Materials Relating to Hankyu Railway Corporation



The Minoo-Arima Electric Railway Corporation started its operation in 1910 and later developed into the company presently known as Hankyu-Hanshin Holdings, Inc. The Ikedabunko Library houses the materials related to the business activities of the company from its infancy through present and serves as a corporate library.



Takarazuka Revue-related Materials

The Ikedabunko Library has an excellent collection of Takarazuka Revue-related materials both in terms of quality and quantity. It has a complete collection of performance materials, posters, photo collections and magazines relating to the Takarazuka Revue from its first performance when it was known as the Takarazuka Girls' Opera through the most recent performance.



Materials Relating to Folkloric Performing Art



The Takarazuka Revue conducted research on the local folkloric performing art of various regions across Japan for 20 years since 1958 for use as reference materials to create Takarazuka Revue shows and amassed a great deal of materials in the form of films and reports. These materials, which were moved to the Ikedabunko Library from the Takarazuka Revue in 2003, are of high academic value as they contain detailed records of performing art of those days, many of which have vanished.

Materials relating to Kabuki



The kabuki-related materials kept in stock by the Ikedabunko Library include actor prints, playbills (*banzuke*) (i.e. leaflet or posters), play scripts, actor critiques and painted kabuki theater signboards as well as approximately 7,000 Kyoto and Osaka prints (*Kamigata-e*) and 14,000 Edo prints (*Edo-e*). In particular, the Ikedabunko Library's

collection of Kyoto and Osaka prints is considered one of the top ranking in the world both in terms of its quality and quantity.

Summary of Major Collection Items

Actor Prints

Actor prints featuring kabuki actors who were active nationwide. Kyoto and Osaka prints (*Kamigata-e*) (i.e. wood-block prints produced in the Kyoto and Osaka regions) are generally highly appreciated abroad.

Painted Kabuki Theater Signboards

Painted kabuki theater signboards are large hand-painted advertisement boards which as a rule are destroyed after each performance. As a result, very few of these kinds of theater signboards are presently in existence. The library houses approximately 800 painted theater signboards, the majority of which were produced in the Meiji period in the Kyoto and Osaka regions. The size of this collection ranks as the top of its kind in the world.

Manuscripts of Play Scripts

Manuscripts of play scripts consist of stage directions, detailed directions regarding actors' movements and staging, and dialogue. Approximately 1,000 manuscripts of play scripts are housed at the Ikedabunko Library.

Actor Critiques

These books were published yearly from the Genroku period through the end of the Edo period and contained evaluations of kabuki actors. The library houses 64 such books, most of which were published during or after the Bunka period (1804-1818).

Playbills (*Banzuke*): (Leaflet or Posters)

The library houses 4,100 *yakuwari-banzuke* in which the title of the play, the kabuki actors' names and each actor's role are indicated, 960 *ezukushi* (scenario books consisting of short sentences and pictures), 110 *kaomise-banzuke* (*banzuke* advertising the new lineup of actors who appear in the important *kaomise* performances held every November), 30 *mitate-banzuke* (ranking of actors by performance fee and popularity) and 2,700 *tsuji-banzuke* (posters) in its stock.

<Special Libraries>

The Ikedabunko Library has received numerous books and other materials from individuals and organizations having relations with the library as donations. A large volume of valuable materials and collections are kept separate from the main collection in special library sections each of which takes its name from the associated donator. Such books and materials comprise some of the more distinctive materials of the Ikedabunko Library and reveal the personalities of such donators. The special libraries are detailed below:

Itsuoh Library

The Itsuoh Library consists of the 7,700 books donated by Ichizo Kobayashi in 1952. The library's name comes from Ichizo's pseudonym, Itsuoh.

The collection formerly owned by Ichizo spans a wide range including books of literature, plays, tea ceremony, politics and economy. Part of such collection is a



donation from the people who were close with Ichizo with many pieces thereof containing the signatures of the authors.



Uritate-mokurokus of Art Objects



“ *Uritate-mokurokus* ” (catalogs of vintage art objects for sale) are the 1,900 catalogs donated together with Ichizo Kobayashi's favorite books to the Ikedabunko Library in 1952. Ichizo Kobayashi was an entrepreneur but was also known as a master of ceremonial tea. He collected tea-making utensils, calligraphic works and paintings throughout his life, and was a frequent customer of antique art dealers and old book dealers. For this reason, Ichizo owned a large number of *uritate-mokurokus*. These were mostly made between the end of Meiji period and the pre-war period. In fact, very few places in Japan have such a large number of *uritate-mokurokus* in stock.

Nunoya Library



The Nunoya Library houses 3,000 document items and 1,500 books which were previously kept in Ichizo Kobayashi's birth home in Nirasaki, Yamanashi Prefecture in its stock. The name of this library comes from the trade name of the birth home.

In 1969, the birth home of Ichizo Kobayashi was relocated to within the compound of the Takarazuka Family Land. The property, books and documents of the family were transferred to the new home upon the relocation, but ancient documents were moved to the Ikedabunko Library in 1981 in consideration of the nature of such documents.

These ancient documents consist of government documents from the latter half of the Edo period and the first half of the Meiji period, which were in the possession of the Kobayashi family due to their involvement in the village administration office, as well as private documents of the Kobayashi family. The books cover a variety of fields from literatures of the Edo period to history books, topographies of Yamanashi Prefecture, dictionaries and text books dating from the early Meiji period.

Kobayashi Family Library

The Koyobashi Family Library consists of approximately 9,200 books of Ichizo Kobayashi's eldest son, Fusao; his wife, Fujiko; and his third son, Yonezo. Fusao's collection of approximately 500 books of modern literature covers not only the first edition but also the second edition as well as the revised edition and further paperback editions for one and the same book, mainly consisting of the books of Koyo Ozaki, Kyoka Izumi and Kafu Nagai. This library also includes rare books which were banned at that time. This is a valuable collection of an era which valued glossy book binding.



Shirai Library



The Shirai Library consists of approximately 13,000 pieces of books and other materials collected by Tetsuzo Shirai, a director of the Takarazuka Revue. Such collection was donated to the Ikedabunko Library in 1984.

For production of Takarazuka stages, Shirai visited Europe on five separate occasions and, in particular, during his

first stay in Paris for studying, he collected many western magazines, opera librettos, scores, records, posters, etc. In addition to these items, he left many manuscripts and reporter's memos written by himself, as well as materials of performance of the Takarazuka revue. From these materials, we are able to retrace the footsteps of Shirai, the man responsible for the completion of the Takarazuka revue.

Kawasaki Library

The Kawasaki Library consists of approximately 1,700 Japanese books collected by Yoshitaro Kawasaki, former Vice President of the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Corporation. This collection was donated in 1934, subsequent to Yoshitaro's death.

This collection covers a broad range of books including illustrated readers published in the Edo period as well as topographies such as "*Meishozue*", history books, works of literature, etc. Special prominence should be given to its possession of the old stock of Matsukawa Hanzan, a notable artist working from the end of Edo period through the Meiji period.



Tea Ceremony Houses



Ichizo Kobayashi was known as a business man, as well as a person of culture, and tea ceremony. There are two tea ceremony houses next to the library facilities on the site of the Ikedabunko Library, and tea ceremony practice courses are offered there as part of its cultural programs. One such house is called “Kosai-an”, and was built in 1949 on the site of an old school utilizing old lumber from the former

school structures under the supervision of Ichizo Kobayashi. The other house is called “*Daisho-an*”, and was originally located on the premises of Kobayashi’s home before being moved here in 1960 to abide by the wishes of the late Ichizo who passed away suddenly.

Ikedabunko Library

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Opening Hours: 9:30 AM to 5:00 PM

Closed: Every Monday and first Wednesday of the month. In the event a national holiday falls on either a Monday or the first Wednesday of the month, the library shall be closed the following day as well.

- National holidays and other holidays.
- Year End and New Year holidays (December 30 to January 3)
- Special times for rearranging inventory (typically the last two weeks of June)

