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**KODANSHA
ENCYCLOPEDIA OF
JAPAN**

INTRODUCTION

The *Encyclopedia of Japan* represents the consummation of two decades of efforts by Mr. Shōichi Noma, Honorary President of Kōdansha, Ltd, to further international cultural exchange. These efforts have already borne rich fruit in the founding of Kōdansha International and the many excellent books it has published, as well as in the creation of the Noma African Literature Prize. They now reach a new level of achievement through the completion of this major undertaking.

The *Encyclopedia of Japan* is unique in being the first comprehensive encyclopedia seeking to present the totality of a major world culture in a foreign language. It is probably also unparalleled among works of its type for the close international cooperation it has required. Some 680 Japanese and 524 non-Japanese scholars from 27 nations have contributed articles to it, a few providing more than 100 short articles each. Counting a large number of short articles produced in the Tōkyō office of Kōdansha, about 40 percent of the text was initially produced by Japanese, while the remaining 60 percent was written by foreign scholars. Planning and editing were jointly carried out in Tōkyō and Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The original concept for this encyclopedia was suggested by the New York publisher Mr. Maurits Dekker, and he and Mr. Gen Itasaka of Harvard were the first editors. At the time of completion, Mr. Itasaka was the Editor in Chief, with Mr. Minoru Fujita of Kōdansha the Managing Editor and Mr. Alan Campbell, Dr. Gyō Furuta, and Mr. Takeshi Kokubo the joint executive editors. Two Advisory Committees were created, one in the United States under my chairmanship but including the distinguished English scholar Professor Ronald Dore and three scholars of Japanese birth teaching in American universities, the other in Japan consisting of Japanese scholars under the chairmanship of former president of Hitotsubashi University Mr. Shigeto Tsuru. A staff of up to 25 persons at a single time worked editorially on the *Encyclopedia* in the Tōkyō office, and over the years more than 110 persons, many of them graduate students at Harvard University, were associated with the Cambridge operation to perform the arduous tasks of translating articles from Japanese into English and editing all of the items. The result has been a thoroughly international enterprise, involving mostly Japanese and Americans, but including other non-Japanese, especially those from other English-speaking countries.

This is, of course, not the first encyclopedia on Japan to appear in a foreign language, but it is by far the largest and most comprehensive. The first encyclopedic work of note was the *Dictionnaire de l'histoire et de la géographie du Japon* by É. Papinot, published in 1899 and subsequently in English (*Historical and Geographical Dictionary of Japan*, 1908), which for decades was an indispensable tool for all foreign students of Japanese history. Basil Hall Chamberlain's *Things Japanese* of 1890 was also a treasure house of information on Japan, delightfully presented. These classics have been followed more recently by various other reference works on Japan and major historical encyclopedias in German and French.

All these works, however, are much more narrow in their focus than the *Encyclopedia of Japan* or are now somewhat out of date. It, in contrast, contains the results of the latest scholarship as marshalled by acknowledged experts in each field, and it has 9,417 entries covering 37 categories of information, from such standard ones as history, literature, art, religion, economy, and geography to less obvious fields, such as science, technology, law, women, folklore, plant and animal life, food, clothing, sports, and leisure. Its articles are divided into 123 major presentations of more than 3,500 words each, 1,429 medium-length articles of around 750 to 2,500 words, and 7,865 shorter entries of 50 to 500 words.

The organization and compilation of a work of this magnitude and complexity cannot be briefly described here but deserves a whole separate article. An original proposal for a one-volume encyclopedia grew into an eight-volume work, with approximately 1,000 photographs, maps, and charts, and a ninth index volume, which contains many thousands of names and words mentioned but not given separate entries in the *Encyclopedia* and with Japanese characters included for all proper nouns and other important items for purposes of reference. Many difficult problems had to be solved, such as the question of listing subjects under Japanese terms or their English equivalents, the best English translations for Japanese terms, the correct pronunciation of Japanese names, the division of Japanese words in romanization, the most appropriate use of capitalization,

and many other matters that are too complex to allow easy description. Throughout there was the need for consistency in quality, style, and details of orthography. The whole compilation required an extraordinary effort at cooperation on a massive scale across difficult barriers of language. As such, it itself is a notable achievement of international cooperation in scholarship. It is hoped that it will prove itself worthy of the great efforts put into it by providing assistance to people throughout the world who wish to know more about Japan.

The appearance of the *Encyclopedia of Japan* symbolizes the great importance Japan has achieved in world affairs. The non-Western cultural background of Japan makes it less readily accessible to people in other countries and results in a generally weak representation of Japanese matters in encyclopedias and other works of reference in Occidental languages. As the world's second largest economic entity, Japan has become too important to permit such neglect. The other peoples of the world need to know much more about this country and its culture. It is the hope of Kōdansha and the editors and collaborators in this project that, by providing this reliable, comprehensive, and easily available source of information on Japan, they will foster international understanding of this extraordinary country and in this way contribute to fruitful relations between Japan and the rest of the world. They hope to help answer many of the questions foreigners have about Japan and also stimulate their interest and desire to know more. They realize that many imperfections are inevitable in a pioneering enterprise of this sort, and they would welcome corrections and advice from any source. They realize that more and progressively better work is required if the ultimate goal of true international understanding is to be achieved. This encyclopedia they regard as a beginning, not an end. They hope that, by increasing accurate knowledge about Japan in the world, it will help create conditions that will demand its own subsequent improvement and refinement.

September 1983

Edwin O. Reischauer

PUBLISHER'S FOREWORD

Any country that has one language, is surrounded on all sides by the sea, shares no boundary with another nation, and possesses a long history as well will naturally come to have its own characteristic culture and way of life. Japan is such a country. Due to this particular set of geographical circumstances it has had little opportunity to become known to other countries but at the same time has not been faced with the necessity of being known to them. In line with a national character that makes a virtue of not speaking about oneself, Japan's efforts to make itself known to the world have long been extremely limited in comparison with its avid desire to learn about other countries.

However, in recent years our globe has grown smaller with the progress of world civilization and, more particularly, with the rapid advances in transportation and communications since World War II. In the present world where mutual understanding is vital for peace as well as in the economic and cultural spheres, Japan is no longer in the position of being able to overlook any misunderstanding or lack of understanding on the part of other nations.

We at Kōdansha have been aware of the likelihood of such a situation arising for some time and have long contemplated the possibility of publishing an English-language encyclopedia about Japan that would hopefully contribute to an overall understanding of Japan. After a long period of preparation, work on this project commenced in 1974 and, almost ten years later, the *Encyclopedia of Japan* is now finally ready for publication.

Early foreign works about Japan include the "Wajinden" section in the Chinese work *Wei zhi* (*Wei chih*) dating back to the third century and, in Europe, the reports on Japan written by Jesuit missionaries in the 16th century. Of course numerous fine, scholarly works were written after that, but especially since World War II, Japanese studies has witnessed a spectacular growth and development. Feeling that we should utilize to the fullest the fruits of that development, in the editing of this encyclopedia we have sought the advice and cooperation of scholars throughout the world, and fully half of the contributors to this encyclopedia are non-Japanese. This look at Japanese culture through foreign eyes has provided many new insights and made this an exceptional encyclopedia for Japanese as well as non-Japanese.

Further, in order to introduce Japan as comprehensively and concretely as possible, this work goes beyond history, literature, and art to cover the social sciences, scientific technology, and other topics necessary to present Japan as it is today. Therefore it meets the needs not only of students and scholars in Japanese studies but of all those who feel an interest in or have some particular concern regarding Japan, including businessmen and the general educated public.

This first effort in the world to compile an encyclopedia about Japan in English has entailed various difficulties, but these have now been overcome, and we are proud to present what we feel will be an important work in the advancement of understanding of Japan abroad. All of us involved in the publication of the *Encyclopedia of Japan* will be proud and happy if we are thereby able to contribute even a little to mutual understanding in the world today.

September 1983

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President, Kōdansha, Ltd

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HOW TO USE THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA

General

The *Encyclopedia of Japan* represents a ten-year joint effort by Japanese and Western scholars and editors to provide an up-to-date and sophisticated compilation of knowledge about Japan to the English-speaking world. Only in recent years has such a comprehensive reference work about Japan in English been made possible by the growth of Western interest in and scholarship on Japan. This growth is reflected in the large number (over 500) of Western contributors and the diversity of subjects covered by them. Over half the *Encyclopedia* (some 60 percent of the text) was written in English by Western scholars. At the same time a rapid increase in the number of translators and of English-speaking editors familiar with the Japanese language has made possible the inclusion of many articles by Japanese scholars, particularly on subjects for which no English-speaking author was available. Articles written in Japanese and translated or adapted for the *Encyclopedia* make up the remaining 40 percent of the text, and the number of Japanese contributors is nearly 700. The editors hope that this joint effort will lead to a further breaking down of barriers and to increased cooperation between Japanese and Western scholars.

The *Encyclopedia* covers both historical Japan and Japan in the world today, examining philosophy and science, politics and economics, literature and the arts, food and clothing, and many other subjects. Japan's past and present and its interaction with the West, broadly defined, has also received attention.

The editors have had in mind a wide audience comprising a broad range of interests and levels of knowledge regarding Japan: students, scholars, diplomats, businessmen, and the general public. The challenge thus facing them was that of creating, through the careful selection and preparation of entries, a work that could both introduce Japan to those unfamiliar with it and supply more detailed knowledge for the specialist. To achieve this dual purpose authors of all articles were asked to introduce the topic at a level appropriate for a high-school student and proceed far enough to provide a good starting point for more advanced students with some knowledge of Japan. Authors of articles on more specialized topics were asked to synthesize available knowledge and to indicate the many open-ended questions and areas for further consideration. In all articles basic definitions or explanations have been inserted whenever unfamiliar concepts or Japanese terms are introduced and an effort made to provide sufficient background for the convenience of the general reader.

An important feature of the *Encyclopedia of Japan* is the inclusion of broad introductory or survey articles for most of the major areas into which Japanese culture can be divided. Some of these are of considerable length, for example, the articles on the HISTORY OF JAPAN (almost 70,000 words) and LITERATURE (over 53,000 words). Cross references from these general articles lead the reader to articles of intermediate length on the subordinate topics mentioned in them and directly or indirectly to the many thousands of shorter identification articles that make up the bulk of the *Encyclopedia*.

For the convenience of readers who may wish to use the *Encyclopedia* as an introduction to Japanese culture as a whole or to one of its subdivisions, a list of some of the most important of these general survey articles appears below.

AGRICULTURE
ANIMALS
ART (see also BUDDHIST ART; PAINTING; UKIYO-E; SCULPTURE)
CERAMICS
CLOTHING
COOKING (see also FOOD AND EATING)
ECONOMIC HISTORY
EDUCATION
FILM, JAPANESE
FESTIVALS
FLOWER ARRANGEMENT
HISTORY OF JAPAN
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
JAPAN
JAPANESE LANGUAGE
LEGAL SYSTEM
LITERATURE
MANAGEMENT
MARTIAL ARTS
MEDICINE
NATURAL SCIENCES
PLANTS
RELIGION (see also BUDDHISM; CONFUCIANISM; CHRISTIANITY; SHINTŌ; ZEN)
SOCIETY
THEATER, TRADITIONAL (see also BUNRAKU; KABUKI; KYŌGEN; NŌ)
WOMEN IN JAPAN, HISTORY OF

leadings

effort to reach a wide English-speaking audience the have used English for article titles whenever possible. less, given the special nature of this encyclopedia it atural that many titles are in Japanese. The general been to use English for those topics more likely to be p in English by the general reader and Japanese for pics more likely to be looked up in Japanese. (The lude topics widely known in the West under their names as well as topics likely to be looked up only specialist, who would expect to find them in .) For the many articles that did not clearly fall into these categories the decision was necessarily an ar-one. In such cases, and others where confusion cur, a cross reference under the title in the other e has been provided (e.g., Japan Current→Kuroshio; 1 Jiken→February 26th Incident). Most longer ar-ive been divided into subsections introduced by ; in boldface type or italics so that the reader who wish to read the entire article can easily find infor-some subtopic. In the case of some very long ar-e major subheadings have been listed at the begin-the article.

Arrangement

les are arranged alphabetically. The alphabetization by letter, not the word-by-word alphabetization some encyclopedias. In inverted titles (MACARTHUR, ; MUSIC, TRADITIONAL) the letter-by-letter alpha-n continues to the end of the heading regardless of r or commas. A consequence of this policy (made y by the lack of an established convention regarding ion of romanized Japanese words) is that articles on with the same surname are not necessarily grouped . For example, between MORI ARINORI and MORI SOSEN such articles as MORIGUCHI; MORIKAWA KYOROKU; O KAORU; and MORINAGA & CO, LTD. This is also true es beginning with the same English word, JAPAN ON OF RELIGIONS appearing after JAPANESE AMERICANS NESE SPANIEL rather than being grouped with other beginning with the word Japan. The abbreviation of .) is alphabetized as if spelled out. Numbers are also ized as if spelled out: MARCH 15TH INCIDENT appears ARCH INCIDENT; "441st" is alphabetized "four forty hen two or more articles have identical titles, pro-ns appear first, followed by common nouns. The llowed for identical proper nouns is persons, places, gs.

system of spelling for Japanese words adopted in this edia uses *m* instead of *n* before *p*, *b*, and *m*. This obvious effect on alphabetical arrangement: readers ook for *kampaku*, *shimbun*, and Jimmu rather than *oaku*, *shinbun*, and Jinmu of many recent publica-Another matter that affects the alphabetical place-Japanese personal names is the inclusion or omission o found in ancient names (e.g., Fujiwara no Sadaie). icy of this encyclopedia is to include the *no* in the f persons born before 1193 and to omit it in all later xcept where Japanese common usage includes it, as o no Mabuchi. In article titles and throughout the pedia, Japanese, Chinese, and Korean personal re given surname first, the normal order used in nguages (e.g., Mishima Yukio rather than Yukio a or Mishima, Yukio).

Cross References

The *Encyclopedia* contains two types of cross references: entry-heading cross references and textual cross references. The former (which appear among the alphabetical entry listings in boldface type followed by an arrow pointing to a different title in smaller type) tell the reader that the topic in question is treated under the latter title. Textual cross refer-ences are words that appear in SMALL CAPITALS within the text of an article. The small capitals are an indication that the *Encyclopedia* contains an article whose title either consists of those words or begins with those words (usually the former). For example, in the sentence "The family's fortunes were established by TOKUGAWA IEYASU, who founded the TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE," the words in small capitals indicate actual article titles. In "He fought at the Battle of SEKIGAHARA," the cross reference is to SEKIGAHARA, BATTLE OF. These textual cross references are selective rather than all-inclusive. In other words, all topics in small capitals appear as articles in the *Encyclopedia*, but not all possible topics are so indicated, and the reader should not assume that there is no article on a person or topic not put in small capitals. As general policy, articles on Japanese place names (most important place names have articles) are seldom cross-referenced, and articles on persons and other topics are often not cross-referenced unless they are felt to be immediately relevant to the subject being discussed. Cross references to a subsection within an article take the form "see JAPAN: geological structure," in which the words following the colon indicate a subheading.

Bibliographies

Many articles are followed by suggestions for further reading in English, Japanese, and occasionally other languages. Some of the longer bibliographies are grouped under sub-topics but most are arranged alphabetically by author. The names of Japanese authors are given in Japanese order (sur-name first) for works in Japanese and in Western order for works in English, but the principle of alphabetization by sur-name is unaffected. Publishers' names are included only for certain categories of Japanese reference works and collected texts which often have confusingly similar titles. For an annotated bibliography of works on Japanese history in Japanese, see the article DISCIPLINE OF JAPANESE HISTORY, A GUIDE TO RESEARCH.

No attempt has been made to give English translations of the titles of Japanese works in the bibliographies that follow articles. When Japanese works are mentioned in the text of an article, however, English translations of their titles are usually given in parentheses. When such an English title is printed in italics, it is the title of an actual English translation of the work. When it appears in roman type, it is merely a literal translation of the Japanese title for the reader's information.

Author's Signatures

Names of authors are given in full after the articles or sections of articles written by them. Most articles that appear without a signature were researched and written by members of the *Encyclopedia* editorial staff. In general the names of Japanese authors are given in the normal Japanese order (surnames first) and those of Western authors surname last. However, a number of Japanese authors who publish widely in English preferred to have their names given in the Western order. In order to avoid confusion in these cases, the surnames of all authors are printed in SMALL CAPITALS.

Romanization

The system of romanization for Japanese used in this encyclopedia is the Hepburn or Standard system, the romanization found in most English-language publications on Japan. The *Encyclopedia* follows the older Hepburn practice of using *m* instead of *n* before *p*, *b*, or *m*. Long vowels are indicated by macrons on all words, including well-known place names (Tōkyō, Ōsaka). An apostrophe is used to distinguish syllable-final *n* from *n* at the beginning of a syllable (e.g., *ken'in* "seal of approval" vs *kenin* "vassal"). Japanese vowels are pronounced much as in Spanish or Italian and Japanese consonants much as in English, except that *g* is always pronounced as in "go," never as in "gender." Long vowels are pronounced the same as short vowels but drawn out to approximately double their length. Diphthongs are pronounced as combinations of short vowels. For more on the sound system of Japanese, see the article JAPANESE LANGUAGE.

There is a lack of common agreement on the division of Japanese into individual words in romanization, particularly the many compound words and phrases borrowed from Chinese. The principle followed in this encyclopedia was to divide words so as to make sense and grammatical relationships clear, while at the same time keeping individual words short enough to grasp easily. In some cases the same nominalizing suffix may be spelled as a separate word in one expression and as part of a longer word in another, depending on its grammatical function (e.g., *nihonshi* "Japanese history" vs *gendai nihon shi* "history of modern Japan"). For more on romanization, see ROMANIZATION RULES in the index volume.

Chinese words and names are given in the official *pinyin* system, followed in parentheses by the more familiar spelling that is still to be found in many English-language publications. In most cases this familiar spelling is in the Wade-Giles system. However, for some well-established place names, the more familiar Chinese post office system (the one often used on maps) is followed. A few personal names are given in a dialect spelling that has become established in English (e.g., Chiang Kai-shek, Sun Yat-sen). The system of romanization used for Korean is the McCune-Reischauer system. Sanskrit words are transliterated in the system most widely used in English-language publications.

Illustrations

The *Encyclopedia* contains some 1,000 illustrations in the form of photographs, maps, diagrams, graphs, charts, and tables. In addition to the maps of Japan as a whole in the article JAPAN and the historical and interpretive maps to be found in many articles, there is a map for each of Japan's 47 prefectures in or near the respective article. In the latter, cities, towns, and villages of over 10,000 population are included, as well as some smaller communities of cultural importance. The designation as city, town, or village is an administrative one and may not reflect actual size, i.e., a town may be larger than a city. Railroads in existence as of 1980 have been included on most maps; national highways are shown but not all local ones. The major sources for these maps were 1980-83 publications by the Geographic Survey Institute, a Japanese government bureau.

Dates

Dates prior to Japan's adoption of the Western calendar on 1 January 1873 have been converted from the old Japanese lunar civil calendar. Every effort has been made to give precise conversions, taking into account the discrepancy between the beginning of the year in the lunar calendar and that in the Western solar calendar. Thus the Western dates given in this encyclopedia will sometimes differ from those found in most standard Japanese reference works, as these sometimes assign a date at the beginning or end of the lunar year to the wrong solar year. When data for precise conversion were not available or when the context called for it, the Japanese dates were included along with the Western ones. For an explanation of Japanese dates, see CALENDAR, DATES, AND TIME.

Money

In references to money or value prior to the establishment of the yen monetary system in 1871, values are given in the monetary or nonmonetary units (e.g., measures of rice) in use at the time. Because of the wide fluctuations in value, no attempt has been made to give modern yen or dollar equivalents for these units. For the period 1871 to 1945 most money values are stated in yen. However, because of the great difference between the value of the pre-World War II yen and the postwar yen, no dollar equivalents are given. Post-1945 values are given in both yen and US dollars. Dollar figures are based on the dollar value of the yen in the year in question. For information on these values, see YEN.

Weights and Measures

Japan has used the metric system officially since 1959, and weights and measures are given in metric units throughout the *Encyclopedia*. As a rule these are followed by the US equivalents in parentheses. Whenever traditional weights and measures are mentioned, approximate metric and US equivalents are given. For information on the traditional units, see WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Population and Other Figures

Figures for the populations of Japanese prefectures, cities, towns, and villages are based on the 1980 Japanese census. All other figures have been made as up-to-date as possible, dates being indicated in parentheses. Sales figures and other data for Japanese business firms are based on information provided by the companies themselves.

AL PERIODS USED IN THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA

	ca 300–710
	latter part of the 6th century to 710
	710–794
	794–1185
a	894–1185
ira	1167–1185
	1185–1333
ii	1333–1568
kuchō	1336–1392
u	1467–1568
omoyama	1568–1600
	1600–1868
	1868–1912
	1912–1926
	1926–

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS ENCYCLOPEDIA

a	acre
AB	Artium Baccalaureus, Bachelor of Arts
AD	anno Domini, year of our Lord
AM	ante meridiem, before noon
AM	Artium Magister, Master of Arts
art.	article
b	born
BA	Bachelor of Arts
BC	before Christ
BS	Bachelor of Science
bu	bushel
C	Centigrade
ca	circa
cc	cubic centimeter
cg	centigram
Ch	Chinese
chap.	chapter
cm	centimeter
Co	Company
cu	cubic
d	died
DC	District of Columbia
E	East
ed	editor(s), edited
e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> , for example
Eng	English
et al	<i>et alii</i> , and others
etc	et cetera
F	Fahrenheit
fl	<i>floruit</i> , flourished
fl oz	fluid ounce
ft	foot
gal	gallon
gm	gram
gr	grain
ha	hectare
i.e.	<i>id est</i> , that is
in	inch
Inc	incorporated
J	Japanese
Jr	Junior
kg	kilogram
kl	kiloliter
km	kilometer
Kor	Korean
l	liter
lat	latitude
lb	pound
long	longitude
Ltd	Limited
m	meter
MA	Master of Arts
Mfg	Manufacturing
mg	milligram
mi	mile
ml	milliliter
mm	millimeter
Mt.	Mount, Mountain
N	North
NE	Northeast
no.	number
NW	Northwest
oz	ounce
p	page

para.	paragraph
PhD	Philosophiae Doctor, Doctor of Philosophy
PM	post meridiem, afternoon
pop	population
Port	Portuguese
pp	pages
pt	pint, part
qt	quart
r	reigned, ruled
repr	reprinted
rev ed	revised edition
S	South
SE	Southeast
ser	series
Skt	Sanskrit
sq cm	square centimeter
sq ft	square foot
sq in	square inch
sq km	square kilometer
sq m	square meter
sq mi	square mile
sq yd	square yard
Sr	Senior
supp.	supplement
SW	Southwest
tr	translator, translated
trad	traditionally
vol	volume
vs	verses
W	West
yd	yard

A

abacus

(*soroban*). A portable manual calculator widely used in Japan. It has a rectangular frame with a varying number of vertical bamboo rods. On the present-day Japanese abacus each rod is strung with five wooden beads. The top horizontal row of beads is separated from the other four by a crossbar. Rods to the left of a chosen point designate units, tens, hundreds, and so forth, and rods to the right of that point designate decimal places. The cleared position is with the four beads below the crossbar all down, and the one bead above the crossbar up. To indicate one, move up a single bead below the crossbar on the unit rod. To indicate two, move another up; three, the third up; and four, the fourth. To indicate five, bring the bead above the crossbar down and also move all beads below the crossbar down. Six is shown by leaving the upper bead for five in its down position, and raising one bead below the crossbar up. For seven, raise another lower bead up, for eight, another, and for nine, the last. Thus, all digits from zero to nine can be represented on a single rod. To represent 10, put one on the ten rod, and clear the unit rod; 100, one on the hundred rod, and so forth. Thus base-ten numbers can be represented, with one numeral on each rod.

The abacus varies in size from those small enough to fit in the pocket to large demonstration models used for teaching. The average abacus is from 20 to 30 centimeters (8 to 12 in) in length and from 7 to 12 centimeters (3 to 5 in) in width.

A seven-bead abacus (two beads above the crossbar and five below) was imported from China during the 16th century. By the mid-1700s, when commercial activities flourished, use of the abacus along with reading and writing was taught to the general populace. A Japanese abacus with one upper and five lower beads was used from the Meiji period (1868–1912). In 1926 abacus arithmetic (*shuzan*) became part of the curriculum in the seventh and eighth grades. It was added to the elementary school curriculum in 1938, at which time the present five-bead model was introduced. The abacus is also taught in accounting and business courses in vocational senior high schools.

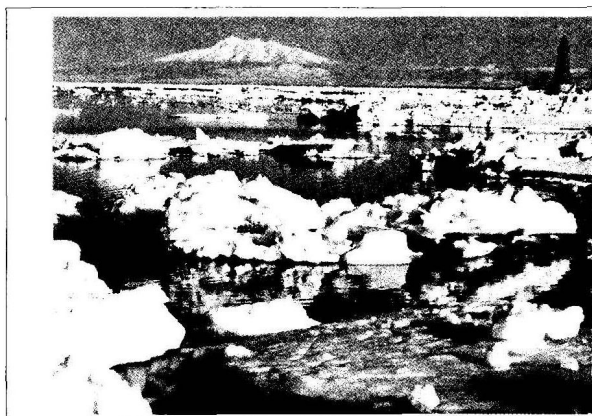
Although small electronic calculators are widely used today, many commercial and banking institutions still depend on the abacus. The Japanese believe learning the abacus develops children's ability to handle figures, and special schools (*juku*) just for abacus lessons flourish throughout the country. Highly skilled abacus users can carry out computations in their heads.

abalones

(*awabi*). In Japanese *awabi* is the common name for large marine snails of the class Gastropoda and family Haliotidae. Ten species of *awabi* are distributed in the coastal waters of Japan. Of these, three large species, namely the *madakaawabi* (giant abalone or *madaka* abalone; *Haliotis gigantea*), *megaiawabi* (*megai* abalone; *H. sieboldii*), and *kuroawabi* (Japanese abalone; *H. discus*), are important to Japan's fishing industry. The first two species occur in the warm current regions of Japan and the Korean peninsula. Some giant abalones attain a shell length of 30 centimeters (12 in). The *kuroawabi* has an exceptionally wide breeding distribution, extending as far as the coast of the Shandong (Shantung) Peninsula, while the convergent pinto abalone (*H. kamtschatkana*) ranges in distribution as far as the northwestern coast of North America. The small *tokobushi* (*H. aquatilis*) is a common species found in the warm currents of Japan and is used for food. As part of the growing shellfish farming industry, abalones are now actively bred in large saltwater tanks until they reach a shell length of about 3 centimeters (1.2 in). They are then released into the sea and cultivated.

HABE Tadashige

The Japanese have known the abalone since ancient times. Judging from Jōmon period archaeological remains and shell mounds, it



Abashiri

Ice floes outside Abashiri harbor in the early spring.

is clear that prehistoric man in Japan ate abalone and utilized its shell for various purposes. The earliest mention of *awabi* in Japanese literature appears in the *MAN'YŌSHŪ*, the oldest extant anthology of Japanese verse, completed in the latter half of the 8th century. The *awabi* was pressed into service as a poetic image for similes or conceits describing a parallel between one-sided love and the univalve (single) shell of the abalone. This elaborate parallel was often repeated and became a fixed conceit in the practice of the Japanese *WAKA* (31-syllable poem). Thus the abalone has long been associated with unrequited love, a notion that is still reflected in a current proverb. In marriage customs of early modern Japanese society, clams (bivalved or double shelled) were served at weddings, whereas abalone was considered an inauspicious or taboo food on such occasions. Whole, dried *awabi* was exported to China for many years because the powdered shell of the abalone as well as the meat was said to be effective for treating eye diseases in ancient China. Although *awabi* was shunned at weddings, it has long been an auspicious symbol when used as *NOSHI*, flattened, dried strips of the flesh fastened to offerings to the gods (*kami*). The *noshi* used today derive from this practice but consist of elaborately folded paper figures employed in gift giving on celebratory occasions. As a food, abalone is eaten by the Japanese boiled or as *mizugai*, that is, eaten raw with a dip made of sweet *sake* (*mirin*), soy sauce, and vinegar.

SAITŌ Shōji

Abashiri

City in northeastern Hokkaidō on the coast of the Sea of Okhotsk. Abashiri has been a flourishing fishing port since the beginning of the 19th century; the catch includes salmon, trout, mackerel, squid, and crabs. The harbor is closed every winter from January to March because of ice floes. Its principal industries are food processing, dairy farming, and lumber. The main agricultural products are potatoes, legumes, and beets. Part of the city is located within Abashiri Quasi-National Park, which has several lakes, a museum, and the MOYORO SHELL MOUND, a Jōmon-period (ca 10,000 BC–ca 300 BC) archaeological site. There is a maximum security prison here. Pop: 44,777.

Abashiri, Lake

(Abashiriko). In the city of Abashiri, northeastern Hokkaidō. The water is a mixture of fresh and salt water; the lake bottom consists of

Abe Akira

it black mud. Pond smelt is the principal catch. Area: 34 sq (sq mi); circumference: 44 km (27 mi); depth: 16 m (52 ft).

Akira (1934–)

st. Born in Hiroshima Prefecture. A graduate of Tōkyō University where he majored in French literature, he worked in radio television production until 1971 when he became a full-time fictional writer. Abe writes in the tradition of the *I-NOVEL* (*wai shōsetsu*), and his major concern is the depiction of events in his own life and the lives of his family. Two of his most highly regarded works are *Miseinen* (1968, *The Adolescent*), a collection of stories, and *Shirei no kyūka* (1970, *Commander on Leave*), his major novel.

family

essential family (uji) of ancient Japan, based in Iga Province (part of Mie Prefecture). Little credence can be given to the account in the chronicle *Nihon shoki* (720) and the 9th-century *Shinsen shōjiroku* that the progenitor of the Abe was Ōbiko no Mikoto, son of the legendary 8th emperor Kōgen. Regardless, many prominent men of the early historical period bore the name Abe; and both the general ABE NO HIRAFU and the prince ABE NO NAKAMARO are said to have descended from this family.

A family claiming descent from a certain Abi (the pronunciation of the name later changed to Abe), elder brother of the chief Ōgasunehiko, who resisted the conquest of Yamato by the first emperor JIMMU. By the middle of the Heian period (1085) they had achieved great power in northern Honshū. See YORITOKI. *KITAMURA Bunji*

Isoo (1865–1949)

ist and Christian educator. A member of the Meiji-period (1912) group of Japanese reformers who were led to socialism by Christianity, he participated in the birth of many of the labor unions and societies that formed the basis of the Japanese labor and labor movements. Abe always professed a gradualist approach to social reform and change and maintained these beliefs even when many of his fellow activists were becoming more radical.

Born in the Fukuoka domain (now Fukuoka Prefecture), he studied at Dōshisha University (Kyōto), where under the influence of NIIJIMA Jō, he became a Christian. After serving briefly as a teacher in Okayama Prefecture, he went to the United States in 1891 to study at the Hartford School of Theology. There he was exposed to Christian socialism, and, returning to Japan in 1895, he devoted himself to social reform and teaching at middle schools. In 1903 he became a professor at Waseda University, where he was an energetic promoter of baseball as a student sport. He also founded the SHAKAI SHUGI KENKYŪKAI (Society for the Study of Society) with KATAYAMA SEN, KŌTOKU SHŪSUI, and Murai Torii (1861–1944). The organization was the parent of Japan's first officially proclaimed socialist party, the SHAKAI MINSHUTŌ (Social-Democratic Party), formed in 1901. Abe was responsible for the manifesto, but the party was outlawed by the authorities shortly after its formation. Abe was opposed to the Russo-Japanese War (1904–05) and, like many who shared his political and social views, voiced his opinions through publication and other activities.

He published the magazine *Shin kigen* (New Era) in 1905 with NOSHITA NAOE and ISHIKAWA SANSHIRŌ and helped to reform the newspaper HEIMIN SHIMBUN in 1907. After the arrest and conviction of Kōtoku Shūsui for an alleged plot to assassinate the emperor Meiji (see HIGH TREASON INCIDENT OF 1910), however, he distanced himself from those radicals advocating direct and violent action to overthrow the state and joined the more moderate ranks of the socialist and labor movements.

In 1921 Abe became one of the founders of the Japan Fabian Society, and three years later was chosen its chairman. About the same time he also formed the Seiji Kenkyūkai (Political Study Association) with such socialist leaders as ŌYAMA IKUO and KAGAWA KIKO.

Abe was also active in the labor movement, participating in such activities as the YŪAIKAI, the precursor of Japan's first major labor union association, the Japan Federation of Labor (SŌDŌMEI). He acted as adviser to the Yūaikai and wrote many articles for its journal.

At the time of the 1926 split in the Sōdōmei between the

left and moderate factions, Abe sided with the moderates and assisted in the organization of their political party, SHAKAI MINSHUTŌ (Socialist People's Party). Chosen chairman, he resigned from his post at Waseda. He was elected to the Diet in the elections of 1928 and 1932.

In order to strengthen the socialist movement and present a stronger front in the face of a darkening political horizon, in 1932, together with ASŌ HISASHI and other leftist elements in the party, he decided to form the SHAKAI TAISHŪTŌ (Socialist Masses Party). Abe was again chosen chairman. As the Shakai Taishūtō began drifting to the right, notably in the late 1930s, Abe felt uncomfortable, and in 1940 he and others resigned to form a new party, calling it the Kinrō Kokumintō (Nationalist Labor Party). It was hoped that the party would continue the moderate social-democratic tradition, but it was outlawed by the government soon after its formation. In 1940 Abe resigned from the Diet. After World War II, he served as an adviser to the newly formed Nihon Shakaitō (JAPAN SOCIALIST PARTY) until his death.

■ — Abe Isoo, *Shakai shugisha to naru made* (1932). Katayama Tetsu, *Abe Isoo den* (1958). Takano Zen'ichi, *Abe Isoo: Sono chosaku to shōgai* (1964). *Charles M. Mergentime*

Abe Jirō (1883–1959)

Philosopher; critic; educator. Born in Yamagata Prefecture; graduate of Tōkyō University, where he majored in philosophy. In 1922, after teaching at several Tōkyō colleges, he became professor of aesthetics at Tōhoku University in Sendai and achieved acclaim as a scholar. He was a follower of the noted early 20th-century novelist NATSUME SŌSEKI; his own writing reflects careful study of Western philosophy. Abe was much influenced by German idealism and introduced Neo-Kantian philosophy to Japan. Among his important early works is *Santarō no nikki* (1914–15, *Santarō's Diary*), a collection containing diary entries, essays, and short stories, which was looked on as something of a minor classic by Japanese young people for many years. After his retirement, Abe founded the Nihon Bunka Kenkyūjo (Japanese Culture Research Institute) with personal funds. Other notable works include *Tokugawa jidai no geijutsu to shakai* (1931), a study of Edo-period (1600–1868) art and society.

Abekawa

Also known as Abegawa. River in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Honshū, originating in the Minobu Mountains and flowing south through the Shizuoka Plain to the city of Shizuoka, where it flows into Suruga Bay. There are numerous landslides at the riverhead. Hot springs are found at the upper reaches, where *wasabi* (horseradish) is produced. Tea plantations are located on the mountain slopes in the drainage basin. The river is the main source of water for irrigating the fertile Shizuoka Plain. Length: 51 km (32 mi); area of drainage basin: 567 sq km (219 sq mi).

Abe Kōbō (1924–)

Novelist and playwright of international recognition, and without doubt one of the most outstanding Japanese literary personalities in the second half of the 20th century. One of the main themes of his novels and plays is the alienation of modern man in urban society. Frequently writing in the style of the absurd, Abe is an observant commentator on contemporary life.

Life — Abe Kōbō (given name Kimifusa) was born on 7 March 1924 in Tōkyō, where his father, a physician hired by the Manchurian School of Medicine in Mukden (now Shenyang), was back on a research assignment. Abe was scarcely a year old when the family returned to Mukden, where he lived until the age of 16. The concept of the *furusato* (hometown), so deeply ingrained in most Japanese, seems to have no place in Abe's life, as he himself admits. In official family documents he is registered as a native of the northern island of Hokkaidō, where he indeed lived for several years, but the place where he was born (Tōkyō), the place where he was brought up (Mukden), and the place of his family's origin (Hokkaidō) have little connection. "I am," says Abe, "a man without a hometown."

In 1941 Abe was sent to Tōkyō for schooling and military training. His academic achievements were not outstanding, and his attitude toward World War II was at best equivocal: revulsion against fascism and militarism mixed with an understandable desire to participate in the national effort.

Abe turned to medicine early, not because he was particularly interested in this discipline, but because he could think of nothing else to do and because his family pressured him in this direction. In 1943 he enrolled as a medical student at Tōkyō University, where he specialized in gynecology. The studies bored him, and he was unsuccessful in his examinations. Nevertheless, he subsequently passed after he informed his professor of his intent not to practice. Abe's study of medicine undoubtedly lends an element to his writing that would otherwise not be present, particularly in such science fiction works as *Daiyon kamyōki* (1959; tr *Inter Ice Age 4*, 1970) and *Ningen sokkuri* (1967, *The Image of Man*).

Abe married while still a student. His wife, Machi, is an accomplished artist and stage designer, and the couple lead independent parallel careers. Machi has provided illustrations of the highest artistry for many of Abe's works.

Abe decided to pursue literature rather than medicine as a career even before graduating from medical school; he published stories during the late 1940s and early 1950s that drew comparison with Kafka's because of their theme of metamorphosis. He continues to be a prolific, innovative writer and enjoys a wide following in Japan as well as abroad.

Works — The twin themes of alienation and loss of identity are central to almost all of Abe's prose works; both are dealt with in contemporary culture and apply not only to Japan, though that is invariably the setting of his works, but also to modern industrial society in general. In this sense, Abe is less specifically Japanese in his approach to modern social problems than such other giants of modern Japanese fiction as TANIZAKI JUN'ICHIRO, KAWABATA YASUNARI, or MISHIMA YUKIO. Yet in another sense Abe is very Japanese; he is not fluent in any foreign language, and his contact with foreign literature has always been through Japanese translations.

From his early novels on, Abe has been consistently preoccupied with the stultifying effect of urban isolation on modern man. In *Suna no onna* (1962; tr *The Woman in the Dunes*, 1964), for example, a schoolteacher who is an amateur insect collector leaves the city to hunt for beetle specimens in an outlying area of sand dunes. He becomes trapped at the bottom of a deep pit where a woman is living and is held captive by villagers who eke out a meager existence among the shifting sands, constantly battling the encroaching dunes to keep from being buried. At first he resists captivity, but ultimately he realizes that what had seemed a prison of sand offers a kind of freedom he had never known before in the city. This discovery is conveyed through the symbolism of the sexual liberation that he experiences in his sandy prison.

A similar escape from urban life and its stifling effects is presented in *Hako otoko* (1973; tr *The Box Man*, 1974), a kind of novel of the absurd in which the protagonist cuts himself off from his fellow men by taking up residence in a box that provides an anonymity and freedom denied him in everyday life. In *Tanin no kao* (1964; tr *The Face of Another*, 1966), the hero endeavors to fashion a new identity by concealing his "real" self with a mask that hides his badly scarred face. In all three of these novels the heroes are alienated from contemporary life, the result of smothering urbanization.

One of Abe's favorite literary devices is the turnabout or inversion of roles. The hunter becomes the hunted; the aggressor the victim. In *Woman in the Dunes*, the insect collector who catches beetles and pins them to a board for classification is himself caught by the villagers, incarcerated in a hole in the sand, and observed in much the same fashion as he had observed his specimens. The inversion of roles is strikingly demonstrated in the way a beetle sought by the collector habitually eludes its predators. The insect lures a pursuer farther and farther into the desert until the chaser is overcome by fatigue and thirst. Then the beetle takes over the role of predator, devouring its prey. The analogy with the insect collector's fate is obvious. Similarly, in *Moetsukita chizu* (1967; tr *The Ruined Map*, 1969) a detective who sets out to trace a missing husband not only fails to find the man he seeks, but in fact ends up losing his own identity.

Another recurrent element in Abe's writing is the city, the modern urban agglomeration—impersonal, stifling, and ugly. Modern man is lost there, in a labyrinth—Abe uses this word frequently—the key to which he is eternally seeking but never finds. The frustration of life under such conditions is overwhelming and emasculating. Man is reduced to mere object; he becomes lost in the maze of the city and ceases to exist because he cannot be seen. For Abe contemporary life is isolated and lonely. Dangerous as well as destructive, urban living is something to flee from, for it crushes man and renders him impotent. In *The Woman in the Dunes*, the hero physi-

cally withdraws from the city; in *The Ruined Map*, by losing his identity he turns away from the city; in *The Box Man*, he rejects the city by secluding himself in a box.

Abe is as serious a playwright as he is a novelist, and heads a theater group that produces his dramatic works. The high quality of their productions has won considerable acclaim. In his play *Tomodachi* (1967; tr *Friends*, 1971), Abe is again preoccupied with loneliness and the city. The protagonist, a young man living alone, is invaded by a large family who claim they have come to rescue him from solitude. Over his objections they insist, absurdly, on the will of the majority and systematically proceed to deprive him of all he has.

Abe is not just a contemporary writer and playwright, he is a true modern in the sense that he deals with the problems of modern life; his writings have universal appeal because the problems they deal with are universal.

■ — Works by Abe: *Abe Kōbō zensakuin* (1972–73). *Bō ni natta otoko* (1969), tr Donald Keene as *The Man who Turned into a Stick* (1975). *Daiyon kamyōki* (1959), tr E. Dale Saunders as *Inter Ice Age 4* (1970). *Mikkai* (1977), tr Juliet W. Carpenter as *Secret Rendezvous* (1979). *Suna no onna* (1962), tr E. Dale Saunders as *The Woman in the Dunes* (1964). *Tanin no kao* (1964), tr E. Dale Saunders as *The Face of Another* (1966). *Moetsukita chizu* (1967), tr E. Dale Saunders as *The Ruined Map* (1969). *Tomodachi* (1967), tr Donald Keene as *Friends* (1971). *Hako otoko* (1973), tr E. Dale Saunders as *The Box Man* (1974). Works on Abe: William Currie, "Abe Kōbō's Nightmare World of Sand," in Kinya Tsuruta and Thomas E. Swann, ed, *Approaches to the Modern Japanese Novel* (1976). Takano Toshimi, *Abe Kōbō ron* (1971).

E. Dale SAUNDERS

Abe Masahiro (1819–1857)

Daimyō of the Fukuyama domain (now part of Hiroshima Prefecture) and senior councillor (*rōjū*) of the Tokugawa shogunate between 1843 and 1857. As chief senior councillor (*rōjū shuseki*) from 1845 to 1855 he was responsible for the shogunate's drastic change of diplomatic policy toward Western nations.

When Commodore Matthew PERRY arrived in 1853 with demands that Japan end its policy of seclusion, Abe took the unprecedented step of soliciting opinions from the daimyō and other officials, Confucian scholars, and even the imperial court. Abe's attempt to achieve national unity failed, however, for the replies were mostly vague and gave the shogunate no clear mandate. Moreover, he had set a dangerous precedent by allowing the imperial court and certain prominent daimyō to participate in the shogunate's decision-making process.

Under renewed pressure from Perry, he concluded a treaty of friendship with the United States (see KANAGAWA TREATY). Similar pacts with Great Britain, Russia, and the Netherlands followed shortly. Abe's policy was attacked by TOKUGAWA NARIAKI of the Mito domain (now part of Ibaraki Prefecture) and others who thought the shogunate should adopt a stiffer posture and attempt to "expel the barbarians." His domestic policies also met opposition, notably from II NAOSUKE, and Abe resigned his position as chief senior councillor in 1855. He remained influential within the shogunate until his death, however, urging the employment of talented men, seeking to modernize the army and navy, and establishing a shogunate school for Western studies.

Abe Nobuyuki (1875–1953)

General and politician; prime minister (1939–40). Born in Ishikawa Prefecture, he graduated from the Military Academy and the Army War College. Abe served as chief of the Military Affairs Bureau (*Gummukyoku*) and army vice-minister before being appointed minister of state in 1930 to carry out the duties of the ailing war minister UGAKI KAZUSHIGE. Put on the inactive list in 1936, three years later he was asked to form a cabinet after the resignation of HIRANUMA KIICHIRO. Abe stressed the overriding authority of cabinet decisions and sought to end the SINO-JAPANESE WAR OF 1937–1945 and to maintain strict neutrality in the growing European conflict. Unable to obtain the cooperation of either the political parties or the military, he resigned in January 1940. Three months later he was sent to Nanjing (Nanking) as a special envoy to advise the puppet regime of WANG JINGWEI (Wang Ching-wei) set up by the