

The Japanese Woodblock Prints

Companion

Dedicated to Arendie and Henk Herwig

The Japanese Woodblock Prints Companion

Publishers, Carvers, Printers, Censors, Poetry Clubs, and Collectors

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Preface

This companion is the revised and extended volume to the *Compendium* published by Brill/Hotei in 2011. It is intended to be a reference guide to publishers, carvers, and printers of Japanese woodblock prints from the genesis of this art form until modernity. It is divided into ten sections, starting with an introductory essay on various aspects of print publishing in Japan. The second section presents 2,820 publisher seals taken from original prints and arranged by shape. These seals served as trademarks and were applied as a means of identifying the publisher who produced and distributed prints. The third section lists 2,086 publishers with their period of activity, location, etc., including a listing of 11,771 publications by 988 artists. The fourth section presents 1,360 carver and printer seals arranged by shape. The fifth section lists 585 carvers and the sixth contains 286 printers. The seventh section contains seals used by poetry clubs as can be found on privately published *surimono*. The eighth and ninth sections are devoted to collectors of prints with 213 seals and 100 collector entries. The tenth section provides an overview of censor and date seals from 1791 to 1875, again with the seals directly taken from original prints. This compendium concludes with a bibliography and four indices. The first index is a key to the Publisher IDs, the second index presents alternate publisher names including family names and shop names, the third index the publications, and the fourth the artists.

The *Compendium* was born out of a personal need. While working on my doctoral thesis on Tōkaidō prints at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands, I looked into marketing practices of Edo period prints and soon realized the importance of publishers. Though there are several works on Japanese book publishers, the information available on print publishers was marginal at best. When identifying prints I was dissatisfied with the scattered or reference lists of publisher seals in Japanese and Western languages. It was clear that some authors repeated older lists without verification, and I decided to put an end to the marginalised status of print publishers. The response to the *Compendium* was overwhelming and it quickly sold out. I am still regularly contacted by print enthusiasts who are seeking a copy and have in recent years received comments from owners that their copies are about to fall apart from heavy use. Since its publication, I have continued to revise existing entries and add to my database, especially information about books that were issued by print publishers. Through the addition of books, contemporary prints, reproductions, and especially *kuchi-e*, I eventually more than doubled the number of publications from 5,700 to now 11,771.

It was always my intention that the publisher *Compendium* would be followed by a similar book on carvers and printers which is another difficult and neglected aspect of Japanese woodblock prints. The same can be said about poetry clubs and print collectors, whose seals can also be found on prints. As with the publisher, censor, and date seals in the *Compendium*, the carver, printer, poetry club, and collector seals were taken from original prints and are not redrawn, thus avoiding the creation of seals that in fact did not exist. I sincerely hope that this new publication will be even more useful than its predecessor and that my misinterpretations are few and minor.

I am grateful to Peter Ruyffelaere at Ludion Publishers who enthusiastically welcomed the idea for this new version. It has been a joy to work again with Jan Johan ter Poorten of Aperta who had designed the first *Compendium*. The *Compendium* and this *Companion* benefited from the support of many individuals, amongst them: Akama Ryō, Horst Gräbner, Hayamitsu Teruko (Unsōdō), Arendie and Henk Herwig, Iwakiri Yuriko, Gary Levin, Ross Macdonald, Rhiannon Paget, William Pearl, Guy Pepermans, Yoko Ueno, and Chris Uhlenbeck. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you.

Finally, this publication would not have been possible without the support of the Nick Hamatake Foundation, Yasmin Alexander, and John Zotos, Sharon and Norman Kreutter, Gordon Brodfuehrer, H. George and Roberta Mann, Judy and Joe Barker, Katherine Martin, and the Japanese Art Society of America all of whom I will be indebted to forever!

Opposite page: Utagawa Yoshiiku. *Coloured Pictures Store (E-sōshi mise)*, from the series *Souvenirs of Edo (Edo miyage no uchi)*. Publisher: Fujiokaya Keijirō. 1861. Vertical ōban. Musée Saint-Remi, Reims (978.1987)

Chapter 2

Publisher Seals

Introduction

Commonly the word ‘seal’ is used when speaking of the trademark of a publisher found on a woodblock print. Instead of a trademark, it could also just be some text that helped to identify the producer behind a print. While some of these publisher seals look like they are indeed the impression from a seal pressed down on the paper, they were not hand-applied but carved into the keyblock and then printed. It is important to note that a publisher seal was not repeated exactly in the same form but they were individually carved, which resulted in many variations, as seen in the eight examples of Tsuruya Kinsuke’s seal 06-002 of a stylized crane with right-angle.

The following section features 2,820 publisher seals arranged by shape. This order of arrangement has proven to be the most efficient way of searching for a seal. This approach was used by the earliest book about publishers of woodblock prints by Ishii and Hirose, 1920. Here, the seals are divided into 30 categories according to shape, the last category encompassing seals of miscellaneous shape. Within these categories the seals are numbered consecutively.

Each seal has two unique identification numbers. The seal-list-ID relates to the entry in this section and consists of two digits referring to the category followed by three digits corresponding to the consecutive number within a category, e.g. 01-020, 26-041. The publisher-seal-ID consists of the publisher identification number and a letter, e.g. 0010c, U97a. Sometimes seals carry two letters, i.e. 0057aa, 0057ab. These letters, starting with ‘a,’ run consecutively within a publisher entry and have not been assigned following a specific order. For each seal, the Japanese character(s) and a romaji transcription are provided. For many seals, an approximate period of time when the seal was in use is given as well. Sometimes different publishers used the same or very similar seals; however, they were not usually used at the same time, as it would have been counterproductive for the publishers who marked prints with their seals in order to be identifiable. In this list, similar or identical seals are reproduced with multiple entries, one for each publisher who used it. By consulting the period of use as indicated in this section, the publisher can then be identified, e.g. 01-020 (1844–55), 01-021 (1858–59).

A number of seals combine publisher and artist information in which case the information has not been read but indicated with (...) ([...] in the romaji transcription). Unread Japanese characters are marked as ○.

Seals that were wrongly arranged in the *Compendium* have been corrected and assigned new seal-IDs. Over 400 new seals have been added.

Publisher Seals

- | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 01 single mountain | 16 square |
| 02 double mountain | 17 square lines |
| 03 triple mountain | 18 horizontal text |
| 04 crossed sickles | 19 horizontal text with seal |
| 05 other mountain shapes | 20 oval |
| 06 right-angle | 21 seal, vertical text (one line) |
| 07 lozenge | 22 seal, vertical text (two lines) |
| 08 circle | 23 seal, vertical text (three lines) |
| 09 hexagon | 24 horizontal then vertical text |
| 10 triangle | 25 vertical text (one line) |
| 11 fan shape | 26 vertical text (two lines) |
| 12 gourd shape | 27 vertical text (three lines) |
| 13 gem stone (<i>hōju</i>) | 28 vertical text (four lines) |
| 14 jar | 29 vertical text (five lines) |
| 15 characters alone | 30 miscellaneous |



01-001 | U490a

—
—



01-002 | 0097a

—
—
c.1769–90



01-003 | 0346a

—
—
1827–31



01-004 | 0525a

—
—



01-005 | U276a

—
—
1840s



01-006 | 0027a

—
—
1780s–90s



01-007 | U484a

—
—
c.1797–98



01-008 | 0391a

—
—
1790s–1860



01-009 | 0030a

—
—
1832–34



01-010a | 0553a

—
—
1790



01-010b | 0553a

—
—
1793



01-011 | 0401a

—
—



01-012 | U481a

—
—
1813–19



01-013 | U222a

—
—
1868



01-014 | 0305a

—
—
1840s



01-015 | U482a

—
—
1800–02



01-016 | U480a

—
—
1801



01-017 | U260a

イ
—
1847–48



01-018 | 0125a

カ
Ka
1818



01-019 | U359a

カ
Ka
1847–49



01-020 | 0581a

カト
Kato
1844–55



01-021 | 0196a

カト
Kato
1858–61



01-022 | 0252a

き
Ki
1854



01-023 | 0241a

キ
Ki
1845–46



01-024 | U396a

ク
Ku
1847–48



01-025 | 0603a

さ
Sa
1800s



01-026 | 0422a

サ
Sa
1810s–50s



01-027 | 0603b

サ
Sa
c.1818



01-028 | U411a

セ
Se
1794–1811



01-029 | 0508a

タ
Ta
1840s



01-030 | U424a

て
Te
1848



01-031 | 0057a

ト
To
1770s–1850s



01-032 | U336a

ト、出
To, De
1816



01-033 | U335a

ト、忠
To, Chū
1817



01-034 | U241a

ノ又
Nomata



01-035 | U378a

ヒ
Hi
1810s–20



01-036 | 0062a

や
Ya
c.1839–45



01-037 | 0063a

や
Ya
1844–56



01-038 | 0464a

ヤ
Ya



01-039 | 0063b

や、はん
Ya, han
1848



01-040 | 0054a

や吉
Ya Kichi



01-041 | U382a

一
Ichi
1778–1810

01-042 | U115a
栄
Ei
1813

01-043 | 0150a
益
Masu
1854–68

01-044 | 0045a
越
Etsu
1860–68

01-045 | U375a
榎
En
1820s

01-046 | 0408a
岡
Oka
1830s–c.1853

01-047 | U129a
加
Ka

01-048 | U387a
角
Kado / Kaku
1851

01-049 | 0085a
叶
Kanō
1843

01-050 | U119a
叶中
Kanō-Chū
1790–96

01-051 | 0223a
岩
Iwa
1845–XII/1862

01-052 | 0047a
喜
Ki
1828–29

01-053 | 0054b
吉
Kichi
c.1786–1830

01-054 | 0188a
吉
Kichi
1849–IV/1852

01-055 | U448a
吉
Kichi
1730s–60s

01-056 | U038a
玉
Tama

01-057 | 0485a
近
Kin

01-058 | 0612a
金
Kin
1830

01-059 | U423a
高
Taka
1817

01-060 | U406a
佐
Sa
1805

01-061 | 0168a
三
San
1800s–30s

01-062 | 0410a
三
San
1883

01-063 | 0583a
十
Jū

01-064 | 0298a
十一
Jūichi
1861–64

01-065 | 0191a
重
Jū
1812–60s

01-066 | U389a
勝
Katsu
1815–16

01-067 | 0472a
小
Ko
1828–33

01-068 | U395a
小
Ko
1849

01-069 | 0586a
庄
Shō
1852–65

01-070 | 0585a
庄
Shō
1828–51

01-071 | 0585b
庄
Shō
1844

01-072 | 0322a
松
Matsu
1851

01-073 | U216a
松市
Matsuichi
1847–48

01-074 | 0565a
上
Ue
1789–91

01-075 | 0233a
上岩
Jōgan
1851

01-076 | 0604a
新
Shin
1843–51

01-077 | U352a
森
Mori
1760, 1772

01-078 | 0353a
森
Mori
1797–1807

01-079 | 0353b
森
Mori
1807–52

01-080 | U402a
政
Masa
1851

01-081 | 0468a
清
Sei
1845–72

01-082 | 0389a
西
Nishi
1800s

01-083 | U383a
石
Ishi
1806

01-084 | U414a
千
Sen
1790s

01-085 | U390a
川
Kawa

01-086 | 0180a
泉
Izumi

01-087 | 0527a
善
Zen
1796

01-088 | 0527b
善
Zen
1796

01-089 | 0371a
多
Ta
1772

01-090 | 0384a
太
Ta
1846–51

01-091 | 0031a
大
Dai
1862–63

01-092 | 0029a
大
Ō
1849–66

01-093 | 0426a
中
Naka
1806–79

01-094 | U372a
長
Chō
1790s

01-095 | 0551a
津
Tsu
1809–22

01-096 | 0358a
萬
Tsuta
1851

01-097 | 0395a
田
Ta
1780s, 1811–15, c.1847–50

01-098 | U418a
嶋
Shima

01-099 | 0605a
藤
To
1801–17

01-100 | 0391b
巴
Tomoe
1750s–c.1806

01-101 | U098a
巴
Tomoe
1720s–30s

01-102 | 0386a
巴長
Tomoe Chō
1804–10

01-103 | U426a
梅
Ume
1849

01-104 | U381a
俵
Hyō

01-105 | U243a
布徳板
Nunotoku han
1813

01-106 | 0080a
伏
Fushi
1820–21

01-107 | 0548a
文
Bun
1814–52

01-108 | 0413a
平
Hei
1810s–51

01-109 | 0543a
豊
To
c.1786–91

01-110 | U380a
本
Hon
1811

01-111 | 0424a
本
Hon

01-112 | 0424b
本
Hon

01-113 | 0453a
又
Mata
1817–30

01-114 | U416a
巳
Shi
1800s

01-115 | U427a
綿
Wata
1830–31

01-116 | 0041a
木
Ki
1830s

01-117 | 0252b
木
Ki
1851

01-118 | U393a
木
Ki
1790s

01-119 | 0423a
与
Yo
1848–60s

01-120 | U405a
利
Ri
1851

01-121 | 0044a
緑
Roku
1835–56

01-122 | 0152a
林
Ri
1810s–67

01-123 | U450a
和
Wa
1790s

01-124 | U374a
傳
Den
1793–96

01-125 | U300a
○
...



01-126 | U379a
廣
Hiro



01-127 | 0512a
榮
Ei
1844



01-128 | U409a
櫻
Sakura
1808



01-129 | U428a
與
Yo
1847–50



01-130 | U400a
萬
Man
1800s



01-131 | 0047d
喜
Ki



01-132 | 1159a
大
Dai



01-133 | 1391a
二
Ni



01-134 | 1405a
サ
Sa
1824



01-135 | 0233h
岩
Iwa
c.1845–46



01-136 | 0754a
カト
Kato
–1830s



01-137 | 0832a
サ
Sa



01-138 | 0833b
一
—



01-139 | U402b
政
Masa
late 1840s



01-140 | U531b
一
Ichi



01-141 | U560a
松
Matsu
1780



01-142 | U584a
春
Shun



01-143 | U595a
ト、角
To, Kaku



01-144 | U604a
繪
Kai



01-145 | U605a
め
Me



01-146 | U606a
戸
To



01-147 | U607a
ウ
U
1811



01-148 | U608a
与
Yo



02-001 | U307a
一
—
c.1745–74



02-002 | U066a
一
—
early 1850s



02-003 | U066b
一
—



02-004 | U465a
一
—
1813



02-005 | 0421a
一
—



02-006 | 0059a
一
—
late 1830s (misdrawn)



02-007 | U385a
カ
Ka



02-008 | U397a
ク
Ku
1847



02-009 | 0603c
さ
Sa
1810s



02-010 | U261a
サ
Sa
1848



02-011 | U407a
サ
Sa
1797



02-012 | 0603d
サ
Sa
1810s



02-013 | U415a
シ
Shi



02-014 | U425a
ツ
Tsu
1843–46



02-015 | U122a
ト
To
1810



02-016 | U042a
榎本
Enmoto
1810s



02-017 | 0475a
塩
Shio



02-018 | U386a
加
Ka



02-019 | 0170a
岩久
Iwakyū

02-020 | U392a

喜
Ki

02-021 | 0549a

亀
Kame

02-022 | 0195a

吉
Kichi
1815

02-023 | 0195b

吉
Kichi
1815–39

02-024 | 0626a

吉
Kichi

02-025 | 0054c

吉
Kichi
late 1820s (misdrawn)

02-026 | U399a

久
Kyū

02-027 | 0089a

枯
Ko
c.1818–22

02-028 | 0460a

幸
Kō

02-029 | 0584a

甲
Kō
1810s

02-030 | 0517a

高
Taka

02-031 | U273a

佐
Sa
1810s

02-032 | U273b

佐
Sa
1810s

02-033 | 0410b

三
San
1883

02-034 | 0608a

三
San
1887

02-035 | 0560a

山
Yama

02-036 | U438a

市
Ichi
1822–23

02-037 | U417a

志
Shi
1861

02-038 | 0607a

十
Jū

02-039 | 0039a

庄
Shō

02-040 | 0311a

松
Matsu
(misdrawn)

02-041 | 0156a

上
Ue
1776–1850

02-042 | U384a

仁
Jin

02-043 | U032a

水
Sui
1828

02-044 | U412a

瀬
Se

02-045 | 0167a

正
Shō
mid-19th cent.

02-046 | 0474a

正
Masa
c.1884–87

02-047 | U285a

清
Sei

02-048 | U419a

惣
Sō
1810

02-049 | U403a

村
Mura

02-050 | U421a

太
Ta
1815–61

02-051 | U032b

大
Dai
1820–37

02-052 | U032c

大
Ō

02-053 | U101a

中
Naka
1845–70

02-054 | U373a

忠
Chū

02-055 | 0112a

長
Chō

02-056 | 0358b

萬
Tsuta

02-057 | U225a

塗
To
1851

02-058 | 0025a

二
Ni
(misdrawn)

02-059 | U227a

二
Ni
(misdrawn)

02-060 | 0581b

八
Hachi
c.1845–48

02-061 | 0500a

半
Han



02-062 | 0499a
半
Han



02-063 | U404a
尾
O



02-064 | 0548b
文
Bun



02-065 | 0399a
平
Hei



02-066a | 0412a
本
Hon
1790s–1812



02-066b | 0412a
本
Hon



02-067 | 0276a
本
Hon



02-068 | 0180b
本
Hon
1827, 1834



02-069 | U072a
本
Hon
1812–13



02-070 | 0172a
本
Hon
1750s–80s



02-071 | U072b
本長
Honchō



02-072 | U401a
万
Man



02-073 | U394a
木
Ki
1800s–28



02-074 | U234a
利
Ri



02-075 | 0152b
林
Ri
1821 (misdrawn)



02-076 | U307b
萬
Man



02-077 | 0512b
榮
Ei



02-078 | U470a
幸板
Kō han



02-079 | 1036a
本
Hon



02-080 | 1152a
岡
Oka



02-081 | 1299a
伊
I



02-082 | 1381a
本
Hon



02-083 | 0556j
—
—
IX/1854–IV/1856



02-084 | 0835a
キ
Ki



02-085 | U600a
—
—



02-086 | U614b
清
Sei
c.1849–51



03-001 | 0555a
—
—
1773–1849



03-002 | 0555b
—
—



03-003 | 0555c
重
Jū
1849



03-004 | 0556a
—
—
1820s–61, 1871



03-006 | U410a
三
San
1815



03-007 | 0039b
庄
Shō
(misdrawn)



03-008 | 0311b
松
Matsu
1790s



03-009 | 0311c
松
Matsu
1810s–c.1832



03-010 | 0311d
松
Matsu
1790s



03-011 | U391a
川
Kawa
1847



03-012 | 0172b
本
Hon
c.1765–70



03-013 | 0539a
利
Toshi
c.1821



03-014 | 1365a
大門口
Daimonguchi



03-015 | 0311e
松
Matsu
(misdrawn)



03-016 | U579a
三
San



04-001 | 0059b
—
—
1832–44



04-002 | U468a
—
—
1770s



04-003 | U398a
ク
Ku
1847



04-004 | U268a
サ与
Sayo
c.1850–51



04-005 | U413a
セ
Se



04-006 | 0416a
一
Ichi



04-007 | 0595a
久
Kyū
from c.1812



04-008 | 0593a
久
Kyū
c.1805–11



04-009 | U364a
牛
Ushi



04-010 | 0352a
玉
Tama
1825–35



04-011 | U437a
口
Ku
1797–98



04-012 | 0460b
幸
Kō



04-013 | 0282a
三
San



04-014 | U420a
宗
Sō



04-015 | U388a
上
Kami



04-016 | U403b
村
Mura



04-017 | U422a
太
Ta
1848



04-018 | 0192a
大
Ō
(misdrawn)



04-019 | 0515a
忠
Chū
1821–25



04-020 | 0025b
二
Ni



04-021 | U227b
二
Ni



04-022 | U376a
福
Fuku



04-023 | 0600a
平
Hei



04-024 | 0231a
本
Hon



04-025 | 0627a
万
Man
c.1873–74



04-026 | 0628a
万
Man
1827



04-027 | 0015b
有忠
Arichū



04-028 | 0502a
鈴伊
Suzui



05-001 | 0590a
ト
To



05-002 | U348a
三
San



05-003 | U408a
サ
Sa
1835



05-004 | U377a
平
Hei
c.1848



05-005 | 0384b
人、太
Nin, Ta



05-006 | U019a
長
Chō
1851



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