



FEATURE

Hiroshima University Library publishes www.hiroshima-u.ac.jp/library

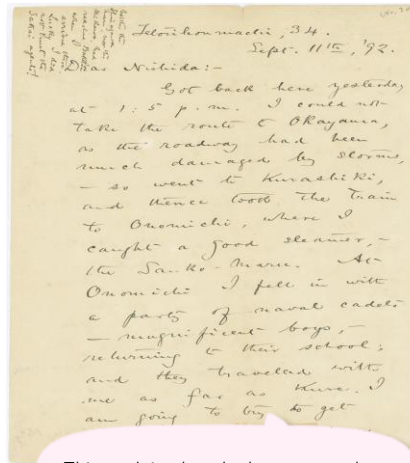
Letters from Literati ~Lafcadio Hearn and Akahiko Shimaki~

Nowadays e-mails and SNS dominate our communication, while handwritten letters have become increasingly rare. We invite you to experience the heartfelt expressions of literary figures through words inscribed on a letter. This exhibit features letters from Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo) and Akahiko Shimaki, preserved in the Special Collections Room of the Central Library.

Letters from Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo) Addressed to Sentaro Nishida

Lafcadio Hearn (Koizumi Yakumo), best known for bringing Japanese literature to the west, beside his work such as *Kwaidan* -Stories and Studies of Strange Things-, he came to Matsue in Shimane Prefecture in 1890 to serve as an English teacher. While, Sentaro Nishida is known as someone who supported Hearn's life in Matsue both publicly and privately. (In the currently airing NHK morning drama *Bakebake*, he is preformed by Ryō Yoshizawa.)

Their correspondence continued even after Hearn left Matsue, lasting until Nishida's death in 1897. The surviving letters reveal the deep respect and trust Hearn held for Nishida. Our library preserves fifteen of these letters, donated by Nishida's second son, Keizō, who served as dean of the Faculty of Fisheries and Animal Sciences at our university. Digital images of the letters are available through our online archive. In addition, the Japan Search Gallery's exhibition "The Heart of Hearn: Letters to Sentaro Nishida" provides digital access to these letters alongside those held by the Shimane University Library and the Matsue City Central Library.



This explains how he has met students from the Naval Academy on a steamship from Onomichi and had traveled together with them to Kure.

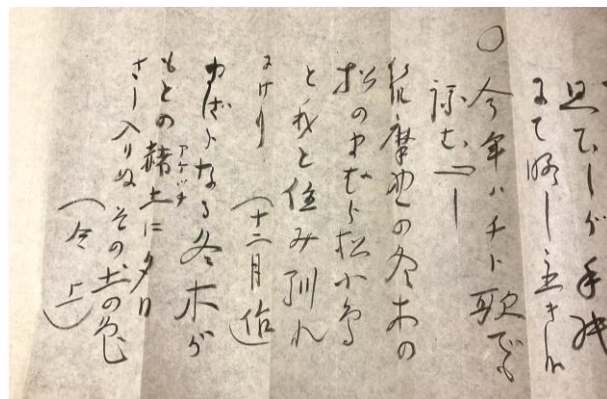


September 11, 1892
(Meiji 25), Kumamoto

Japan Search Digital Gallery →



Letter from Akahiko Shimaki Addressed to Kisaku Obi



This letter was written by Akahiko Shimaki (1876-1926), a poet of the Araragi school, and sent to his colleague Kisaku Obi during their time as elementary school teachers in Nagano Prefecture.

The example shown above is dated New Year's Day of 1911 (Meiji 44). At the end of the letter, Shimaki includes two poems:

"Among the sparse pines of the winter trees in Chikuma-no, little birds and I have grown accustomed to living together."

"Sunset light filters through the sparse winter trees onto the reddish earth at their roots, revealing its color."

Our library holds sixty of his letters in the Special Collections Room, but their contents can also be viewed in the facsimile edition (Large Archives D: 911.16/Sh-37) and in the collected works.

Further Reading



Correspondence Between Lafcadio Hearn and Sentaro Nishida

Translated by Masao Tsunematsu, Yakumo Society, 2020
Call No. 935.6/H-51

(Central Library Stacks)

You can view both the transcribed text and the Japanese translation

Spooky tale: Stories and Studies of Strange Things

By Hearn, Iwanami Shoten, 2010
Call No. 933/H-51

(Central Library, Small Books Section and others)



Collected Works of Akahiko

Edited by Toshihiko Kubota
Iwanami Shoten, 1929-1970
10 volumes
Call No. 918.68/Sh-37

(Central Library Stacks)

A transcription of the letters is included in Volume 8 of the collection





January Library Updates

HULS New Year Campaign:**"Book × Crossword"**

Cent.

Solve crossword puzzles using book-related vocabulary, and win prizes!

- 1 Get the crossword at the display corner.
- 2 Hints can be found inside the displayed books...
- 3 Winners can pick up original library goods at the counter

Starting January 8th ~
Central Library, 1st Floor



Let's use books &
share our ideas

West Participants Wanted!



Date: January 14, 2026 (Wed) 16:20-17:50

Location: West Library, 2F Seminar Room

Theme: Is it a necessary rule? Or an unnecessary rule?

Graduate Thesis
Deadline
Approaching

**WRITING
CENTER**

supports your academic
writing!

Details→



TOPICS

Highlights of the Month

**Books Hiroshima University
Students Should Read in 2025**

West

Library supporters at HULS have selected books from a student perspective—essential texts for study and recommended reads for your post-secondary education. This year, many titles are on display on the 2nd floor of the West Library.



Studying Libraries
Sho Sato,
Seikyusha, 2024

**Stories Delivered
to the Stars**
Maho Fujisaki et al.,
Shinchosha, 2025



**Beautiful Western-Style
Buildings in Japan**
Takayuki Ito, X-Knowledge 2023

Many more
titles on display!

Exhibition Display

Cent.

ビブリアバトル



The Patron recommends books selected during the 2025 National University Bibliobattle Championships and regional qualifying rounds.

Location: Central Library, 1st Floor Display Corner



CALENDAR

January's Calendar

Central Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

East Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

West Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Kasumi Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Higashi-Senda Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

■ Closed
■ Partially opened

Detailed opening
hours [Scan→](#)

