

T S R N A G

[掲載]

Color
Special Issue

Stylish and Comfortable Paper-Based Summer Fashion

Explore

Using Energy from Timber Waste to Help
Achieve the SDGs

Advance

Facilitating Work away from the Office:
Paper Items for Remote Work

Stylish and Comfortable Paper-Based Summer Fashion

In recent years, the fashion industry is experiencing a boom in releases of new items that place the spotlight on the functionality of paper, and specifically traditional Japanese *washi* paper. New materials created by applying a synergy of traditional *washi*-making techniques and state-of-the-art technologies preserve the advantages of paper, such as light weight, soft texture, and outstanding fast-drying properties, and solve issues such as the weakness that makes wet paper easy to tear, and its coarse and stiff feel. We are witnessing an ever-expanding a lineup of apparel and household items that gain popularity as fashion pieces distinguished by outstanding durability and unique textures. Such items are gentle on the skin, and alleviate the sticky feeling and discomfort caused by perspiration. This refreshing dryness makes them perfect for the high temperatures and humidity of the summer season. Make sure to try on this “paper” fashion tailored specifically for the climate and geographic characteristics of Japan.



TSUNAGU 2021 Summer

TSUNAGU is a public relations magazine published by Kokusai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd. An exploration in rediscovering a fascination with paper, we link paper and culture, paper and business, and paper and people.

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Eco-friendly, Light, Easy-fold-out Checkered Paper Fan

This coordinated outfit of an oversized white T-shirt combined with denim pants creates a casual weekend look. Accentuated with a drawstring bag in a subdued color for carrying accessories, and a pastel-pink mask, the outfit is completed with a pair of light and comfy shoes, creating a simple and relaxed summer look.





Gentle Washi Mask <Color>
Curet Corporation

A 100% plant-based mask made with *washi* fibers from perennial plants that are dyed in gentle natural colors with the *nokorizome* technique, which uses pigments derived from timber from the forest thinning and pomace. The natural fibers ensure a soft feel on the skin, while the humidity control and deodorizing effect of the plant-based materials reduce the stickiness and unpleasant feeling inside the mask. The UV barrier function, which protects the skin from the harmful ultraviolet radiation in summer, is another delightful feature of the mask.

Colors: Cherry blossom, hinoki, egoma, spinach, blueberry, chestnut
Size: approx. 220mmx150mm
*The photo features a cherry blossom colored mask.
<https://curetex-washi.com/>



Washi Espadrilles
ORIGAMIX

Barefoot-wearable comfortable slip-on shoes made with *washi* paper. The excellent air permeability and quick drying properties prevent the sticky feeling caused by sweat, and the natural deodorizing effect reduces odors. Surprisingly light, the shoes can be worn for a long time without experiencing fatigue, and will dry swiftly even if soaked by rain in a sudden storm. These features make them the perfect daily footwear for summer.

Colors: Black, navy, beige
Size: 22.5-24.5cm (5 sizes)
<https://origamix1891.jp/>



SIWA Drawstring Bag | SIWA

This drawstring bag made of *washi* paper can perfectly hold a smartphone and a purse, makeup and other accessories. With its wide opening, the bag is very easy to use and can be carried as an inside pouch in a larger bag. On top of its durability and resistance to tear, the SIWA drawstring bag delights with its lightweight and soft texture inherent to *washi* paper.

Colors: Gray, dark pink
Size: Small, medium, short with a gusset, long with a gusset
*The bag featured in the photo is gray, medium size
<https://siwa.jp>



Inlay Crew Sweat T-shirt (Women)
UNDERSON UNDERSON

99.9% of the fabric that comes in direct contact with the skin in this crew sweat T-shirt is made with *washi* fibers, which create a softer and better fit each time the shirt is worn. With its loose and relaxed form, this T-shirt can be worn not only as a home wear but also on a casual outing. Its outstanding sweat absorption, fast-drying, and deodorizing properties make it an excellent choice for a long day of wear.

Colors: White, black
Size: 0, 1
<https://undersonunderson.com/>



WASHI DENIM Cocoon Wide
Right-on Co., Ltd.

A popular denim item that offers a light and comfortable wearing experience. The *washi* fibers made of Abacá that are woven into the denim fabric give it outstanding air permeability and absorb the unpleasant smell of sweat thanks to their natural deodorizing properties. The soft and smooth texture makes this item the perfect choice for a daily wear during the hot summer months.

Size: Small, medium, large
<https://right-on.co.jp/>

A coordinated outfit for people who wish to spend their time at home at leisure but also in style. The pieces, which allow you to enjoy stress-free comfort at home as well as outside, are complemented with a smooth and soft cushion chair, room shoes, as well as an *uchiwa* fan with a refreshingly cool design made from Mino Washi paper.





Sleeveless Top (women)
UNDERSON UNDERSON

Perfect for free time, this sleeveless top strikes a fine balance between the casual and the mature look. The side slit and the difference in length between the front and the back of the garment create a sleek silhouette. The smooth and comfortable fit inherent to *washi* fabrics brings the ultimate relaxation to the time you spend at home.

Colors: Beige, brown, pink Size: 1, 2
*Sleeveless top featured in the photo is beige.
<https://undersonunderson.com/>



MIZUUCHIWA
leda paper-craft Inc. / Kaminoshigoto

An elegant *mizuuchiwa* (water fan) created by experienced craftsmen by pasting extremely thin handmade Mino Washi paper made from *ganpi* onto a bamboo frame, and then coating it with natural varnish. The translucent finish of the thin *washi* paper creates a feeling of refreshing coolness, and the exquisite design elevates these fans into beautiful interior items that will brighten up any room.

Size: H345mmxW174mm (oval shaped)
*The photo features a fan with a water motif.
<https://www.kaminoshigoto.com/>



Cushion Chair / SASAWASHI Beige
(SEMPRE original limited product)
Sold by SEMPRE HOME

An all-natural cushion chair made with SASAWASHI, a new fabric woven with *washi* fibers blended with Kuma bamboo grass. Thanks to the excellent absorption properties of *washi*, the surface of the cushion is always smooth and fresh, while the natural antibacterial and deodorizing power of SASAWASHI suppresses the spread of bacteria and prevents unpleasant odors. The cushion chair is an original limited product of SEMPRE HOME.

Colors: Beige, gray
Size: φ500xH140mm
<https://www.sempre.jp/>



SIWA Slippers | SIWA

Time and wear only enrich the appeal of these smooth and comfortable slippers, which provide an opportunity to experience the inherent allure of *washi* paper. Resistant to water and tear, the slippers are perfect for heavy everyday use. Moreover, they are light and come with a special bag made of the same material as the slippers, which allows to carry them comfortably on journeys or business trips.

Colors: Dark pink, brown, gray
Size: Small (22-25 cm), Large (26-28 cm)
*The photo features a pair of dark pink slippers.
<https://siwa.jp>



KAMICO Skirt | mont-bell Co., Ltd.

The KAMICO Series was developed by the outdoor brand mont-bell as a line of wear tailored to the hot and humid climate of Japan. The paper fibers are made from Abacá, a material with low environmental impact, and are smooth, without scuffing, and ensure excellent air permeability, which results in a cool and refreshing feel, soft texture, and exquisite comfort.

Colors: Bark, sailor blue
Size: Skirt length 82cm (XS, S, M, L, XL)
<http://www.montbell.jp/>

BRAND INTERVIEW

Ai Ichinose

Brand Producer

SIWA

Aspiring to popularize the new appeal and potential of paper with SIWA brand products

The *washi* product brand SIWA was born in Ichikawa Daimon in Yamanashi Prefecture, a region boasting a 1,000-year history of *washi* paper-making. It was established in 2008 as an original commodity product brand by ONAO, a *washi* manufacturer of *shoji* paper and various other products. ONAO has so far launched approximately 50 original items, such as tote bags, purses, and wallets, made of NAORON, an original tear-resistant *washi* material developed by ONAO. "As demand for *shoji* paper, which until then had been the core of our business, declined in line with the changing times, the aspiration to come up with a new approach to convey the appeal of *washi*, both domestically and internationally, led to the birth of the SIWA brand," reminisces the brand producer Ai Ichinose.

The person in charge of SIWA design is Naoto Fukasawa, a product designer of domestic and international acclaim. A native of Yamanashi Prefecture, just like ONAO, Fukasawa felt interest in the diverse potential of *washi* materials, and agreed to work on the SIWA brand. "Until then, product planning and design were conducted entirely in-house, so we often found ourselves stuck in the stereotype that *washi*, being traditional Japanese paper, should be used only in traditional Japanese products and designs. That is precisely why we decided to seek outside help to develop the brand. Courage was required to approach an internationally active designer such as Mr. Fukasawa, but by putting him in charge of our brand, I believe we managed to create SIWA's unique global perspective."

The SIWA brand items are created with a new type of paper called NAORON, which is made using traditional paper manufacturing techniques. Originally developed in response to the demand from hotels and restaurants for tear-resistant *shoji* paper, this new material is distinguished by its strength, which makes it resistant to tearing even when wet, combined with a soft, smooth texture typical of *washi* paper. There are two types of NAORON: SOFT NAORON, a mixture of wood pulp and polyolefin fibers, which is soft and flexible, and HARD NAORON, which boasts superb durability achieved by adding recycled polyester fibers from used plastic bottles and textile products into the paper pulp. The characteristics demanded from each individual product determine which kind of NAORON is used.

The outstanding designs created by Fukasawa caught the spotlight, and gradually SIWA gained recognition. About five years after the birth of the brand, a fashion magazine featured a SIWA clutch bag, triggering interest in the company's products as fashion items. "People who learned about SIWA from the attractive appearance of the products, became fans of the brand after holding the items in their own hands. Many were surprised by the diverse functionality of *washi* paper, and particularly by its smooth texture, light weight, and

tear-resistant durability," says Ai Ichinose. Another surprising discovery was the large number of people who were fascinated by the time-induced change inherent to *washi* materials. "In the process of their use, SIWA products undergo various changes. Fibers come off, white scuffing appears, colors change subtly. Many people enjoy the special flavor that *washi* products, just like leather items and denim, acquire with the passage of time." Moreover, in recent years, against the backdrop of various initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and as environmental issues are once again coming into the spotlight, a growing number of customers choose SIWA brand products made of *washi* paper materials from the perspective of reducing environmental impact.

For 13 years now, SIWA has continued to promote the appeal of *washi* paper, steadily expanding its fan base across various generations. In recent years, the brand has released a succession of unique items that excite the curiosity of customers with high sensitivity for current trends. One example is the SIWA x URUSHI Series, in which a special technique is used to print traditional lacquer onto NAORON. There are also items created in collaboration with writers and popular film projects. Moreover, the company continues to expand the appeal of *washi* paper on the global stage by steadily growing its sales performance in more than 25 countries with a focus on Europe. Here is what Ai Ichinose had to say when asked about the future of the SIWA brand: "We want to create products that meet the specific needs of each of our customers. As the first step toward achieving this goal, we are advancing preparations to launch customized services tailored to customers' demands, such as printing their name on items and diversifying bag handle sizes to ensure that they match each person's preferred size. Through our continuous work on developing the brand, we came to realize that we have gained a growing community of fans who have favored SIWA items for many years. We want to connect with these patrons of the brand, as well as with new customers, in a direct manner, by providing finely-tuned services."

With their outstanding air permeability and smooth and cool texture, the products of the SIWA brand are the perfect choice for Japan's hot and humid summer. Also, as nowadays masks have become an indispensable item in daily life, "the SIWA masks made from soft NAORON provide reliable prevention of droplet spread, while their good air permeability secures easy breathing. We come up with new colors for each season, so the SIWA masks are very popular as a fashion item as well," explains Ai Ichinose. The SIWA products, which combine the diverse functionality of *washi* paper with various cutting-edge technologies, will undoubtedly continue to expand their potential in the future.



COMPANY PROFILE

ONAO CO., LTD

Address: 1460-12 Ichikawadaimon, Ichikawamisato-cho, Nishi-yatsushiro-gun, Yamanashi Prefecture

TEL: +81-55-287-9314 (SIWA Dept.)

HP: <https://siwa.jp>

Presenting the KPP Group's Diligent Efforts toward Realizing a Sustainable Society

KPP Sustainable Times

A proposal from KPP

Using energy from timber waste to help achieve the SDGs

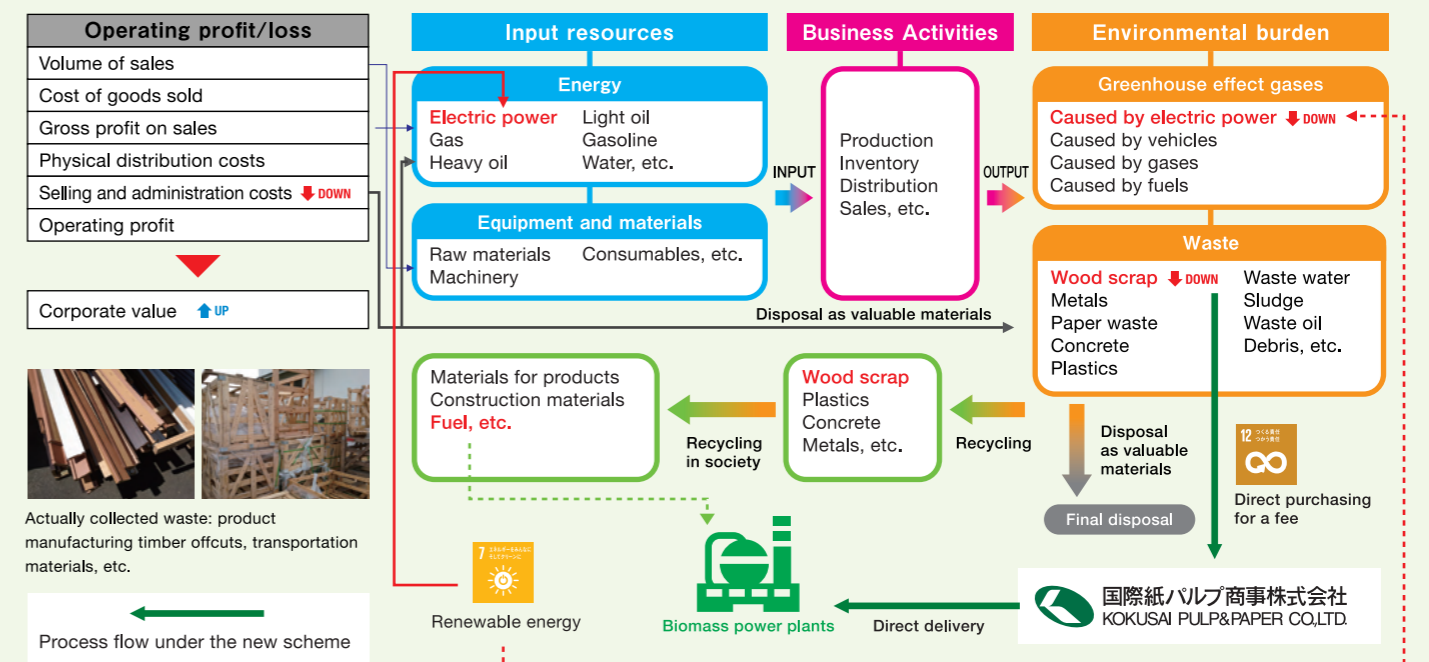
"Responsible production" by manufacturing industries as a way to help achieve the SDGs

The business activities of manufacturing industries generate various types of waste on a daily basis. Most of this waste is handled by collection and disposal operators as materials of value, and the cost burden of such waste disposal is by no means light. Also, as awareness with regard to the global environmental problems has grown in recent years, a large portion of the collected waste is now recycled, so the impact on the environment is steadily declining. Parallel to such initiatives, as the SDGs movement is gaining momentum, the responsibility companies are expected to shoulder is gradually becoming heavier. As a part of this trend, the manufacturing industry is facing the demand to engage in various initiatives in order to fulfill its obligation of "responsible production." It is necessary to make greater efforts in order to achieve the goals of waste reduction, recycling and reuse, and management.

Buying timber waste from manufacturers for a fee, and reusing it as fuel at biomass power plants

At KPP, we turned our attention to timber waste generated during the product manufacturing process. Normally, timber waste is disposed of as industrial waste, for a fee, but we have come up with a way to reuse it as a resource. KPP buys the timber waste from manufacturing companies, and reuses it as fuel at biomass power plants related to the company. Since we pay a certain fee to acquire the waste, this initiative has a direct impact on manufacturers' efforts to cut waste disposal costs. Moreover, as the processing (incineration) is conducted in an appropriate manner under the supervision of KPP, manufacturers can dispose of their waste safely and with peace of mind. By using energy generated from timber waste as an alternative to coal fuel, we at KPP reduce waste in general, and by efficiently utilizing such timber waste as a resource, we aim to realize a totally recycling-oriented society.

Manufacturing industry material flow and effect of the adoption of the new scheme



As an initiative that secures reduction of waste disposal costs for the manufacturing industry, steady supply of high-quality fuel for power plants, and reliable long-term suppliers of wood chips for KPP, this project is a groundbreaking win-win-win arrangement. Moreover, if certain conditions are met, there are cases in which it is possible to purchase waste as full-value materials with transportation costs included in the price. Contact the person in charge if you are interested in this initiative.

Contact information for service-related inquiries

BMecomo Section IT Innovation Dept.
Advanced Business Development Div.
KOKUSAI PULP & PAPER CO., LTD.
TEL: +81-3-3542-9080 FAX: +81-3-3546-2077
Mail: kpp_BMecomoSec@kpp-gr.com

▶ Formulating Our Corporate Message

Humankind's mass consumption of fossil fuels since the Industrial Revolution has caused ongoing emissions of the greenhouse gas CO₂ and in turn triggered global warming. The United States has rejoined the Paris Agreement under President Biden's leadership, and the goal of carbon neutrality is now in the spotlight. Initiatives to build a decarbonized society are now underway in countries around the world. Meanwhile, new technologies including AI and IoT, the drivers of the fourth industrial revolution require the support of data centers which use massive amounts of electricity, making business models predicated on the use of clean energy essential, if we are to successfully conserve our global environment.

Without controls on petroleum-derived products and fossil fuels, I feel it will also be difficult to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 14 and 15, Life below Water and Life on Land. Concerns about the impact marine pollution caused by microplastics may have on the ecosystem have led to the construction of frameworks to resolve the issue by organizations including the United Nations and the Conference of the Parties (COP) held

by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

With the close relationship that the pulp and paper industry has maintained with forestry businesses for many years, we have engaged in efforts to reduce our environmental impact from various angles, encompassing everything from afforestation and resource recycling of paper raw materials to cogeneration using biomass fuels. Meanwhile, the solution to how we might shape a human character that is rich in spirit, culturally and artistically enlightened, and well educated, is not something AI can do.

The global alarm is sounding about our societies and their economic systems, at least as they exist today, and how they are sacrificing our planet. In my view, the digital and paper-based worlds are not diametrically opposed; rather, they are complementary to one another and will continue to be so, if we ground them in themes of the global environment and human existence.

"A Paper Trail for Creating the Future" is our new corporate message, and our invitation to the whole earth.



田邊 岡

Madoka Tanabe

Director of the Board
Chairman & Chief Executive Officer



Afan Woodland, full of biodiversity

“A Paper Trail for Creating the Future”

The origins of the written letter or character can be traced back to the fourth millennium BC. Linguistic communication saw the addition of writing, then paper was invented, and later printing techniques were developed. Letterpress printing in particular made major contributions to Europe's Renaissance and Reformation, as well as to the scientific revolution. Paper, along with written letters/characters and movable type, can be considered a monumental innovator that has supported the advancement of humanity. Paper is what will now show the way to new future for us as we work to preserve our rich natural environment. To use this eco-friendly product, paper—this is what it means to create the future.

Kokusai Pulp & Paper Co., Ltd.

RECOMMEND SPOT

Printing Museum, Tokyo



The Printing Museum, Tokyo uses its collections to demonstrate the role that printing has played in people's lives from various perspectives.

Printed matter including newspapers, magazines, in-store posters, and product packages, by recording and reproducing information on paper, continues to support daily life even in this age of advancing digitization.

The Printing Museum, Tokyo takes a diversified approach to the showcasing the roles and accomplishments of printing, stages in the evolution of printing technology, and contemporary printing expression. It is a corporate museum established to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of Toppan Printing Co., Ltd., one of the world's leading printing companies, and it houses approximately 70,000 historical printed materials, including important Japanese Cultural Properties. In addition to its collections of valuable modern and ancient items from all over the world, the museum systematically introduces printing devices, including a rare one for letterpress printing, as well as the history of the development of printing technology.

Most interestingly, visitors can understand the cultures that printing has contributed to among peoples and societies, along with the historical backgrounds of each region. The museum's visual exhibits, which include sounds and images, allow visitors to enjoy learning about printing while linking it with knowledge in a wide range of fields including culture, history, literature, and art.

The Printing Museum was remodeled and reopened in October 2020, while celebrating its 20th anniversary, so even if you have visited the museum before, we recommend that you take this opportunity to revisit it.

INTERVIEW



Yasuhito Nakanishi
Curator, Manager,
Printing Museum, Tokyo.

Since opening in 2000, the Printing Museum, Tokyo has welcomed over 645,000 visitors, many of whom are university and vocational school students, and has been used widely as a place for learning that transcends academic disciplines. In addition, the Printing House hosts workshops and events throughout the year that let visitors experience printing, so please come and enjoy the charm, pleasure, and depth of printing.

Printing Museum, Tokyo

Address: Toppan Koishikawa Head Office Building 1-3-3 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo

Hours: 10:00-18:00 (last admission: 17:30)

Closed: Mondays (except for Mondays that are national holidays or substitute holidays, in which case the Museum is closed the following day), year-end and New Year holidays, and during changes of exhibitions.

*Subject to change due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please check the website for details.

Admission: Adults: 400 yen / University Students: 200 yen / High School Students: 100 yen
*Junior high school students and younger, as well as adults aged 70 and over: Free

*Admission fees are subject to change during temporary exhibitions. For details, please check the latest information on the website.

Inquiries: +81-3-5840-2300

URL: <https://www.printing-museum.org/>

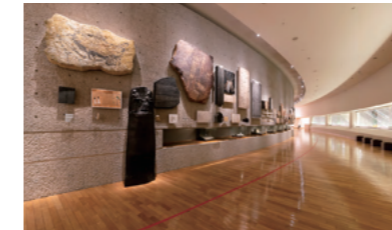
Satisfying appetites for a wide range of knowledge!

Highlights of Printing Museum, Tokyo

View an impressive collection of full-sized historical documents

Prologue

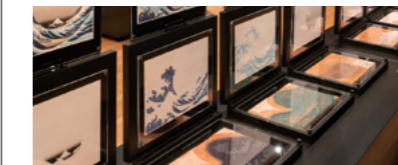
There is a dynamic 7-meter-high, 40-meter-wide wall display on the wall of the Prologue, a corridor leading from the basement floor entrance to the exhibition rooms. From the cave paintings of Lascaux to the printing of the modern digital age, visitors can trace the evolution of human communication with full-scale replicas.



Get to know the evolution of printing and social and cultural changes

History of Printing in Japan

This exhibit shows the origins of printing, as well as the history of its development in Japan, along with invaluable items from the collection, with a focus on events that deeply involved printing. The exhibition includes *Hyakumanto Darani* ("One Million Pagodas and Dharani Prayers") from the Nara period (710-794), which is said to be the world's oldest extant printed work, and visually introduces individual themes, including the *nishiki-e* (multi-colored woodblock print) printing process.



Trace the History of Printing on a Global Scale

Printing World History

This exhibition traces the entire history of printing on a timeline, from the East to the West, from its earliest origins to contemporary IT. The exhibition also includes original documents of outstanding historical and cultural value, including a 42-line Bible, a masterpiece of letterpress printing produced by Gutenberg, and the German translation of the Bible by Martin Luther.



Enjoy a hands-on experience with letterpress printing

Printing House

With the goal of preserving and handing down the lost art of letterpress printing to future generations, this exhibition features printing-related equipment, type, and tools from the 19th century onward. In addition to a tour of the Printing House, there is a free workshop where visitors can experience the entire printing process, from selecting and combining type to printing (advance reservation required).



Enjoy realistic Virtual Reality images

VR Theater

This is a special theater where visitors can view ultra-high-definition virtual reality (VR) images. You can enjoy realistic images of valuable cultural assets, ruins, and spaces that normally are not viewable. Currently showing is *Nikko Toshogu Shrine Yomeimon Gate*, which traces the history of Tokugawa Ieyasu and the founding of Toshogu Shrine (through Sunday, September 26).



Stocked with finely designed original items

Museum Shop

The museum has a shop with a wealth of original stationery and miscellaneous goods. You can purchase items you won't find anywhere else, such as notepads and cards made at the Printing House, sugar shaped like Suruga printing type—an important cultural property housed in the museum's collection—and various items connected to the temporary exhibitions.



New Temporary Exhibition to Start

August 7, 2021 (Sat.) – October 3, 2021 (Sun)

Complexity and Simplicity: Jomon and Yayoi Era DNA in Japanese Package Design

P&P Gallery at Printing Museum, Tokyo will present *Complexity and Simplicity: Jomon and Yayoi DNA in Japanese Package Design* starting Saturday, August 7. This exhibition traces the origins of traditional Japanese packaging such as *furoshiki* wrapping cloth and *noshi-bukuro* paper decorations for gift envelopes, and categorizes Japanese packaging design from a unique perspective, starting from its roots back in the designs found in Jomon and Yayoi era earthenware. It will introduce the diversity of Japanese package designs by organizing them under the five themes of Beauty, Cuteness, Functionality, Allure, and Character.

Place: P&P Gallery, 1st floor, Printing Museum, Tokyo
Admission: Free

* Advance reservation required. (Visitors need to obtain a reservation ticket that specifies date and time of the visit).

*Admission fee is required for those wishing to see the General Exhibition at the Printing Museum, Tokyo.

Loads of Events!

August 28, 2021 (Sat.) - March 5, 2022 (Sat.)

Letterpress Workshop for Adults 2021

We are holding a number of events to offer more information about letterpress printing. Anyone over 18 years old can participate. Feel free to participate in any that interest you.

August 28 (Sat.) 16:00-17:00 Letterpress History Class ONLINE Fee: Free of charge Capacity: 450 (first-come-first-served)	December 4 (Sat.) and 5 (Sun.) 10:00-12:00 each day Cards for Winter Fee: 3,500 yen (Museum admission fee is required separately) Capacity: 4 people per day (by lottery)
October 9 (Sat.) & 10 (Sun.) 10:00-12:00 each day Making Prints with Paper Fee: 2,000 yen (Museum admission fee is required separately) Capacity: 4 people per day (by lottery)	February 5 (Sat.) and 6 (Sun.), 2022 10:00-12:00 each day Washi Business Cards Fee: 3,000 yen (Museum admission fee is required separately) Capacity: 4 people per day (by lottery)
November 6 (Sat.) & 7 (Sun.) 10:00-12:00 each day Hand-Painted Resin Plate Stickers Fee: 3,000 yen (Museum admission fee is required separately) Capacity: 4 people per day (by lottery)	March 5, 2022 (Sat.), 16:00-17:00 Making Type ONLINE Fee: Free of charge Capacity: 450 (First-come-first-served)

*All of the above events require advance application.

*For details on events and how to apply, please check the Printing Museum, Tokyo website.

Making Letters Speak

Tomone Uemura

Humans are creatures who express their thoughts. I feel that letters are the most profound and noble form of human expression. When it comes to letters, hand-written letters are best.

When we try to read between the lines, we can see the personality of the writer.

Vol. 25: Kanjuro Arashi

I imagine there are many people who know the music group Arashi from Johnny & Associates, but who do not know the name Kanjuro Arashi. When I was young, Kanjuro Arashi was known as Arakan, and he was one of the six great stars of period drama, alongside Tsumasaburo Bando (nicknamed Bantsuma), Denjiro Okochi, Chiezo Kataoka, Utaemon Ichikawa, and Kazuo Hasegawa. This was the heyday of period dramas. To give a little context, Chiezo Kataoka is the father of Japan Airlines Chair Yoshiharu Ueki; Utaemon Ichikawa is the father of actor Kinya Kitaoji; and Kazuo Hasegawa's children are actor Noritoshi Hayashi and actresses Toshiko Hasegawa and Kiyoko Hasegawa.

I found Arakan's letter at the very bottom of a cardboard box full of letters. When I checked to see when it was written, it was dated October 27, 1968. It is a letter that I hardly remember receiving.

Dear Mr. Uemura,
Regarding your call the other day about appearing on *Hito ni Rekishi Ari*, I told you that I was staying at the Dai-ichi Hotel in Shimbashi on the 13th, but the Imamura Production film crew for *Kamigami no Fukaki Yokubo* has not yet returned to Tokyo. I may have a taping around the 13th or 14th of next month, so I will not be coming to Tokyo. Please understand that at this stage I do not know if I will be able to take part. If you speak with Imamura Productions or Nikkatsu Studio, they will be able to tell you for sure. If I am available on the 13th and 14th, I would be happy to appear on the show.

Sincerely,
Arashi

In 1968, the 43rd year of the Showa period, I was still 30 years old and had only been working at a small TV station in Tokyo for a few years. I had been transferred from the comfort of the programming department to the production department to give me more experience, and I was somewhat unhappy. Arakan's letter is from that time in my life. Even though I was not actively involved in production, my boss had asked me if I would like to write a script. I jumped at the offer because I wanted to get involved in writing.

I was put in charge of a program called *Hito ni Rekishi Ari* (*Everyone Has a Story*), which was a firsthand recounting of the lives of people who had achieved great things. And so I wrote my first TV script. The main guest was to be film director Masahiro Makino, and the real selling point was that the show would feature the entire legendary Makino film family, including Hiroyuki Nagato, Yoko Minamida, Masahiko Tsugawa, Yukiji Asaoka, and Daisuke Kato. I can't remember for certain anymore, but I think the idea was to get Kanjuro Akashi, who had known Shozo Makino, the father of Japanese cinema and Masahiro's father, to talk about Makino Productions.

Arashi was a true star. There is no shortage of stories about him, like the fact that he owned and flew his own airplane. I would like to

share one of my personal favorites. He was very proud of the fact that he had given a "speech" in English when the popular Hollywood star Douglas Fairbanks visited Japan around the time that Arashi was 30 years old. But the truth is that his "speech" consisted of just, "Welcome, Douglas!"

Arashi was a huge period drama star before and after the war, appearing in over 300 films. He was most well known for his roles in *Kurama Tengu* and *Umon Torimonochi* ("Umon Detective Story"). *Kurama Tengu* was serialized into 46 films and *Umon Torimonochi* into 36 films. After the war, he was the first actor to play the role of the emperor when he starred in Shinto's huge hit film, *Meiji Tenno to Nichiro Daisenso* ("Emperor Meiji and the Great Russo-Japanese War"). He also appeared in the blockbuster *Kamigami no Fukaki Yokubo* ("Profound Desires of the Gods"), which took director Shohei Imamura six years to conceive and two years to shoot. He was 67 years old at the time. Arashi had met Imamura on location shooting *Higashi Shinakai*, and the director persuaded him to take the role in *Kamigami no Fukaki Yokubo* by telling him "the location for the shoot is only an hour away." Thinking he could make some money while working close to the place where he was at that time, Arashi found himself sequestered on Minami-Daitojima island, all the way down near Okinawa, for nearly a year to complete shooting. Still, *Kamigami no Fukaki Yokubo*, set on an isolated island in the South Seas and exploring the essence of Japanese life and sexuality, went on to become an Imamura masterpiece. The film was selected for the Kinema Junpo Top 10. For his role in the movie, Arashi was presented with the Blue Ribbon Award for Best Supporting Actor.

Arashi had originally wanted to be a kabuki actor, but switched to film. He was under contract for a year to Makino Production, run by Shozo Makino, until he founded his own production company in 1927. When I wrote my first script for *Hito ni Rekishi Ari*, I must have wanted Arashi to talk about the relationship at the time between Masahiro and his father Shozo. I was both the scriptwriter and the assistant director for the episode. I think I contacted Arashi directly and asked him to appear on the show.

This letter gives a picture of the real Kanjuro Arashi. It is all a bit enigmatic, like you would expect of a great film star. Although there are a number of mistakes and omissions in the text, the letter is addressed "Attention: Mr. Uemura of the Production Division, Channel 12 Bureau, TV Station in Tokyo." And the return address is simply: "Kanjuro Arashi, Fushimi Mukojima, Kyoto." It is hard to believe it actually got to me, even if it was sent 50 years ago.

I think the Imamura Production taping was likely postponed, because Arashi did appear in the Masahiro Makino show and it all came off in the end. Unfortunately, though, I have no recollection of what Arashi said during his appearance. I have one more letter from Arashi.

Dear Mr. Uemura,
I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for your help and support during my appearance on *Hito ni Rekishi Ari*. Please be assured that I arrived home safely on the 15th. I received the money for my Hikari Shinkansen ticket today. I look forward to working with you again in the future.

Sincerely,
Kanjuro Arashi

Re-reading this letter now, I am struck by the magnanimity of Kanjuro Arashi, a man with no ill intent. I believe it is true that a letter speaks volumes about the character of the one who writes it.



Kanjuro Arashi

Actor, film producer
1903-1980



Born on December 8, 1903, in Kyoto. In his late teens, Kanjuro Arashi became a kabuki actor in Kansai theaters, gaining popularity as a charming *onnagata* (male actor who plays female roles). He later moved into film, making his debut on the silver screen in 1927 in *Kurama Tengu: Kakubeijishi*. He played the leading role in the *Kurama Tengu* and *Umon Torimonochi* ("Umon Detective Story") series throughout his life. In 1957, Arashi took on the blockbuster role of the Emperor Meiji in *Meiji Tenno to Nichiro Daisenso* ("Emperor Meiji and the Great Russo-Japanese War"). He continued to be active in film and television in his later years. Nicknamed Arakan, he enjoyed universal popularity in Japan as a sword-fighting star. He died at the age of 77.



Brief Biography of the Author

Tomone Uemura
Essayist

After graduating from the Department of History, the Faculty of Letters, Arts and Sciences at Waseda University in 1962, he worked at Toei Co., Ltd. before entering TV Tokyo Corporation, where he was later appointed to managing director of TV Tokyo and president and representative director of PROTX.

Facilitating work away from the office

REMOTE WORK PAPER ITEM

The number of companies introducing remote work to prevent the spread of infectious disease continues to increase. On the one hand, this diversification of workstyles offers the advantage of freeing workers from the stresses of commuting and may make it easier to balance work with child-rearing. On the other hand, it can also require tools such as PCs, documents and stationery to be carried between the home and office more often and create the trouble of having to store and organize them at home. In consideration of these issues, here we have curated a selection of convenient paper items to help boost efficiency whether working at home or away.

Recommended for those challenged by task management!
A checklist for convenient task organization

01

Easy to Write Loose-Leaf Mini To-Do List

Sales: Maruman Corporation
<http://www.e-maruman.co.jp/maruman-loose-leaf/mini/>



Size: 86 mm (height) x 128 mm (width)
Sheets: 50

You may want to use this loose-leaf mini to-do list for efficiently keeping track of the tasks you need to take care of each day. Writing the tasks out, prioritized by category, will keep your mental organization nice and neat. Perfect for preventing absentminded forgetfulness, as the status of progress can be checked at a glance. A key feature is the checklist's easily orderable, loose-leaf format. Since pages can be moved or added at will, you will be able to customize it just the way you like by filing pages in a binder for work, for example. It is also convenient for remote work, with its two-column format allowing tasks to be divided into different categories such as work and personal. The list not only saves the trouble of having to remember which tasks need to be done, but also makes it easy to check each day's accomplishments. This makes it effective at boosting work motivation.

Super easy to carry and stow!
A *washi* paper stand to use for devices of all kinds

02

Foldable 2

Sales: ECBB Co., Ltd.
<https://makers.ecbb.jp/foldable/>

Remote work often entails longer hours looking at a screen, which can cause your neck and back to cry out in pain. If that sounds familiar to you, we would like to recommend this product, called "Foldable." Just fold one of these sheets of *washi* paper to turn it into a mobile stand. With their ergonomic design, the stands support a comfortable typing posture. Their height, positioned just at the right eye level, helps to lighten physical strain. They are also compatible with devices of all types, from smartphones and tablets to laptop computers. Being able to work hands-free will boost your work efficiency. The product's biggest highlights are its light weight—just 17 g—and its thin profile—just 0.8 mm. When returned to sheet form, the stand will take up little space, easily fitting into bags all the way, making it convenient to carry with you. With the texture of the Kurotani Washi paper and the gorgeous *sekka shibori* designs rendered using a tie-dyeing process, the artisanal craftsmanship really shines through this stunning product.

Size: 126 mm (height) x 249 mm (width) x 0.8 mm (thickness)



Yamabuki (golden blossom) Momocha (peach/brown) Kinari (unbleached)
Seiran (indigo blue) Kobai (red plum blossom) Konno (yellow/blue)

Keep your home desk nice, neat and ordered:
Storage boxes optimal for organizing stationery and small items

Lifestyle Tools: Box Type/File Type

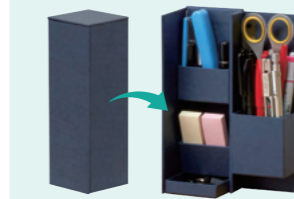
Sales: NAKABAYASHI CO., LTD.
<https://www.nakabayashi.co.jp>

When working at home for prolonged stretches, it is easy to leave stationery lying out, thinking that you will be using it again right away. Moreover, when working in multiple locations around the house, moving between a private room and the living room, for example, such items tend to get scattered around. They can even be hard to find when you really need them. Lifestyle Tools can save you from that kind of stress. When closed, they may look like simple paper boxes. Open one up, though, and you will see that it is actually a stand-alone storage box packed with pockets of varying depths and widths. This makes it capable of storing an assortment of different stationery items together. The vertically long box type works great in narrow desktop spaces, among other places. The file type, which allows title cards to be inserted in the spine, can also be stored nicely on bookshelves. Great for storing non-stationery items as well, such as cosmetics and personal care products, these are highly recommended for those who want to keep things tidy.



03

Box type



File type



Sizes: Box type S: 70 mm (width) x 70 mm (depth) x 210 mm (height) M: 88 mm (width) x 88 mm (depth) x 245 mm (height)
File type B5: 212 mm (width) x 62 mm (depth) x 266 mm (height) A4: 240 mm (width) x 62 mm (depth) x 306 mm (height) Colors: Navy, wine red, black, kraft, etc. (Same for each type)

A highly functional ring notebook
that can be folded in half to carry compactly

04

Compact Note Folding Ring Notebook

Sales: KING JIM CO., LTD.
<https://www.kingjim.co.jp/sp/compactnote/>



Sizes: A5, B5, A4 (folding in half) Colors: Pink, orange, yellow, green, smoke blue, light blue, navy, clear, black (with non-transparent cover) and white (with non-transparent cover) *Each includes 10 sheets of loose-leaf paper. Different types of exclusive Compact Note loose-leaf paper are also sold separately.

One of the difficulties of remote work is the way it has made it necessary to carry things needed for work from one place to another more often. Some people are fed up with their bulky load of documents, notebooks and so on that may be hard to squeeze into their bag. Let us introduce the Compact Note, which can help clear away these feelings of frustration. Its forte is that, while being a ring notebook using loose-leaf paper, it can be folded in half. This means the A4 size will turn into A5, the B5 into B6, and so on, which will make it easy to fit neatly into the same bag you always use. Then when the notebook is opened, it can be used just like an ordinary loose-leaf notebook. On top of this, the opened pages can be folded back a full 360°, making them quite convenient for getting work done in cramped spaces, from desks at home to café tables. How about taking the opportunity of the current change in workstyles to upgrade the tools of your trade?

Cardboard partitioning to secure private space

05

Partitions for desktop use Shikiri-Dana

Sales: Tachibana-Itd.
<https://tachibana-ltd.com/index.html>



Size: 80-160 cm (width) x 53 cm (height) x 60 cm (depth) Weight: Approx. 800 g/sheet *2 sets/4 sheets included.

Working at home can be fine, but when you try to do deskwork in the dining room or living room, distractions from family members can hinder your progress. While large room dividers and screens can be convenient, they get in the way when not in use, and it is less than desirable that they take up limited space in the home. Convenient Shikiri-Dana cardboard partitions can help to clear such troubles away. Construction simply entails affixing an attachment to the two symmetrical L-shaped partition panels. Not only can they be adjusted wider or narrower to fit the space, but with their light weight of about 800 g, they can also be moved wherever they are needed with ease. What's more, they have holes in the back through which computer power cords can be passed, making them a secure long-term solution as well. Shikiri-Dana partitions are also great for use at the office, of course, and can serve to help reduce the risk of infectious disease spreading as well.



Honya B&B

BONUS TRACK 2F, 2-36-15 Daita,
Setagaya-ku, Tokyo

TEL: +81-3-6450-8272

Hours: 12:00–23:00 / No regular holidays

*There may be temporary closures or changes to open hours as a countermeasure against the spread of infection. Please visit Honya B&B's website or Twitter when planning to stop by.

<http://bookandbeer.com/>



A New Form of Bookshop for New Titles: Packed with Doors to Worlds Unknown

Bonus Track is a new style of shopping arcade that debuted in Tokyo's Shimokitazawa neighborhood in April 2020. One of the eclectic and individual new tenants gathered here is Honya B&B, a seller of new publications. Continually the talk of book lovers, the shop is currently attracting the most attention of all. The "B&B" in the name stands for "book and beer," an expression of the concept of reading books while sipping beer. This is a unique bookshop where guests can browse for books with some coffee or an alcoholic beverage in hand, though as of this writing in July 2021, drink sales are temporarily suspended as an infectious disease control countermeasure.

For the nine years Honya B&B has been in business since opening in 2012, they have held talk events and seminars on an almost daily basis. Inviting guests from a wide range of industries and circles, with a focus on authors of newly published works, the shop offers a rich variety of content.

Representative Shintaro Uchinuma says, "Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we have focused on online broadcasts and at times have had events with 500 participants. For major bookshops, events have strong connotations of being about sales promotion, but for us, we embrace them as the mainstay of our business. We are engaged in a search for how we might maintain solid profits as a small-scale neighborhood bookshop in this business, which is considered to be financially challenging, as well as what sort of form a bookshop ought to take in the post-pandemic era to come."

A particularity with regard to books is apparent even in the selection of books lining the shelves. Rather than the lineup of mostly popular books one sees in ordinary shops, here the sort of titles that make you want to just grab a book are all around.

"The ordinary approach from a profit standpoint would be to increase the number of popular genres on the shelves, I imagine,

but just because a book doesn't sell quickly doesn't mean it isn't important. I don't think that's what bookshops were originally like. For example, with the new publications we carry, there are more foreign literature titles than those from Japan, and that's only natural if you consider how wide the world is. It's because they're great works that deserve to be read in Japan too that they've been translated, and also it's because they have significance in learning about the range of diversity in the world that they've been published. What we hope for is to be the sort of bookshop that continues to appeal to the intellectual curiosity of our customers by carrying the types of books a bookshop might originally be expected to carry, to let people know, 'Hey, there are these kinds of things out there in the world, too.'"

Honya B&B is a shop with doors leading to all kinds of different worlds. Stop by here and you might just have an encounter you won't find through an online shopping site.



We have adopted a bookbinding method free of staples, paste and heat, taking into consideration recycling and the risk of injuries.



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KOKUSAI PULP & PAPER CO., LTD.

Public Relations Section,
General Affairs Dept., Administration Div.
Address: 6-24 Akashi-cho, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan
TEL: +81-3-3542-4111 (main switchboard number)

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