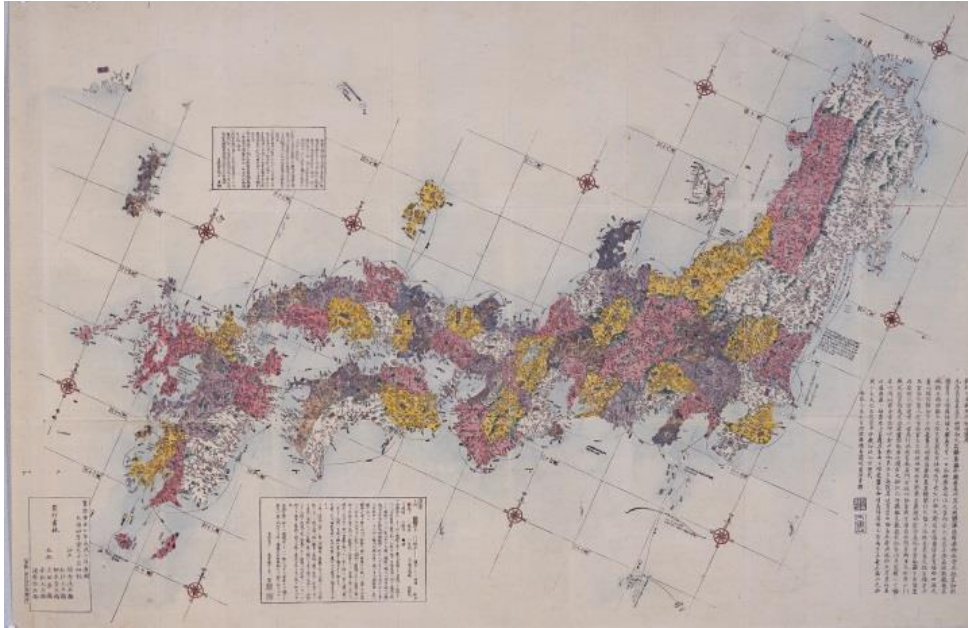


An Introduction to Japanese Early Modern Cartography and an Inquiry about the Use of Sekisui Nagakubo's Maps of Japan by Westerners

We visit two exhibitions on Japanese early modern cartography. The first is that at the National Diet Library (NDL) located in the central part of Tokyo. Seven sets of maps were selected from the collection of NDL as notable examples of Japanese early modern maps. Maps of Japan, created by Tomonobu Ishikawa (dates of birth and death unknown), by Sekisui Nagakubo (1717-1801), and by the team of Tadataka Ino (1745-1818), and rolls of road map represent an outline of the development of Japanese early modern cartography. A map of Yedo and a world map based on the Dutch learning by the official astronomer, Takahashi Kageyasu (1775-1829) are included in order to show the variety. The second is special exhibition of maps of Japan by Sekisui Nagakubo at the Koga Historical Museum, Koga City, Ibaraki Prefecture. His maps of Japan published since 1779 made an end of vernacular maps of Japan drawn by Ukiyo-e artists, such as Tomonobu Ishikawa, and concise translation of them printed in Western countries including those by Adrien Reland (1676-1718) and Engelbelt Kaempfer (1661-1716) & Jahann Scheuechzer (1672-1733). During the middle of the 19th century, copies of the translation of his maps prepared by Adam Johann von Krusenstern (1770-1846) circulated in Western countries as new maps of Japan. The exhibition focuses on the activity of Japanese castaways, orientalists, such as Isaac Titsingh (1745-1812) and Julius Klaproth (1783-1835), and cartographers such as Krusenstern for the translation and revision of his maps.



新撰大日本図鑑(延宝六年版日本国図) 古河市指定文化財 古河歴史博物館蔵
Map of Japan printed in 1678 (Cultural asset of Koga municipality) Koga Historical Museum



新刻日本輿地路程全図 国重要文化財 古河歴史博物館 Map of Japan by Nagakubo Sekisui (National cultural asset) Koga Historical Museum



日本図 (東日本、伊能忠敬原図) 国立国会図書館 A Map of Japan by Ino Tadataka (Eastern part) National Diet Library