



Children's Literature Room



The folktales of Kochi reflect the warm and laid-back vibe of Kochi Prefecture. Stories are often amusing and feature bizarre monsters. Also, Kochi has tons of famous scholars of youth literature such as Tashima Seizo and Tajima Yukihiro. Come and explore the long lineage of youth literature and folklore!



Hall



Teahouse

Museum Information

Hours 9:00 AM - 5 PM (Doors close at 4:30 PM)

Closed End of Year (December 27th - January 1st)
※Periodically closed for maintenance

Admission Fee

Special Exhibition: Varies depending on exhibition
Permanent Exhibition only: 400 yen

- 20% discount for groups of 20+ people
- Free admission for high schoolers and younger
- Free admission for holders of physical disability certificates, rehabilitation certificates, mental disability certificates, wounded veteran certificates, or atomic bomb survivor certificates, plus one companion, as well as holders of Kochi Prefectural or Kochi City senior citizen passes.

※Visitors may be asked to provide certification at the ticket window.

Parking None ※Paid parking available nearby

Rental facilities

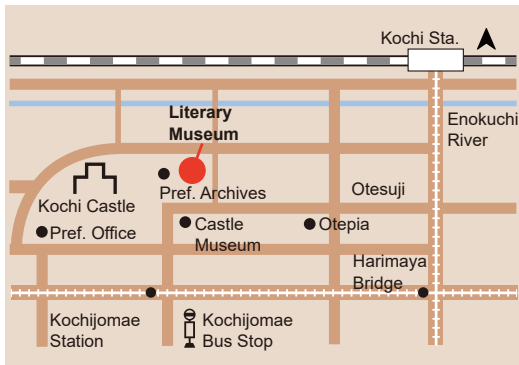
Special exhibition room, hall, and teahouse

Public Transport

5 minute walk from "Kochijo-mae" tram/bus stop

20 minute walk from Kochi JR Station
(You can also ride the bus or tram from the station)

20 Minute walk from "Kita Harimayabashi" bus stop
(Accessible from the Kochi Airport limousine bus.)



Museum Mascots
Shiori and Pitta



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(Operated by the Kochi Pref. Culture Foundation)



Kochi Literary Museum



KOCHI LITERARY MUSEUM



Museum Information

The luscious Southern land of Kochi. Surrounded on one side by the grand Pacific Ocean, and on the other by the perilous Shikoku mountain range. Numerous authors were raised in this unique environment and made great contributions to the literary canon of Japan. Many of these works encapsulate Kochi's vibrant history and culture, and contain the distinct attributes of Kochi Literature.

The Kochi Literary Museum was established in 1997 for the purpose of preserving, exhibiting, and honoring works from a large number of authors from Kochi, as well as those with a connection to Kochi.

Our permanent exhibitions highlight prominent authors, organized by time period and theme: *Classic & Early Modern Literature, Literature and the Civil Rights & Freedom Movement, Defiance in Popular Literature, Modern Literature, Modern Poetry, Writers Connected with Kochi, Authors of Today, The Literary World of Miyao Tomiko, and the Terada Torahiko Memorial Room.* We also feature periodic special exhibitions.

The Museum also contains a Children's Literature Room focusing on children's literature and folk stories. You can read works by the prominent children's author Ichihara Rin'ichiro. There are also traditional paper theatre performances of folk legends.

To spread information about the wonderful works in our collection we also hold lectures, special exhibits and other similar activities.



Entrance to "Kochi and Literary Scholars"



Terada Torahiko Memorial Room



The World of Miyao Literature

Permanent Exhibition

The Authors of Kochi

Classic Literature



● **Tosa Nikki** **Ki no Tsurayuki**(unknown~945)
Tosa Nikki, or the Tosa Diaries, was written in 934 by Ki no Tsurayuki, the then-governor of what would later become Kochi Prefecture, documenting his journey back to the capital after his term ended. The text was unusual as it was written in a script typically used by women. It wove in essays and tanka poetry, expressing his grief over his daughter who passed in Kochi and his yearning for his home in the capital.



Gido Shushin
(1325~1388)



Zekkai Chushin
(1336~1405)



Kamochi Masazumi
(1791~1858)

● Gozan Literature

Gido Shushin & Zekkai Chushin

In the 14th and 15th centuries, Tosa's literature was centered around Zen Literature created at Mt. Godai's *Gyukoan*. Although this literature was written mainly by Muso Soseki, Zekkai and Gido were both his disciples and wrote what is considered the peak of poetry at *Gyukoan*. Zekkai in particular is considered a prominent figure in Gozan literature, and during his studies in Ming Dynasty China his poetry was presented to the emperor of China.

● Kamochi Masazumi

Kamochi's magnum opus *Manyoshukogi*, written about the poetry collection *Manyoshu* (Collection of 10,000 Leaves), was later published after the author's death by Emperor Meiji. It is known for its creative annotations and Kamochi is considered a major scholar of *Manyoshu*.

Modern Poetry



Okamoto Yata
(1899~1942)



Makimura Kou
(1912~1938)



Katayama Toshihiko
(1898~1961)



Ueta Akio
(1899~1995)

The modern poetry scene in Kochi started in latter half of the 1920s with **Okamoto Yata's** poetry journals such as *Gorgoda*.

Starting in the 1930s, proletarian poets such as **Makimura Kou** produced high-quality poetry critical of fascism. At the same time, poets **Katayama Toshihiko** and **Ueta Akio** formed relationships with the French novelist Romain Rolland, wrote intellectual poetry and critiques, and translated foreign poetry. **Oe Mitsuo** also produced unforgettable poetry about the Shimanto River.

At the same time, poets such as **Shimasaki Akemi** wrote about the scenery and culture of Kochi from Japanese Manchuria.

Hashida Tosei and **Kitami Shihoko** continued the legacy of classical Japanese poetry and left a lasting impression on the modern tanka poetry. **Hamada Hasei** and **Wakao Ransui** took inspiration from the Shiki Masaoka and were pioneers of modern haiku poetry in Kochi.



Kitami Shihoko
(1885~1955)



Wakao Ransui
(1877~1961)



Hamada Hasei
(1870~1923)

Freedom and Civil Rights Movement

The national freedom and civil rights movement began in the early Meiji era with the purpose of ending autocracy, establishing a constitution and legislative body, and advocating for the expansion of civil rights. This nation-wide movement inspired numerous novels, poems, and critiques. During that time, *jiyu wa tosa no sankan yori izu* ("Freedom rings throughout the mountains of Tosa") was said of Kochi. This is in no small part due to the abundant amount of freedom and civil rights literature produced by the authors of Kochi. Notable works include **Miyazaki Muryu's** Ode to Freedom, **Ueki Emori's** Freedom Poetry Anthology, **Sakazaki Shiran's** *Kanketsusenri-no-koma* (The Blood-Sweating Thousand-Mile Horse), and **Nakae Chomin's** a Discourse by Three Drunkards on Government. Influential thinkers such as **Kotoku Shunsui** and **Taoka Reiun** were influenced by these works.



Miyazaki Muryu
(1855~1889)



Ueki Emori
(1857~1892)



Sakazaki Shiran
(1853~1913)



Nakae Chomin
(1847~1901)



Kotoku Shunsui
(1871~1911)



Taoka Reiun
(1870~1912)



Authors with a Connection to Kochi



Yoshii Isamu
(1886~1960)



Ibuse Masuji
(1898~1993)



Ooka Shouhei
(1909~1988)



Shiba Ryotaro
(1923~1996)



Takahama Kyoshi
(1874~1959)

Yoshii Isamu spent some time in Kami City's Kahokucho Inono. He was profoundly inspired by his time in Kochi.

Ibuse Masuji wrote stories related to Kochi, such as Henro Yado, a story about life's joys and sorrows, and his Naoki Prize-winning novel *John Manjiro, the Cast-Away: His Life and Adventures*.

In author **Ooka Shouhei's** effort to capture history in literature, he wrote the lengthy and critically acclaimed novels *Tenchugumi* and *Sakai Port Joi Affair*.

Shiba Ryotaro's works *Ryoma Goes His Way*, *Komyo ga tsuji*, and *Natsukusa no fu* are all based on historical events relating to Kochi Prefecture. His novels are beloved by the people of Kochi and he has since become known as a honorary resident.

Poet **Takahama Kyoshi** visited Kochi twice and is credited for beginning the local haiku scene.

Defiance in Popular Literature

Famous literary scholars from Kochi tended to be either detective novelists or pulp fiction writers, having significant prestige within their respective fields. Yet, their works share a common theme of insurrection and rebellion, where justice prevails over evil.



Kuroiwa Ruikou
(1862~1920)



Tanaka Kotaro
(1880~1941)



Hamamoto Hiroshi
(1890~1959)

Kuroiwa Ruikou found success in running the Yorozu Choho—one of Japan's largest newspapers—earning him the title of "King of Newspapers." He also introduced a large number of overseas detective novels to Japan. **Omachi Keigetsu** rose to fame with *Beautiful Prose and Rhymed Verse: Blossoms and Scarlet Leaves* and became known as a hard-core commentator. He loved to drink and travel. He died at Tsuta Onsen in Aomori Prefecture.

Tanaka Kotaro defined an era in popular fiction with the success of *The Whirlwind Age*. Through his monthly essay *Hakuramisa*. Writers such as Ibuse Masuji, **Taoka Norio** and Hamamoto Hiroshi grew up reading his essays. Taoka Norio won the Naoki Prize in 1943 for his literary talent in describing the subtle demeanour of Tosa samurai. He published *A Novel About Nonaka Kenzan* in his later years.

Hamamoto Hiroshi went from writing articles for a magazine (Kaizo) to becoming a popular author of masterpieces such as *The Lights of Asakusa* and *Port Arthur*. **Baba Kocho** was a member and writer for the *Bungakukai* magazine. He was an ardent translator of Chinese literature, and interacted with Higuchi Ichiyou.

Morishita Uson, founding editor-in-chief of Shinseinen magazine, discovered talented writers such as Edogawa Ranpo, thus earning his reputation as the father of Japanese detective fiction.



Omachi Keigetsu
(1869~1925)



Taoka Norio
(1908~1982)



Baba Kocho
(1869~1940)



Morishita Uson
(1890~1965)

Authors of Today

Yamamoto Ichiriki (1948-) won the Naoki Prize with his novel *Akanezora*. He writes period novels with down-to-earth authenticity based on his life experiences.

Shimaoka Shin (1932-) received the Oguma Hideo Prize with his poem *Kanpai*. He is also a critic and historian.

Shimizu Tatsuo (1936-), known for his striking literary style, is an author of hard-boiled and historical novels.

Arikawa Hiro (1972-), writer of *Kencho Omotenashika* and *Toshokan-senso*. Her works are popular among all ages.

Nishizawa Yasuhiko (1960-), author of *Rensatsu*, has developed a unique portfolio of novels that combine elements of mystery and sci-fi.

Fujiwara Hisako (1947-) is a renowned master of emotional historical fiction. Among her works is the *Sumidagawa Goyocho* series.

Hatakenaka Megumi (1959-), author of the *Shabake* series, has a large following of fans.

Nakawaki Hatsue (1974-) debuted as an author with the novel *Sakana no you ni* (*Like a Fish*), and later penned *Kimi wa ii ko* (*You're a Good Kid*) and other books about folk tales.

Yoshida Rui (1949-), chairman of *Fune*, a haiku club. Known as the pub poet, he has appeared in television shows.

Tsujiido Kai (1948-) is popular for his refined writing style and sword-fighting scenes in series such as *Kaze no Ichibei*.

Modern Literature



Tanaka Hidemitsu
(1913~1949)



Kanbayashi Akatsuki
(1902~1980)



Koyama Itoko
(1901~1989)



Yasuoka Shotaro
(1920~2013)



Kurahashi Yumiko
(1935~2005)

Tanaka Hidemitsu debuted with *The Fruit of Olympus*, which describes his experiences participating in the Olympic Games in Los Angeles. In his later years, he was known as a *buraiha*, or decadent movement, author.

Takakura Teru was a tenacious author who strived to create literature for the people. His most famous work is *Hakone Yosui*.

Kanbayashi Akatsuki, despite struggling with both his own and his family's poor health, remained unwaveringly dedicated to his writing. Works inspired by his wife's illness, such as *At St. John's Hospital*, helped establish him in the literary world.

Tamiya Torahiko turned his painful life experiences into outstanding historical and romance novels.

Koyama Itoko was a Naoki Prize-winning author who portrayed the lives of women from a humanitarian perspective.

Ohara Tomie's works, such as *A Woman called En*, depicted earnest women who struggled against the forces of fate and the times they lived in.

Yasuoka Shotaro was known for his clever criticism and rich sense of humor. He is considered one of the greats of the 3rd generation of Japanese post-war writers. His writing was fresh and influential in the post-war literature scene, and he was an awardee of the Akutagawa Prize.

Kiyooka Takayuki was known as a witty and profound poet. He was awarded the Akutagawa Prize. **Kurahashi Yumiko** made a striking debut with *Partei* before going on to write numerous novels celebrated for their intellectual depth and distinctive style. She was also an exceptional translator.

Bando Masako wrote many stories about folklore and horror, a number of which were set in Kochi or Shikoku, such as *Shioku* (the Land of the Dead) and *Inugami*.



Takakura Teru
(1891~1986)



Tamiya Torahiko
(1911~1988)



Ohara Tomie
(1912~2000)



Kiyooka Takayuki
(1922~2006)



Bando Masako
(1958~2014)

Terada Torahiko Memorial Room

Terada Torahiko was a physicist and essayist. His parents are from Kochi, and spent most of his youth there as well. As a physicist, he conducted research on X-rays and disaster prevention and is well known for the phrase, "Disasters befall us when we least expect them." His essays, praised by renowned novelist Natsume Soseki for their literary quality, pioneered a new style that blended scientific observation and analysis with poetic intuition, creativity, and emotion.



Terada Torahiko
(1878~1935)

The World of Miyao Literature

Miyao Tomiko was born in Kochi City. Her numerous works skilfully depicted the lives of women gracefully navigating traditional Japanese cultural norms. Her most famous novel, *Kai* (*Paddle*), has been praised for its prose, described as "as smooth as silk." She received numerous literary awards, including the Naoki Prize.



Miyao Tomiko
(1926~2014)

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	Hamamoto Hiroshi...B.M.Booth.Major,1952	Yasuoka Shotaro...Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature	Shiba Ryotaro...Shiba Ryotaro Memorial Museum (photo by Inoue Hiromichi)
	Kanbayashi Akatsuki...Kanbayashi Akatsuki Literature Museum	Kurahashi Yumiko...@Shinchinsha	Miyao Tomiko...Photo of "watashi no kinkyō" published in "Shinkan News" (April 1979 issue)