

FY2020 Annual Report for International Joint Research with Research Fund
International Joint Digital Archiving Center for Japanese Art and Culture (ARC-iJAC),
Art Research Center, Ritsumeikan University

Date (year/mm/dd): 2021-4-26

1. Title of the Research Project	
Edo Period Map goes Digital	
The <i>O Edo ezu</i> as an Interactive Resource	
2. Research Leader	
Name	Organization and title
Michael Kinski	Frankfurt University, Institute of Japanese Studies, Professor

4. Overview of the Research Project (About 150 words) Note: If you have changed your project since the time of application submission, please write clearly where you made changes.

This project featured the creation an interactive map of Edo in the 1830s by using the *On Edo ezu** map and linking it with woodblock print illustrations of Edo. It was realized in a teaching project for undergraduate students in cooperation and with the support of two programmers who are at the same time graduate students in the last stages of their Master's program.

- The project uses the *On Edo ezu* (1830–43), a full-scale map of Edo to be found in the ARC archive, as point of departure. While this provided us with a basis for our creation, we used different sets of coloured woodblock prints by Utagawa Hiroshige showing famous scenic spots of Edo to incorporate visual information on certain areas and pinpoint them on the map.
- The user will be able to steer through the map and use the mouse cursor to click on these highlighted famous spots to see how artists such as Hiroshige (cf. links on last slide) visualized these places and how Edo period consumers who had bought such prints might have visualized them before their inner eye.
- Information on these places drawn from research materials as well as internet resources or from Edo period guide books such as the *Tôto saijiki* 東都歳事記 will help the modern user to get an impression of how the Edo period owner of such a map might have visualized it or what he or she might have read about various spots in a travel guide.

* On the ARC homepage the map is listed as *O Edo ezu*. Since the explanatory remarks on the map itself use the reading *On Edo ezu*, this reading is adopted in this report.

5. Overview of the Research Results Note: We may use this section for the Center's PR.

The *On Edo ezu* 御江戸絵図, a map of Edo printed in the 1840s (in a higher resolution kindly provided by its owner) was uploaded to the DemiScript platform (developed by Koray Birenheide at Frankfurt University, Japanese Studies) in order to make full use of the platforms in-depth zoom functionality. Further programming ensured that the map can be moved along the *x* and the *y* axis and that it can be rotated. Both features make for greater versatility in navigating the map.

In a second step, the project's student participants identified the "famous places" shown on Utagawa Hiroshige's print series *Shinsen Edo meisho* 新撰江戸名所, *Edo meisho* 江戸名所, *Edo meisho no uchi* 江戸名所之内, and *Edo meisho mittsu no nagame* 江戸名所三ツの眺め. Although almost all students did not have training in reading *kana* of *kanji* as used in early modern Japanese publications they were able to locate all objects and mark them up. For this purpose, they classified the *meisho* according to functionality (Buddhist temple, Shintoist shrine, pleasure quarter and so on) or geographical features (river, hill) with a specific colours for each of the seven group of objects. A slider allows either to hide the mark ups or to diminish the opacity of the map itself.

The main task, however, lay in writing a detailed article for each of the localities found on the map. Wherever possible these contained Hiroshige's print as well as depictions in other coloured woodblock prints. With a focus on the history of the *meisho* as well as their place in contemporary imagination, culture, or religious belief. In a number of cases special attention was paid to the motifs in Hiroshige's prints in order to bring to life the scenes chosen by the artist as representations of the "famous places", and to integrate the motifs in contemporary city life. Modern geospatial data and information was added as well. The individual articles will open by clicking on the items highlighted on the map.

It did not come as a surprise that most of Hiroshige's *meisho* were located in a circle around the center of the city proper. However, marking the localities strengthened the impression that most of them were situated in the eastern and south eastern parts of Edo – nearest to the areas of town where the largest number of non-samurai residents lived and led their daily lives. While it is conceivable that the *On Edo ezu* and other such maps also provided orientation from visitors from outside they were not in the least a visualization of the symbolic space intimately connected to the *lebenswelt* of local residents.

6. Research Activities

(1) Books

(2) Articles

(3) Presentations

• The project will be introduced by Michael Kinski and Koray Birenheide at the European Association of Japanese Studies conference to be held in August 2021 (hosted by Ghent University, Belgium) via Zoom.

(4) Symposiums and/or research meeting you organized

(5) Other research activities (Lectures to the general public, and appearances in/contributions to mass media)

(6) Academic awards

(7) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research -KAKENHI

(8) Competitive grants other than KAKENHI

(9) Other achievements