

36 Views Glossary

Written and Compiled by Ashley Schweitzer

15th day of the 8th month – The eighth month was also called the leaf month, referring to the time when the leaves change color. “In Japan, the moon on the 15th night of the eighth month of the lunar calendar (mid-September in the current calendar) has been appreciated as “the beautiful moon of mid-autumn” ([Tokyo National Museum, notes on their Thematic Exhibition: Autumn Moon](#)). It was the night of a moon-viewing party and a celebration of autumn.

Aniline pigment – An organic base first used to make dyes. It is created by distilling indigo, and was first isolated in 1826. Its first widespread use was in mauvine, a purple dye that had an aniline base. In the 1850’s and 60’s, aniline-based pigments lead to a boom in the synthetic dye industry.

Auto-radiography – A technique that uses photographic emulsion to records the distribution of radioactive materials in botanical and histological specimens placed in contact with a photographic emulsion. It records the activity of organic compounds of radioactive isotopes introduced into the system of the plant or animal.” (Encyclopedia Britannica)

Bill of sale – A formal document that states the conveyance or transfer of title of goods.

Bukkaeri (Kabuki costume change) – A quick costume change that used when a character reveals his true identity or when undergoes a remarkable transformation. Two costumes are held together by a basting thread. When it is pulled, the upper half of the costume falls to the actor’s waist and other costume is revealed. Because the lining matches the top of the new costume and covers the lower half of the previous costume, it appears as if the entire costume has changed. Usually an actor stands in a mie pose to heighten the effect. To see examples of this costume change, visit [Hikinuki](#) at Invitation to Kabuki.

Batsubun – [跋文](#) (batsu bun) afterword or epilogue

Carbon-based ink – A black carbon ink made from soot, lamp oil, and gelatin that binds the pigment together. This ink was first used in China and dates from approximately 300 CE. Despite its origins, it is often called India ink (although it is also referred to as China ink). It can smudge or wash off under certain conditions, so preserving documents can be a problem.

Carbon dating – A form of radioactive dating that measures the amount of the isotope carbon-14 remaining in an object. This isotope is naturally occurring and, because it decays at a constant rate, scientists can estimate when an organism died by measuring the amount of its residual radiocarbon. Willard F. Libby developed this dating method around 1946. It is used by

36 Views Glossary

geologists, anthropologists, archaeologists, and investigators in related fields to date materials.

Carp – Greenish brown fish native to Asia. They live in the weeds and mud at the bottom of ponds, lakes, and rivers. In Japan, carp are associated with strength and perseverance.

Celadon vase – Ceramics that have been decorated with a green glaze, also called celadon, which often has a crackled appearance. First made in China, they are prized for their jade-like color. They have been produced in other parts of Eastern Asia as well, notably Korea and Japan.

Chinese dialects – Chinese has a number of varieties that are popularly called “dialects,” but are usually classified as separate languages by scholars since they are about as different from one another as the modern Romance languages. There are eight main dialects, including Mandarin and Modern Standard Chinese, and the main differences are in pronunciation and vocabulary. Chinese is a tone language – pitch is used to indicate differences in meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (they have the same consonants and vowels). All the dialects have mostly monosyllabic words and word elements, and, because there are neither markers for inflection nor markers to indicate parts of speech, it has a fixed word order.

Dozo – When offering something, the Japanese will say “dozo” or please, meaning “please accept what I am offering.”

Edo era – Also referred to as the Tokugawa Period (1630-1867). The period begins with the shogunate established by Tokugawa Ieyasu and ends with the Meiji Restoration of imperial rule. It is named after the city of Edo, which was the Tokugawa shogunate’s headquarters. (When the Meiji Restoration moved the imperial residence from Kyoto to Edo, the city was renamed Tokyo.) The Edo Period was a time of transition between traditional and modern Japan, as well as a time of internal peace, political stability, economic growth, and urbanization. Culture revolved around urban life, as displayed in the art of the era, for example the ukiyo-e scenes. The country prospered despite a policy of isolation, later referred to as Sakoku (“closed country”). Starting in 1633, Tokugawa Ieyasu passed a series of edicts that strictly regulated trade and foreign relations, including forbidding travel abroad or return from such travel. The only permitted trade (or interaction) with Europe were handled at the Dutch trading post at Dejima in Nagasaki. Part of the rationale for this policy was a fear of foreign ideas (in particular Christianity) and military intervention. Because the work of Catholic missionaries helped Spain and Portugal colonize parts of Asia, and the Tokugawa shoguns came to view the missionaries as a threat to their power. For more information on the art of the Edo era, the Metropolitan Museum of Art has thematic essays on the [art of the Edo period](#), [ukiyo-e woodblocks](#),

36 Views Glossary

and [the art of the pleasure quarters](#) and The Minneapolis Institute of Art has a [featured collection of ukiyo-e prints](#) and a [summary of the era](#).

Edo courtesan – During early 18th century heyday of Yoshiwara (the designated red district outside Edo that was home to brothels, tea houses, and kabuki theaters) there were 3,000 prostitutes, and this number does not include the madams, courtesans, geisha, and others who operated in the district. The highest rank of courtesan was the fashionable and expensive oiran depicted in the ukiyo prints. A geisha was a different class than a courtesan, they entertained the courtesans and their clients and the term literally means “art person.”

Extant – Texts that have survived to the modern era, some are original manuscripts, but others are copies, quotations, or translations of the originals.

Guanyin (觀音 Kuan-Yin) – Bodhisattva (“Buddha to be,” which here is translated as goddess) of compassion and mercy venerated by East Asian Buddhists. Guanyin has is related to the Sanskrit *Avalokiteśvara*, the male form of the deity. Worship of Guanyin was introduced into China as early as the 1st century CE and had entered all Buddhist temples by the 6th century. Learn more about a [Sung dynasty sculpture of Guanyin at the Minneapolis Institute of Art](#).

Heian Era – (794–1185) a Classical Golden Age of Japan, the era is mostly known for the flourishing culture of the court. The period is history named for the capital city of Heian-kyo (present day Kyoto). In 784 the reigning emperor Kammu relocated the seat of government to Nagaoka in an attempt to create and control a centralized government to escape the dominance of the Buddhist clerics in Nara. A second move occurred in 794, and Heian-kyo (“Capital of Peace and Tranquility”) remained the capital and the imperial seat, if not the source of political power, until 1868. In 894 the government stopped sending official communications with China, and this break allowed for the development of a native Japanese culture. Politics and government were dominated by the Fujiwara clan, who counseled and controlled the emperors. They exercised this control by arranging for the emperors to marry Fujiwara women, encouraging the emperors to abdicate once a Fujiwara-heir had been produced, and then serving as regent. Despite the break with contemporary China, classical Chinese was still the language of choice in intellectual literary circles and official court communications. However, women did not learn Chinese, and vernacular Japanese literature written by aristocratic women thrived. Most notable are works by Murasaki Shikibu (Lady Murasaki) and Sei Shonagon, both of whose works depicted Heian aristocratic life. “In Heian Japan, subtle rules of aesthetic refinement were the major regulators of aristocratic behavior. Negotiating these rules with skill was the primary challenge for an aristocrat desirous of the coveted goal of a good reputation” ([Gregory Smits](#)). The literature and art of the

36 Views Glossary

period were influenced by Buddhism, in particular the fleeting nature of life and beauty, epitomized by the aesthetic *mono no aware*. For more information, visit [Gregory Smits' The Heian Period Aristocrats](#) online textbook from Pennsylvania State University's [East Asia History Net](#), [the Life and Culture section](#) of [Liza Dalby's Tale of Murasaki website](#), or the [Heian Japan website](#) from [Washington State University's World Civilization's Internet Classroom](#).

Heian-era kimono – A 12-layered garment called a *jūnihitoe*, which was only worn by the court ladies. Despite the name, the basic dress consisted of five layered gowns, but women sometimes wore as many as thirty layers. The different colors of each layer would only be visible at the cuffs, neckline, and hems, and women displayed their style through tasteful color combinations. Furthermore, clothing choices conveyed a person's rank, the social situation, weather, and season. For more information, visit the [fashion section of Liza Dalby's website](#).

Higashiyama – One of Kyoto's 11 wards.

Hikinuki (Kabuki costume change) – “Pulling off,” a quick costume change usually used in dance plays to provide visual delight. The actor wears two kimonos that have been sewn together by a basting thread. Ten small button or knots are placed strategically at the end of each thread – one at each cuff, one underneath each sleeve opening, one at each sleeve bag, one at center back of the waist, and one at the collar. On cue, one or two *koken* (stage assistants) pulls the thread and removes the upper kimono. The timing is very important and the assistant's actions must be synchronized with the actor's dance. To see an example, visit [Hikinuki](#) at Invitation to Kabuki.

Hokusai – (1760-1849) Japanese master artist and printmaker of the *ukiyo-e* school. *Ukiyo-e* (Japanese, “pictures of the floating world”) was a dominant school of art during the Tokugawa period (1603–1867). Although screen paintings were the first works to be done in the style, *ukiyo-e* became known for its woodblock prints. Common subjects included famous courtesans and prostitutes, kabuki actors and well-known scenes from kabuki plays, and erotica. In fact, the name *ukiyo-e* comes from a euphemism for the entertainment district – the floating world. Hokusai constantly reinvented and one-upped himself, his oeuvre contains an array of subjects and materials, but he is best known for his print series “Thirty-Six Views of Mount Fuji,” which was published 1826-1833. An innovative artist, he was the first to do large-scale landscape prints and integrated western styles and the new Prussian blue pigment in his works.

Imari – Also called “Arita Ware,” Japanese porcelain made at the Arita kilns in Hizen province, 6 miles south of the city of Imari. There is great range in the porcelains, including white glazes, pale gray-blue or gray-green glazes (called celadons), and blue-and-white wares with underglaze painting, as

36 Views Glossary

well as overglaze enamels. Due to the Arita kiln, the city of Imari became a center of shipping and trade.

Island of Dejima – Dutch East India Trading Company trade post located on a manmade island in the Bay of Nagasaki. It was the only sanctioned European trade post for much of the Tokugawa shogunate. The island was created in 1634.

Izumi Shikibu - (born c 976) a Heian-era aristocratic woman and waka poet who was a contemporary of Murasaki and also served in the court retinue of Empress Joto Mon'in. One of her diaries also survives.

Kamakura Era – The period in Japan (1192 to 1333) during which the shogunate emerged as the system of government. The shogunate was a feudal, military style of government that ruled Japan until the 1867 Meiji Restoration. The Kamakura period is named for the military headquarters of Minamoto Yoritomo, Japan's first shogun. (The beginning of the period is marked by the year that the Emperor formally recognized his military authority, 1192.) The period following Yoritomo's rule was marked by Mongol attacks and weak internal authority. The Kamakura era's culture was defined by the rise of the samurai warrior class and the influence of Zen Buddhism. The art of the era saw two new, realistic styles increase in popularity – *emakimono*, scroll paintings that depicted incidents of real life, and *nise-e*, portraits where the artist captured an individual's character and accomplishments in a few simple lines. For more information, visit the Metropolitan Museum of Art's [essay on Kamakura and Nanbokucho Japan](#).

Kampai – Japanese for "Cheers"

Kanji – Japanese characters adapted from Chinese characters and used in Japanese writing.

Kana – A Japanese set of written characters that represent syllables. Two syllabries – hiragana and katakana – evolved in Japan during the 9th and 10th centuries. Although both are based on Chinese characters, they have different purposes and styles. Katakana or "partial" *kana* are abbreviations of the Chinese kanji and was originally developed and used by men for official, religious, and literary purposes. Hiragana used mnemonic symbols, rather than kanji, and was used by Heian era women. Because it was accessible to and adopted by Heian era women, it is sometimes referred to as "women's hand" or *onna moji*. Having excellent calligraphy skills was particularly important in Heian Japan, as the appearance of poem or letter was as important as the content. Hiragana is rounded and stylized, with a cursive-like appearance; whereas Katakana is angular. Today, Katakana symbols are used for foreign words, telegrams, as well as for ad headlines in newspapers, tv, and billboards. Hiragana is used in modern Japanese primarily for grammar – to indicate inflection and possession, identify direct objects, etc. Prepositions and many adjectives and common phrases are

36 Views Glossary

nearly always written in hiragana, as are numerous frequently used single words.

Kitsune Roppo exit – A roppo is a highly stylized Kabuki exit. The name means “six directions” and the exit is marked by the actor’s exaggerated movements with his feet and arms, which give the impression that pointed in six directions – heaven, earth, north, south, east, and west. The “fox” or kitsune roppo is noted for curled hands for paws and other fox-like characteristics. Foxes are common in Japanese folklore and their most frequent attribute is the ability to take human form. To see examples of a roppo exit, please visit [Roppo](#), from Invitation to Kabuki.

Kurogo – A kabuki term for an assistant who helps the actor onstage by handing him props and making scene shifts and in general it means “someone who endeavors to help others without drawing attention to himself or herself.” The kurogo wears a black robe and gauze hood and the convention of this costume signifies to the audience that he is invisible.

Kushan Period – Central Asian dynasty that ruled portions of Afghanistan and India during the first three centuries CE. Trade, especially with Rome, made it a powerful and wealthy empire. The Kushan Golden Age was under Kanishka I (127–147) and his immediate successors. This era is known for the helping spread Buddhism in Central Asia and China and the Gandhara and Mathura schools of art. Greco-Roman themes and imagery were common in early Kushan art, although Buddhism became the dominant reference point. Kushan sculptures were originally painted and gilded, although many of these details have faded with time. They were sculpted from green phyllite and gray-blue mica schist and stucco. For more information, visit the [Metropolitan Museum of Art’s essay on the Kushan Empire](#).

Kyoto – A Japanese city, currently the second largest urban area in the country. For over 1,000 Kyoto was the Japanese capital (from 794 to 1868), and its name literally means “Capital City.”

Lady of the 5th rank – In Heian era Japan, the aristocracy comprised of 9 ranks in three categories. The top three ranks – First, Second, and Third – had great wealth, power, and prestige associated with the Fujiwara family. The Fourth and Fifth ranks were primarily made up of junior officials and provincial governors, and under the right circumstances could advance. Ranks Six through Nine did not have possibility for advancement and were considered inferior; these ranks were made up of those with special skills, such as scholars.

Liao Dynasty – (907–1125), dynasty of the nomadic Khitan tribes, they ruled over much of present-day Manchuria and Mongolia and the northeastern corner of mainland China, conquering the native Chinese. Although the Khitan made a conscious effort to retain their ethnic identity,

36 Views Glossary

they also adopted Chinese bureaucratic practices and Sung cultural practices. The Mongol Juchen tribes eventually rebelled against the Khitan and ended the Liao dynasty in 1125. For more information, browse [Gilded Splendor: Treasures of China's Liao Empire](#) from [Asia Society and Museum](#).

Line Producer – Also called show producer or just producer, the person with creative control over a TV newscast. They are in charge of the content – selecting stories – assigning reporters and generally ensuring quality control. This can also entail writing copy and fact checking.

Mono no aware – A hallmark of Japanese art, especially of the Heian period. The phrase roughly translates to “the pity of things” or “the sensitivity to the sadness of things” and is an underlying theme in *The Tale of the Genji* and other Heian era art. The word “aware” is used in Heian literature to mean “pathetic,” “moving,” or “beautiful.” As Ivan Morris explains in *The World of the Shining Prince*: “It is when people perceive the connection between the beauty and the sadness of the world that they most poignantly sense *mono no aware*. The sensitive observer is moved to tears by the beauty of nature, or by its embodiment in art...not only because it is so impressive in itself, but because when confronted with such beauty he becomes more than ever conscious of the ephemeral nature of all that lives in this world of ours.” It is important to note that only people of rank can experience *mono no aware*, and being unable to appreciate it is the mark of a “bad” character.

Mount Fuji – The highest mountain in Japan, it is famous throughout the world and is a symbol of Japan. It is located about 60 miles west of Tokyo. It is a dormant volcano that last erupted in 1707. The mountain is surrounded by temples and shrines, in fact there are even shrines at the edge and the bottom of the crater. According to Encyclopedia Britannica: “Among Japanese there is a sense of personal identification with the mountain, and thousands of Japanese climb to the shrine on its peak every summer.” The climbing season runs from July 1 to August 26.

Mulberry paper – Paper pulp made from the fibers of the inner bark of a tree called the Paper Mulberry or Kozo, which is native to Asia. The strong fibers make a high-quality paper, referred to as Kozogami. The fibers are also used to make a tissue paper that can be used to repair books. When forging works of art, forgers often incorporate original materials, such as mulberry paper. They obtain these materials by destroying older artifacts that have a lower market value than the forged work they are creating.

Lady Murasaki – (c. 978-c. 1014) A Heian era Japanese noblewoman who is famous for writing *The Tale of the Genji*. Her real name is unknown (she may have acquired the name Murasaki from the heroine from *The Tale of the Genji*), the main source of information about her life is a diary she kept (1007–10). She served in court of the Empress Joto Mon'in as a lady in waiting. For more information, visit [Liza Dalby's Tale of Murasaki website](#).

36 Views Glossary

Muromachi – Period of Ashikaga Shogunate (1338–1573) followed the Kamakura shogunate and was marked by political strife (later parts of the era are known as “the age of the country at war”). Despite this disorder, the Muromachi was also a time of cultural growth, particularly under the influence of Zen Buddhism. Some characteristic Japanese arts emerged during the Muromachi era, including the tea ceremony, flower arranging, and noh drama; the Chinese Sung style of ink painting (sumi) also thrived. For more information, visit the [Minneapolis Institute of Art](#) and [Metropolitan Museum of Art](#).

Nagashime – 流し目 (nagashi me) A sidelong or flirtatious glance

Nightingale floor – A floor that is designed to squeak when walked upon. The sound is reminiscent of a nightingale’s chirp and functions like an alarm system.

Pillow books (*Makura no soshi* or “Notes of the Pillow”) –The term primarily refers to a collection of writings by Sei Shonagon, a Heian period (794–1185) aristocratic lady, written during her ten years at court. It includes lists of her likes and dislikes, comments on court intrigue and gossip, and other bits of miscellany; it belongs to the genre of *zuihitsu* (“random jottings”). Although other contemporary pillow books may have been written (and other diaries if the era make reference to them), Shonagon’s is the only one to survive. The earliest extant versions were produced more than 500 years later and the earliest printed copy dates from the 17th century. It is unclear whether or not the title referred to a type of literature, or even if she referred to it by that name. One criticism is the work’s organization, in that it really has none and the intended order of the sections is unknown. Although some entries are dated, they are not arranged in chronological order, but rather are divided under headings (such as “Amusing Things” and “Vexatious Things”). Also, it is possible that Shonagon herself may have rearranged the order to make it more accessible when the book became public knowledge at court, after 996. The overall confusion is, in part, a result of the work being copied and re-copied over the centuries. Unless an extant Heian-era version is discovered, we will never know the “true” order. However, *The Pillow Book* provides rich historical details about the Heian era and is considered a literary masterpiece for its sharp wit and excellent expression. In fact it is still taught in Japanese schools today as a model of “linguistic purity.” (Morris, *The Pillow Book of Sei Shonagon*).

Provenance – The history of ownership of a valued object or work of art or literature

Sake – The national beverage of Japan, it is an alcoholic drink made from fermented rice. Light in color and noncarbonated with a sweet flavor, it contains up to 18 percent alcohol. Sake is served with special ceremony – before being served, it is warmed in a small earthenware or porcelain bottle

36 Views Glossary

called a *tokkuri*; it is usually sipped from a small porcelain cup called a *sakazuki*. Premium sake is served cold or on ice. Sake is best when consumed less than a year after bottling.

San – Japanese title or salutation, it stands in for Mr., Mrs., or Miss

Sei Shonagon – (born c 965) Heian era noblewoman, essayist and poet who is famous for writing *The Pillow Book* (*Makura no soshi*). Little is known about her other than what is detailed in her writings. She served Empress Consort Teishi (also known as Sadako), who was her friend and patron and died in childbirth in 1000. Shonagon was known for her intense loyalty to the Empress Teishi and rest of the imperial family. She was also known for her rivalry with Murasaki (who served the Empress Teishi's rival, the Empress Joto Mon'in). Murasaki wrote the following in her diary:

Sei Shonagon has the most amazing air of self-satisfaction. Yet if we look at the Chinese verses she litters everywhere, we find they are full of flaws. Someone who tries so hard to be different from others can only fall in people's regard and so I think her future will be hard. Certainly she is a gifted woman. But if one gives free rein to one's feelings even in the most inappropriate circumstances, if one has to partake of every interesting thing that passes, people are sure to see you as frivolous. And how could things turn out well for a woman like this?"

There are a series of legends about Shonagon's life after she left court following Teishi's death, including that she become a penniless nun, but these may be an invention (Morris). According to Arthur Waley: "As a writer she is incomparably the best poet of her time, a fact which is apparent only in her prose and not at all in the conventional *uta* [31-syllable poems] for which she is also famous. Passages such as that about the stormy lake or the few lines about crossing a moonlit river show a beauty of phrasing that Murasaki, a much more deliberate writer, certainly never surpassed."

Silla Dynasty – (668–935) Dynasty that unified the three kingdoms of the Korean peninsula—Silla, Paekche, and Koguryo. The Silla kingdom forged an alliance with T'ang China (618–907), and then conquered the neighboring kingdoms of Paekche (660) and Koguryo (668) before expelling the T'ang forces (c 678). After the unification, the country was reorganized according to the Chinese bureaucratic model; however, a merit-based bureaucracy was never firmly established and the aristocracy remained in control. After more than 100 years of peace, the 9th century was marked by conflicts among the aristocracy and peasant uprisings. In 935 the Silla was overthrown, and the new Koryo dynasty was established. During the Silla dynasty, Korea developed many national and cultural features that continue today, such as Korean art's characteristic appreciation of nature. Visit the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' [Silla website](#).

36 Views Glossary

Shakuhachi flute – An end-blown bamboo flute popular in Japanese folk music. Its name refers to its size, 1.8 feet – *shaku* (尺 means "foot," an archaic measure of length equal to 30.3 centimeters and subdivided in units of ten , *hachi* (八) means "eight", here eight *sun* or tenths of a *shaku*. This flute is used in Kabuki both in offstage music and as a prop.

Shinagawa – One of the 23 special wards (municipalities) of Tokyo

Shoji screen – Feature of Japanese shoin style architecture, the screens are made of strong, but translucent, white paper pulled taut across latticework wooden frames. They function as exterior doors and windows and, when closed, the paper diffuses a soft light throughout the house. In summer they are often removed, which opens up the house and helps compensate for the humidity.

Shunga – Japanese erotic print. Literally, it means "Spring-time picture."

Sung Dynasty – Also called Song, a Chinese Dynasty (AD 960-1279). From the Minneapolis Institute of Arts' [Sung Dynasty website](#): "Considered the third Chinese golden age, this complex dynasty was divided almost evenly into Northern (960 - 1126) and Southern (1127 - 1279) halves. The former was a tranquil time characterized by philosophical and artistic development, political centralization, and economic growth. The latter, however, was quite the opposite; brutal invaders drove the Chinese from their northern territory, forcing them to migrate south and establish a new capital city. The psychological effects of this devastating upheaval are apparent in Sung paintings; misty, ethereal landscapes reflect conflicting emotions of regret, acceptance, and longing. The variety and quality of ceramics increased dramatically, and wooden sculpture was convincingly realistic." The Dynasty ended when it was conquered by Kublai Khan and became part of the Mongol Empire.

Suiboku – Japanese monochrome ink painting technique first developed in China during the Sung dynasty (960–1274) and taken to Japan by Zen Buddhist monks in the mid-14th century. *Suiboku-ga* reached its height in the Muromachi period (1338–1573) under masters such as Sesshu Toyo and the Kano school painters. "The bold use of black ink strokes and washes allowed *suiboku-ga* artists to eliminate from their paintings all but the essential character of their subject, an aim closely related to the pursuit of Zen Buddhism." For more information, visit [Suiboku-ga](#), part of the [Virtual Museum of Traditional Japanese Arts](#), presented by the [Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

Sutras – literally a thread, the term is used in both Hinduism and Buddhism to describe religious verses that were memorized and recited. In Buddhism sutras they often explained a point of doctrine and were considered oral teachings.

36 Views Glossary

The Tale of the Genji – (or *Genji monogatari*) completed in 1010 by Lady Murasaki. It is a long and complex tale, concerned mostly with the loves of Prince Genji and the women in his life. It reflects Heian aesthetics and is deeply sensitive to human emotions and the beauties of nature, and it provides insight into life at the court of the Empress Joto mon'in. Like the *Pillow Book*, it is taught today as part of Japan's national literature and is considered by many to be the world's first novel. For more information on, visit [Liza Dalby's Tale of Murasaki website](#).

Tariffs – A tax on goods that enter a new country, they are usually levied by the government of the importing country. The words tariff, duty, and customs can be used interchangeably. In 1947, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) was established to reduce barriers to international trade in the wake of WWII. [Article XX\(f\) of GATT allows an exception to free trade for the protection of national treasures of artistic, historic or archaeological value](#). However, the definition of a national treasure is slippery and open to interpretation. Other significant international developments are United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) 1964 [Recommendation on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](#) that sought to protect the cultural heritage and properties of its member states and UNESCO's 1970 [Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property](#). The United States joined this Convention in 1983 and passed accompanying the [Cultural Property Implementation Act](#). It should be noted that this Act leaves the regulation of antiquities dealers to state and local governments. For more information, visit [Saving Antiquities for Everyone's](#) section on [Treaties and Legislation](#).

Takanobu – (1142-1205, Kyoto) The leading Japanese portrait artist of the Kamakura era. He created a type of simple, realistic painting, the *nise-e* ("likeness picture"), popular throughout the period. One of his three surviving portrait paintings is of Minamoto Yoritomo, the portrait is notable for its sharp angular outlines and large blocks of dense color – innovations that were carried on by Takanobu's son, Nobuzane, and his descendants for several generations.

Tea house – Chashitsu is a room where the tea ceremony is performed or sometimes an entire building that is built around a space for the tea ceremony. Styles can broadly be divided into the *shoin* style tearoom and the rustic *souan* style tearoom. [Visit the Minneapolis Institute of Art's tea house](#) to see a replica tea house, learn about the details of the tea ceremony and the objects used.

Umeshu (plum wine) – Traditionally it is made from green or unripe plums steeped in alcohol, such as shochu or sake. It has a very sweet flavor and there are hundreds of varieties. Although it is usually served on the rocks, it can also be shaken up or stirred into cocktails.

36 Views Glossary

Undayana Buddha (or Udayanacarya) – Hindu logician (c. 10th century) who attempted to reconcile the views held by the two major schools of logic, which lead to the Navya Nyaya (“New Nyaya”) school of “right.”

Unkoku – Unkoku Togan (1547-1618), a Japanese painter famous for his *suiboku-ga* art. At a time when the most artists worked in the Kano style of painting (family of artists who dominated Japanese art for more than 300 years – their subjects and technique were Chinese-inspired, but they also drew upon the late Heian decorative style of Yamato-e, which was known for its strong use of color) he modeled his work after the Sesshu, a leading artist of the earlier Muromachi period. Sesshu was famous for his bold, forceful brush strokes, intensity, and uniquely Japanese style.

Utamakura – Literally a “poem pillow.” “A central feature of traditional Japanese poetry (waka) is the use of utamakura – a category or poetic words, many of which are place names or the names of features associated with them – to cultivate allusion and intertextuality between poems and within the tradition,”(Edward Kamens). The tradition dates at least to the earliest written works, *Anthology of Myriad Leaves*, which was produced in the late eighth century during the Nara period.

Vermillion – A bright red pigment, traditionally made from grinding the mineral cinnabar (the chemical is mercuric sulfide, which is toxic). Most naturally occurring cinnabar comes from China, giving vermilion the nickname “China Red.” Now the term refers to any natural reddish-orange shade.

Waley – Arthur David Waley (1889-1966), English Orientalist who produced groundbreaking translations of Classical Japanese and Chinese texts including *The Tale of the Genji*. Waley was assistant keeper (curator) in the Department of Prints and Drawings at the British Museum (1913 to 1929), where he taught himself Japanese and Chinese. He left the British Museum to further these studies and lecture at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London. Waley lived in Bloomsbury (the area of London that includes the British Museum and was a Modernist cultural center during the early 1900’s) and his work greatly influential many Modern poets, including Yeats and Pound. Some modern translators, while praising Waley’s phrasing and the importance of his works in popularizing these classical texts, nonetheless criticize him for taking many liberties in his translations.

Water marks – A marking in paper (usually a manufacturer’s name alongside a geometric design or animal image) visible when it is held up to the light. Watermarks are often used to identify the manufacturer or the grade of paper, as well to detect and prevent counterfeiting and forgery. They result from differences in the thickness of paper fibers and are usually intentionally created by pressing a mold into the paper during the wet phase of papermaking.

36 Views Glossary

Wooden clappers – Hyôshigi (“rhythm wood”), also called ki and tannuki. The clappers are two wooden sticks about 10 inches long. They are hit together by kyogen to indicate important moments in kabuki, such as the opening and closing of the curtain. The sound is a clear, high pitched clack. Similar sticks are used in traditional Japanese festivals, ancient gagaku court music, and by night watchmen to signal the hours spent on their rounds.