

年中行事略

一月 (睦月 陽春)

朝賀年始 若水書初初
 荷初夢 寒詣り 七草春相撲 左義長 (とん
 ど、十五日) 歌御會始 御講書始

琴棋書畫 松の内なる遊びかた、虚子

二月 (衣更着 仲春)

祈年祭 (としひ祭り) 節分初
 午 涅槃會 (十五日)

梅が香にのつと日の下る山路かた、はせき

三月 (彌生 花月)

雛祭 地久節 (六日) 社日 (春
 分に近き戌の日) 彼岸

春雨や同車の君がさいめ言、蕪村

四月 (卯月 孟夏)

更衣 (ころもがへ) 灌佛會 (八日)
 孔子祭典 (二十二日)

今しがた見しわなあたり 雉子の聲、方外

五月 (早月 仲夏)

端午、八十八夜
 行く春を近江の人と惜みけり、ばせを

六月 (水無月 晩夏)

鮎魚解禁 (一日) 時の紀
 念日 (十日) 大袂 (廿日)

目もそ青葉山ほととぎすはつ鯉、素堂

廿

小寒、一月六日、寒氣
 や、甚し。

大寒、一月二十日、大に寒し。

立春、二月四日、陽春氣
 立ち初む。

雨水、二月十九日、氷雪
 雨水となる。

雨水となる。

啓蟄、三月六日、冬眠了る。

春分、三月廿日、晝夜同長。

清明、四月五日、草木枝
 葉を發し、物明なる。

葉を發し、物明なる。

穀雨、四月廿日、春雨百
 穀を慈養す。

穀を慈養す。

立夏、五月六日、夏の氣
 立ち初む。

立ち初む。

小滿、五月廿一日、萬物や
 や満ちんとす。

や満ちんとす。

芒種、六月六日、麥を刈
 り稲をうゆ。

り稲をうゆ。

夏至、六月廿三日、日最由
 長し。

長し。

小暑、七月七日、暑初る。

大暑、七月廿三日、大にあ
 つし。

つし。

氣

四

大 一 三 五 七 八 十 十二

四方拜 一月一日

祭 元始祭 一月三日

新年宴會 一月五日

日 紀元節 二月十一日

春季皇靈祭 三月廿日

神武天皇祭 四月三日

昭和十九年甲申

明治三十七年
二黑中宮
大正三十三年

略曆

西曆一千九百四十四年

天長節 四月廿九日

祭 秋季皇靈祭 九月廿三日

神嘗祭 十月十七日

日 明治節 十一月三日

新嘗祭 十一月廿三日

大正天皇祭 十二月廿五日

一月 二日、九日、十六日、廿三日、廿日

二月 六日、十三日、廿日、廿七日

三月 五日、十二日、十九日、廿六日

四月 二日、九日、十六日、廿三日、廿日

五月 七日、十四日、廿一日、廿八日

六月 四日、十一日、十八日、廿五日

七月 二日、九日、十六日、廿三日、廿日

八月 六日、十三日、廿日、廿七日

九月 三日、十日、十七日、廿四日

十月 一日、八日、十五日、廿二日、廿九日

十一月 五日、十二日、十九日、廿六日

十二月 三日、十日、十七日、廿四日

日曜表

小 二 四 六 九 十一

七月(文月初秋) 富士の山開(一日) 七夕 孟蘭

盆 中元(十五日) 土用 祇園會(十七日)

兩國川びらき(月の中頃)

母ひとり子一人 盆のあはれなり、漱石

八月(葉月、仲秋) 八朝(舊一日) 十五夜

子を抱いて水老みけり今日の月、紅葉

九月(長月、晚秋) 二百十日、十三夜、彼岸

捨て、ある破れ摺鉢や蓼の花、鼠骨

十月(神無月、孟冬) 御會式(舊十三日) 銃獵

解禁(十五日) 帝展(中旬) 惠比須講(廿日)

鶉のこぼしまりぬる実の赤き、蕪村

十一月(霜月、一陽) 酉の市、観菊、七五三の祝

(十五日) 満期除隊(廿日)

焚く程を風がもてくる落葉かな、一茶

十二月(師走、極月) 歳の市(十三日頃より)

年賀郵便(十五日より) 歳暮、クリスマス

帝國議會(廿六日召集) 忘年会(廿日頃より)

大祓(廿一日) 除夜(廿一日)

聞き盡す五山の鐘や大ミ十日、燕洋

廿四氣

立秋、八月八日、秋の氣

あり

處暑、八月廿三日、暑

氣退く

白露、九月八日、つゆふ

かし

秋分、九月廿三日、晝

夜同長

寒露、十月九日、冷氣

加はる

霜降、十月廿四日、つゆ

霜となる

立冬、十一月八日、冬の氣

あり

小雪、十一月廿三日、雨水

ゆきとなる

大雪、十二月七日、雪し

げし

冬至、十二月廿二日、日

最も短し

舟は出せ

策を拙し

冬を枯れぬ

又來ん年も

敗れざらめや

This leaflet is in the form of a calendar and almanac made up in accordance with Japanese practice. It is designed primarily for use at New Year, which is much the most important festival and holiday period in Japan. It can, however, be used at any time in any area. Its specific New Year appeal will last for at least three months, owing to the difference between the New Year according to the modern calendar and the New Year of the old lunar calendar.

The first page carries a drawing of the Treasure Ship of Urashimataro, the Japanese Rip van Winkle. The story is a well-known one, and is inextricably associated with the idea of the sudden breaking of a dream. The following poem is written in the sky over the ship:-

"Whether the ship comes in or not entirely depends
on the heart (attitude of mind) - The treasury ship!"

At the top left there is a red seal with the inscription: "Prosperity, Longevity, Peoples of the four seas all brethren." On this page also there is a short text reading:

"(Only) seventy years after the restoration. Alas! back to the principle of seclusion" (chained country principle).

The second page is a Japanese-style calendar, showing the year according to the western and the Japanese reckoning; the long months and the short months; the recognised national holidays; and the dates of every Sunday in each of the twelve months. It also provides a key to the horoscopic position of the year according to the prevailing system of astrology.

Pages three and four give "Principal Events of the Year", and the "Twenty-four Seasons."

The national holidays and events mentioned have been carefully chosen. They all have strong nostalgia value. The national holidays are days of popular fun and amusement, like Christmas and Easter with us. All holidays or commemoration days of a military character have been omitted, with the one exception of the day when conscripts are released from service.

After the "Twenty-four Seasons", which end with heavy snow and winter solstice, there has been added a strong warning that defeat is inevitable in the course of the year.

The object of the leaflet is:-

- (a) to arouse interest by the Japanese and, apparently, innocuous character of the calendar;
- (b) to arouse nostalgia;
- (c) to arouse forebodings by the illustration; by the contrast of the seal inscribed with "Prosperity; Longevity; Peoples of the four seas all brethren" and the slogan "Only seventy years after the restoration. Alas! back to the principle of seclusion"; and by the warning which appears at the end.

A translation of the calendar follows:-

SECOND PAGE:

A Japanese style calendar showing the year according to the western and the Japanese reckoning; the long months and the short months; the recognised national holidays; and the dates of every Sunday in each of the twelve months. It also provides a key to the horoscopic position of the year according to the prevailing system of astrology.

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The recognised national holidays mentioned are:

Jan. 1	New Year's day.
Jan. 3	New Year's beginning of worship.
Jan. 5	New Year's banquet at court.
Feb. 11	Constitution day.
Mar. 20	Vernal Equinox.
Apr. 3	Kashiwabara Shrine memorial day.
Apr. 29	Emperor's birthday.
Sept. 23	Autumnal Equinox
Oct. 17	First Harvest Festival.
Nov. 3	Meiji Era memorial day.
Nov. 23	Second Harvest Festival.
Dec. 25	Taisho Emperor's memorial day.

PAGE THREE:

To be divided into two columns. The top column (two thirds of the height of the page) for "Principal Events of the Year". The lower column (one third of the height of the page) gives the "Twenty-four Seasons."

PAGE FOUR: Same divisions as page three.

Principal Events of the Year.

January:

Poetical name, "month of intimacy".
 Classical name, "(month of) spring tide."
 New Year calls.
 First drawing of water from the well.
 First devotion to calligraphy in the new year.
 First consignment of merchandise (first deal) in the new year.
 Invocation of lucky dreams by putting charms under the pillow.
 Worshipping at shrine in cold weather with cold douche penance.
 Feast of the seven Medicinal Herbs.
 New Year lectures at Court. (Emperor sets example by starting studies, Japanese, Chinese or Western, early in the year.
 Spring wrestling bouts.
 Jan 15. - Purification ceremony of burning of New Year decorations.
 Jan. 18. - Opening of Imperial Poetry Contest.
 Poem by Kyoshi:

"How elegant are the enjoyments of the New Year festival days, spent playing koto (Japanese harp), or chess, or admiring calligraphy and painting."

February:

Poetical name. "Kisaragi". (Lit: "Wear dress again", as cold spells are likely to occur in this month. Warm clothes should be ready).
 Classical name, "mid-spring".
 Kinensai (prayer for good crops).
 Feast of the change of season; on day of the beginning of the spring season.
 First day of the seventh of the zodiac; day devoted to Fox Rice god.
 Feb. 15 - Anniversary of death of Buddha.
 Poem by Bashō:

"Ah! The great red sun had risen over the horizon as I looked up from the mountain path at the fragrant plum blossom."

March:

Poetic name: "budding".
 Classical name: "flower month."
 Feast of dolls.
 March 6 - birthday of Empress.
 Special prayer day.
 Equinoctial prayer week (Buddhist).

Poem by Buson.

"Soft spring rain - the whispering of the two,
riding together."

April.

Poetic name: "buckwheat flower month."

Classical name: "young summer."

Koromo gae - "shedding of winter clothes."

April 8 - Buddha's birthday.

Poem by Hōgai.

"A moment ago I heard the voice of a pheasant from
the place where I discovered a springe."

May.

Poetic name: "early leafy month."

Classical name: "midsummer."

Boy's Festival.

88th Night - connected with customary beginning of sowing.

Poem by Bashō.

"With the man of the country of Omi regretting the
departure of spring."

June.

Poetic name: "Waterless month."

Classical name: "Late summer."

June 1 - beginning of trout season.

Commemoration of arrival of first water-clock in
Japan (celebrated nowadays to encourage punctuality).

June 30 - Great purification ceremony.

Poem by Sodo

"Fresh green greets the eye.

The cuckoo's song comes from the hills.

The first catch of bonito (on the table)!"

(Note:- Bonito is extremely popular with gastronomes in
Tokyo).

July.

Poetic name: "month of love letters" (connected with feast
of Weaver and the Cowherd in this month.)

Classical name: "Beginning of autumn."

July 1 - opening of Mount Fuji climbing season.

July 7 - Feast of the Weaver and the Cowherd.

Feast of the Dead.

July 15 - Middle of the Year. Also middle of celebrations
of Feast of Dead. Usually presents are given on this day.

Dog days - period of extreme heat, extending over 18 days,
in which broiled eel is the customary delicacy.

July 17 - popular feast of the Gion temple in Kyoto,
known all over Japan.

Fireworks display in Tokyo near Ryogoku bridge on river
Sumida. (A very popular festival often depicted in
Japanese colour prints).

Poem by Sōseki.

"Touching is the Feast of the Dead for the lonely
mother and her lonely son (i.e. deprived of husband and
father).

August.

Poetic name: "(falling)" leaf month."

Classical name: "mid autumn".

Hassaku - first of the 8th month, originally of the old
lunar calendar. A farmers' festival. In the Tokugawa
period this date was a special commemoration day, as Shogun
Ieyasu had entered Yedo castle on this date.

Night of the full moon during August.

Poem by Kouo

"As I carry my son on my arm I realise my age
(in the light of) today's full moon."

September:

Poetic name: "long month" (i.e. when the nights are
lengthening).

Classical name: "late autumn."

210th day. (This day, calculated according to the old
lunar calendar from the beginning of spring, is notorious
all over Japan as a day with great possibilities of typhoons,
feared for the resultant damage to crops.)

13th Night (according to lunar calendar). Prayer gathering in moonlight.

Autumn equinoctial prayer week.

Poem by Sokotsu.

"The broken mortar is thrown away to lie amongst the evil smelling 'tada' flowers (water-pepper).

(Note:- this verse expresses a mood of hopelessness. The flower mentioned blooms in September).

October:

Poetic name: "month without gods."

Classical name: "early winter."

Oeshiki - 12th and 13th day of lunar calendar. A buddhist festival especially celebrated by the Nichiren sect.

Oct. 15 - opening of hunting season. Imperial art exhibition in Tokyo (usually open to public from Oct. 10 to Oct. 20).

Ebisukō (Oct. 20). A popular feast for servants and employees in honour of Ebisu, the god of wealth.

Poem by Buson.

"Strikingly red are the berries which the brown eared bulbul has picked at and dropped."

November:

Poetic name: "frost month".

Classical name: "short warm spell".

Torinoichi or Tori no machi - feast in honour of the god of gains, celebrated on the "day of the bird" of the 11th month.

Nov. 15 - Chrysanthemum viewing.

Feast of 7, 5, and 3 year old children, who visit the shrines in special attire. (These figures are supposed to be lucky and are therefore used on ceremonial occasions).

Nov. 30 - Return of soldiers from barracks on expiry of term.

Poem by Issa.

"The wind is bringing us plenty of fallen leaves for the oven. (What more can I wish?)

December:

Poetic name: "shiwasu" (lit: even the sedate scholar rushing about).

Classical name: "last month".

Dec. 8 - Feast of the Sewing Needles.

Dec. 13 onwards - Market for sale of New Year decorations.

Dec. 15 onwards - acceptance of New Year wishes by Post Office.

Distribution of year-end presents.

Christmas.

From Dec. 26 - Convocation of Diet.

Celebration of close of old year (from about Dec. 20).

Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve.

Poem by Enyō

"One listens to the very last sound (of the 108 tolls) of the bells of the five large temples on New Year's Eve."

TWENTY FOUR CALENDAR PERIODS OF THE YEAR.

Lesser cold	Jan. 6	The cold gradually becomes severe.
Great cold	Jan. 20	It is extremely cold.
Spring begins	Feb. 4	Beginning of spring warmth is felt.
Rain water	Feb. 19	Ice and snow turn into rain water.
End of hibernation period.	March 6	
Vernal Equinox	March 20	Day and Night of equal length.
Clear and bright	April 5	Trees start budding, showing themselves clearly.
Grain rain	April 20	Spring rain nourishes all kinds of cereals.
Summer begins	May 6	The feel of summer life is in the air.
Grain fills	May 21	Everything begins to ripen.
Ears and seeds	June 6	Harvesting barley and planting rice.
Summer solstice	June 22	Days are very long.
Slight heat	July 23	Very Hot.
Autumn begins	Aug. 8	Autumn is in the air.
End of heat	Aug. 23	Summer heat recedes.
White dews.	Sept. 8	Dew begins to be heavy.
Autumn equinox	Sept. 23	Day and night of equal length.
Cold dews	Oct. 9	Increase of chilliness.
Hoar frost falls	Oct. 24	Dew turns into frost.
Winter begins	Nov. 8	Wintry snap in the air.
Early snow	Nov. 23	Rain water turns into snow.
Great snow	Dec. 7	Snow begins to fall heavily.
Winter solstice	Dec. 22	Shortest day.

"The ship does not come.
The planning (of the High Command) has been clumsy and bad.
The wintry scene is desolate (expression implying lack of good leadership).
It is impossible to avoid defeat in the course of this year."