

## Main Building

The construction of the university's Main Building was completed in 1932. Its flowing, elegant design includes curved parapets influenced by Expressionism; a front center area decorated with reliefs of plant patterns; and two-ream windows featuring white windowsills.



Main Building on its completion

An elegant VIP room is situated on the second floor. Originally intended to accommodate visits from the Empress, it is used today as a meeting hall.

## Ki-in Do Hall

The auditorium in the center of the Main Building is called Ki-in Do Hall. "Ki-in" means "beautiful sound" and "virtue". In the center of the stage, a frame is displayed with the characters "Ki-in Do" written in Japanese calligraphy by Princess Kaneko of Higashi Fushimi-no-Miya.



Ki-in Do Hall



Calligraphy of "Ki-in Do"

## Etiquette Room and History Museum

The original Main Building included both Western- and Japanese-style etiquette rooms on the first floor. When the building was renovated in 2003, the stone-faced fireplace in the Western-style room was restored. Then, in March 2006, the room became home to the university's History Museum. In addition to exhibiting the university's historical materials, the History Museum conducts educational and research programs.



Etiquette training

## Hisao & Hiroko TAKI PLAZA

A second History Museum has also been established on the first floor of the Hisao & Hiroko TAKI PLAZA, construction of which was completed in March 2019.

In May 1903, under the proposal of the Queen of Siam (today's Thailand) and through the intermediary of Japan's ambassador to Siam, eight Siamese men and women were sent to study in Japan. Of those, four women were accepted as students at the university. The museum in Hisao & Hiroko TAKI PLAZA displays materials related to international exchange, as well as scenes from the university boardinghouse, the Ki-in Sai school festival, and student movements.



Students from Siam

## Request for Historical Materials

The Ochanomizu University History Museum is seeking historical materials related to the university. If you have any materials you would like to donate, please contact us at the email address and website listed below.

### Main Building History Museum

Except for special occasions, the museum is open by appointment only. Those who wish to visit must make an appointment two weeks in advance.

### Hisao & Hiroko TAKI PLAZA History Museum

The museum is open during the same hours as the Hisao & Hiroko TAKI PLAZA itself.

For more information, please contact:

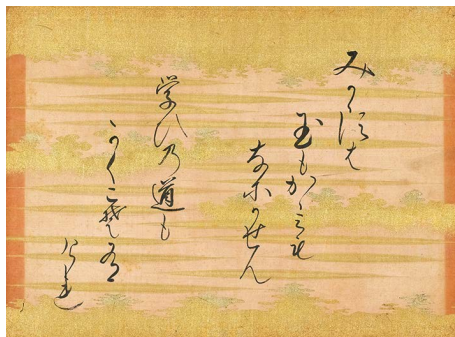
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**Ochanomizu University Digital Archives**

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# Ochanomizu University History Museum





Poem "Migakazuba"

## Empress Dowager Shoken and the Opening of the School

Tokyo Women's Normal School, the forerunner of Ochanomizu University, opened on November 29, 1875 as Japan's first institution of higher learning for women. At the opening ceremony, the Empress (who later became Empress Dowager Shoken) attended and gave the school an imperial order for promoting women's education. In December 1875, The Empress gifted the school with a poem she wrote called "Migakazuba," which was later set to music to become Japan's first school song. The song has been passed down and is still sung today.

A deep relationship developed between Empress Dowager Shoken, who had a strong interest in the development of women's education, and the school. She visited the school 11 times during the Meiji period, often giving imperial orders of encouragement and bringing gifts that included kimono fabrics and artworks. In 1881, when construction of the Etiquette Rooms was completed, she gave the school three art pieces said to be drawn by Hoitsu Sakai, a famous artist of the Edo period.

When Empress Dowager Shoken passed away in April 1914, the school was given a letter box and inkstone case with a phoenix and paulownia tree motif on pearskin-like ground lacquer.

In the years since, the university has maintained its reverence for Empress Dowager Shoken. When construction was completed on Ki-in Do Hall in 1932, portraits of Emperor Meiji and Empress Dowager Shoken were placed on the wall within. The portraits have been restored and kept in good condition to the present day.



Portrait of Empress Dowager Shoken



Letter box with a phoenix and paulownia tree motif on pearskin-like ground lacquer



"Yochi Hoiku Zu" (part)

## Japan's First Kindergarten

In November 1876, Japan's first kindergarten opened as an attached kindergarten to the university. The opening ceremony held the following year was attended by the Empress Dowager and Empress, who issued an imperial order that has been passed down and preserved to the present day. The kindergarten of that time is depicted in several artworks, including "Yochi Hoiku Zu (Scene of Children's Education)", "20 Yugi no Zu (Scene of 20 Games)" and "Yochi Kyuso Gigeiki no Zu (Scene of The Children's Game Called Pigeon's Nest)". The university still has the educational toys called "gifts" that appear in these pictures.

The "gifts" were designed by the German educator Friedrich Froebel and introduced to Japan by kindergarten teacher Clara Matsuno, who had studied at the teachers' school Froebel founded in Germany.

Among them are 20 items considered especially important for the education of small children, which were named "the 20 games of joy." The university also preserves two-seater desks that were used by children who played with the gifts.



Gifts



"20 Yugi no Zu"



The first graduates

## Achievements of Graduates

The university's first graduation ceremony was held in March 1879. Since then, many of our graduates have made notable achievements in various fields.

The university has produced many excellent female educators and researchers. Among those in the hard sciences, notable graduates include such famous scientists as Kono Yasui, the first woman to earn a doctorate in Japan; Chika Kuroda, Japan's first female chemist and second woman to earn a doctorate; and Toshiko Yuasa, who received her doctorate in France. All three of these eminent scientists pursued their own research while providing guidance to younger generations as professors at the university.

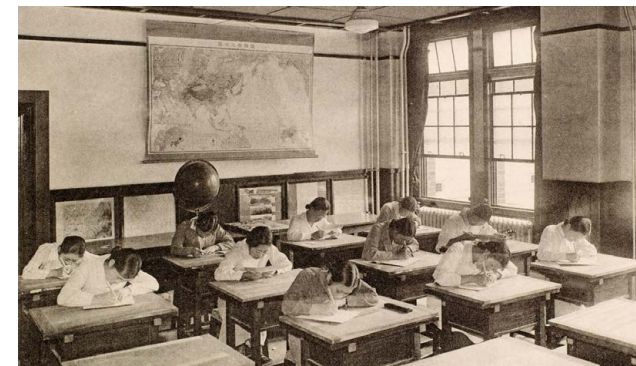
Many photographs have been preserved that show laboratory and classroom scenes dating from when the university was called Tokyo Women's Higher Normal School. Experimental tools used in the classes back then are also kept for display.



Chika Kuroda in her lecture



Microscope



Geography class