

# Tsubouchi Shōyō



Tsubouchi Shōyō (right) and his wife, Sen (left) in Minokamo City.

坪内逍遙

Tsubouchi Shōyō (1859 - 1935)

Tsubouchi was born in Minokamo City, 160 years ago, in a time when Samurai still roamed Japan (the Edo Period). He was the last of ten children, and lived in Minokamo in a loving home until he was ten years old.

逍遙は、侍がいた時代（160年前）に、今の美濃加茂市に生まれました。10人兄妹の末っ子で、家族からの愛情を受けながら、10歳までここ美濃加茂市で過ごしました。

After graduating from Tokyo University, he became a lecturer in what is now Waseda University. When he was 26, he published a dissertation on modern Japanese Literature and a novel that put his theories into practice. It was a landmark text that carved out the foundations of modern Japanese Literature. In addition, he invested his effort and intellect into improving Japanese theatre, and trained stage actors. In his lifetime, he revolutionised Japanese literature and Japanese theatre, most notably by producing the first Japanese translation of the complete works of William Shakespeare.

東京大学を卒業後、現在の早稲田大学の講師となり、26歳の時に日本近代小説の理論書と、それを実践した小説を発表し、日本の近代文学の礎を築きました。また、これまでの演劇の改良に力を入れ、俳優の養成にもつとめました。そして、イギリスの劇作家であるウィリアム・シャイクスピアの全作品を日本で初めて翻訳するなど、日本の文学界と演劇界の革新的役割を果たしました。

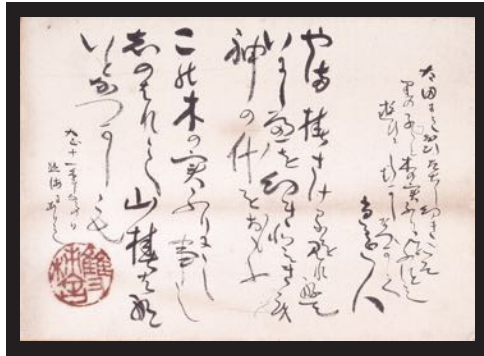
When he was young, he loved drawing and used a lot of paper, which was a precious resource in that era. Because he was born in the Chinese Zodiac year of the goat, and goats eat paper, his parents called him Hitsuji- umare no kami-kui mushi (“goat-born paper-eater”, or literally “goat-born paper-eating bug” ). Because of this, he collected goat accessories, and even made goats a motif in his writing.



逍遙は、幼少の頃、絵を描くことが大好きで貴重な紙をたくさん使い、家族から「未（ひつじ）年生まれの紙食い虫」と呼ばれました。そのことから逍遙は羊の小物を収集したり、書物に羊のモチーフを表したりしました。

When he was 61, he visited Minokamo, his hometown, and made a song about his love for the land that raised him, taking the iconic Mountain Camellia as a motif :

また、61歳の時に故郷であるこの地を訪れ、幼き頃に山椿の実で遊んだことを歌にし、逍遙の原点を育んだ美濃加茂をこよなく愛しました。



Yama-tsubaki sakeru wo mireba  
Furusato to osanaki-toki wo  
Kami no yo wo omou

Kono kinomi furi ni shi kotoshi  
Shinobarete yama-tsubaki hana  
Ito Natsukashimo

「やま椿さけるを見れば ふるさとを  
幼きときを 神の代をおもふ」

「この木の実ふりにし事し しのばれて  
山椿はな いとなつかしも」

“When I see the mountain Camellias bloom, I am reminded of my hometown, and the innocence of my lapsed childhood - How I used to play with its fallen fruit and its flowers springs to mind – I look at the flowers with a deep nostalgia”



In the main entrance of the Waseda University Professor Tsubouchi Shōyō Theatre Museum, Tsubouchi’s favourite Shakespeare quote “All the world’s a stage” is displayed. Minokamo City wants to spearhead the city’s planning and development in the spirit of this quote, by reinvigorating community activities and networks so that the people can make Minokamo the stage upon which they lead their fullest lives.

早稲田大学坪内博士演劇博物館正面には、坪内逍遙が理想としていた「世界はすべて劇場である」の言葉が掲げられています。美濃加茂市はこの逍遙博士の考え、精神を大切にしながら、これからのまちづくりをすすめていきたいと考えています。この言葉のもとに様々な市民活動がつながり、市すべてが劇場となり、市民の人生が舞台となり、市民が役者としてそれぞれの舞台で活躍することを願っています。