

Chapter 6

Takemura Published Prints

6.1 The Publisher Takemura Hideo

Takemura Hideo (also known as “Takemura Shōkai”) was a small-scaled publisher based mainly in the Yokohama area. The most notable artist to work with Takemura was Tsuchiya Kōitsu, and as was sometimes the case with artists who worked for multiple publishers simultaneously Kōitsu used a different art pseudonym, “Kiyoshi”, as his signature and/or seal exclusively for Takemura Hideo (see page 287 of Appendix A for examples of his seals). We were able to confirm without a doubt that the pseudonym “Kiyoshi” was indeed Tsuchiya Kōitsu when we found the rectangular-shaped seal “Kiyoshi” stored at Chigasaki City Museum of Art during our visit in September, 2005. This seal was part of Kōitsu’s art materials donated to the museum by Kōitsu’s daughters.

To date we have been able to confirm that one chūban print, 10 mitsugiri-ban prints, and 7 ōban prints were published between March 1935 and May 1939, all having dating information and one of the Takemura publisher seals listed in Appendix A.2.7. Takemura also published another 17 chūban-sized prints as well as 13 postcard-sized prints without publication date information. We believe all of the Takemura-published prints were first published in the 1930’s and that there were probably no post-war later editions. In addition to Tsuchiya Kōitsu’s prints, Takemura also published a series of flower prints for a lesser-known artist named Nishimura Hodo, and landscape prints by Saitō Hodo, all in the 1930’s. Furthermore, we have occasionally seen Takemura-published prints by such unknown artists as ‘Shōsei’ (彰世)¹, and ‘Seihō’ (晴峰). We need to see some more examples of prints by these unknown artists to further our research. Although we have evidence that Takemura probably restarted his business in the late 1940’s in Yokohama and was still in business as of 1960 (see Figure 6.1), we have no documented information as to whether he published Kōitsu’s prints posthumously.

6.1.1 Coding for Takemura prints

Based on the dating of the currently known large-format Takemura/Kōitsu prints it would appear that Takemura published about one new ōban or mitsugiri-ban Kōitsu print each month from early 1935 until late 1936. Because we still expect to find previously unseen prints we have decided to leave spaces in the coding to accommodate such prints.

¹the authors are currently unsure of the correct pronunciation of this artist’s name. Another possibility is ‘Akiyo’

