

Appendix H

Exciting Find of Kōitsu's "Ushigome Kagurazaka" Hanshita — Does a Sadaichi Version Exist?

Introduction by Ross Walker

Those of you who have visited my website Koitsu.com may have read an interesting article written in December 2002 by Tosh Doi regarding his discovery of a very rare *hanshita* (a black outline print) of Kōitsu's print entitled "Ushigome Kagurazaka" [17]. This print happens to be one of the most popular of the Doi-published prints, with copies frequently appearing on various internet auction sites. Despite the popularity of this print, not a single copy carrying the Doi Sadaichi publisher's seal had been seen by any of our shin-hanga colleagues, leading some to speculate that perhaps the earliest-known copies that carry the Harada/Yokoi seals may indeed be pre-war strikes. What follows is a two-part article regarding this hanshita. The first is Tosh Doi's original article as featured on Koitsu.com, followed by a very interesting sequel that I think all Kōitsu collectors will find thoroughly interesting!

H.1 Mystery Hanshita of Tsuchiya Kōitsu's "Ushigome Kagurazaka" Print

By Tosh Doi, December, 2002

Some time ago, a nostalgic woodblock print was on sale at an exhibition corner of a department store in Tokyo. I recall it was a summer holiday in 1995, a time when I had no knowledge of artists and publishers of shin hanga. Anyway, I purchased that print without hesitation partially because it illustrated a big lantern with the name '土井' (Doi) as a restaurant sign – a name that, by chance, happens to be the same family name as mine. A few years later I realised it was a posthumous print entitled "Ushigome Kagurazaka" by Tsuchiya Kōitsu, which was originally published by Doi Sadaichi¹ in August, 1939.

Since then I have learned more about shin-hanga history including artists, publishers, carvers and printers, and I have devoted myself to collecting Tsuchiya Kōitsu's prints because of the beauty of his nostalgic landscapes. Tsuchiya Kōitsu had been working for the publisher Doi Sadaichi during the period January 1933 through to July 1941. I have so far confirmed that as one of a handful of well-known shin hanga artists, Kōitsu depicted as many as 61 masterpiece landscape prints² via the Doi publishing house. In the meantime I have been aggressively researching various versions of his prints in order to prove my speculative theory that all of Kōitsu's original prints must have been printed and published together with the Doi Sadaichi publisher seal via Kōitsu's direct involvement in deciding colours and trial printing procedures. So far I have been able to confirm that 39³ out of his 61 landscape prints (64%) were published under the Doi Sadaichi publisher seal using various sources of information containing legible print

¹The name 'Sadaichi' is an alternative reading of the kanji character combination that is most commonly known as 'Teiichi' in the shin-hanga world. We now know that the pronunciation should be 'Sadaichi', not 'Teiichi' – see the Doi Hangaten chapter on page 43

²excluding flower/bird prints, and smaller-sized prints such as postcards because of no publishing date notation.

³as of December 2002.