

Katagami - Research and History Mamiko Markham

December 5th 2017 ULITA



**Katagami
in Practice:**
Japanese Stencils
in the Art School



Katagami – 型紙

"Kata" -
cut design, cut shape or design form.

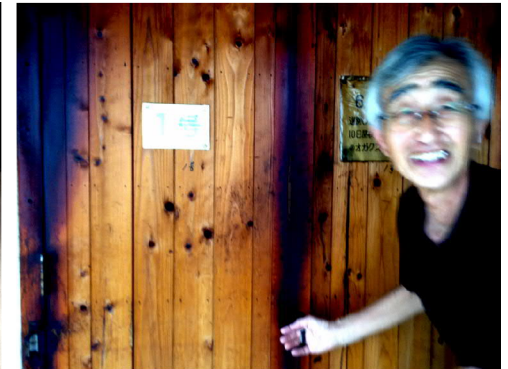
"Gami" – hand-made washi paper.







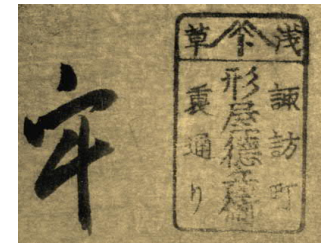
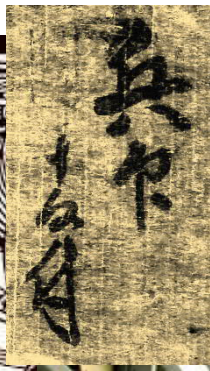
Finest quality washi paper intended for Katajigami, being produced from the bark of the mulberry tree.



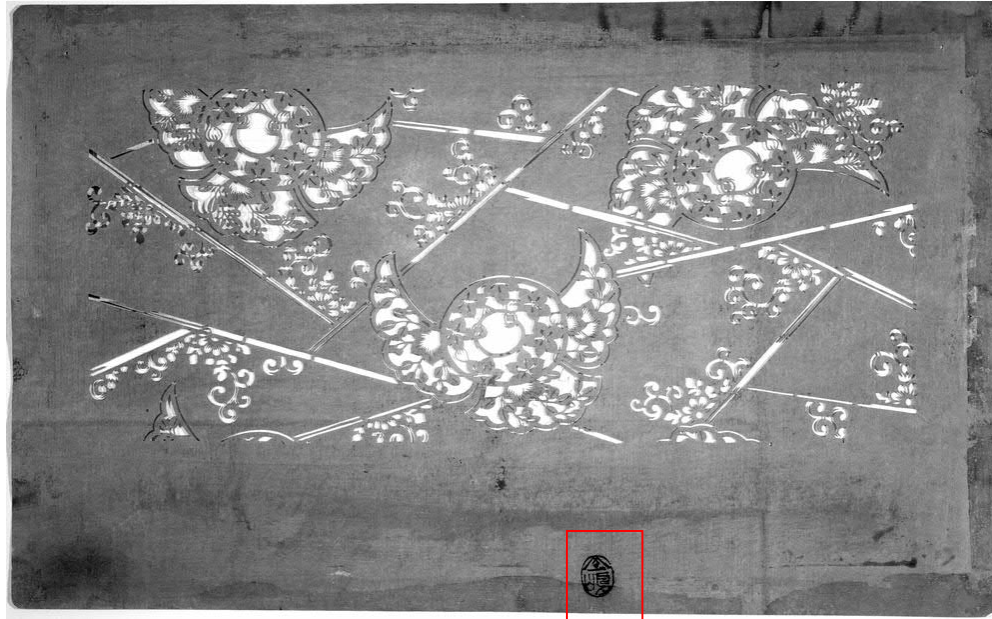
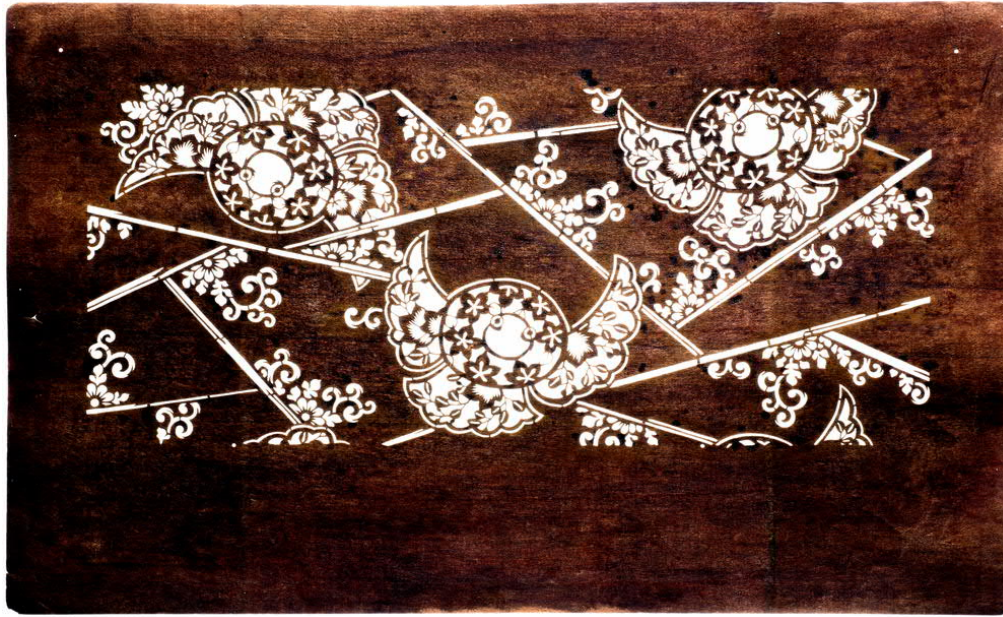
Master Nishida,
Katajigami artisan,
Osugi, Shiroko,Ise(Mie)

The "Kakishibu" tannin coating, ages to a dark brown, making identification of stamps and ink writings difficult for the naked eye.





Identifying Katagami – Stamp mark



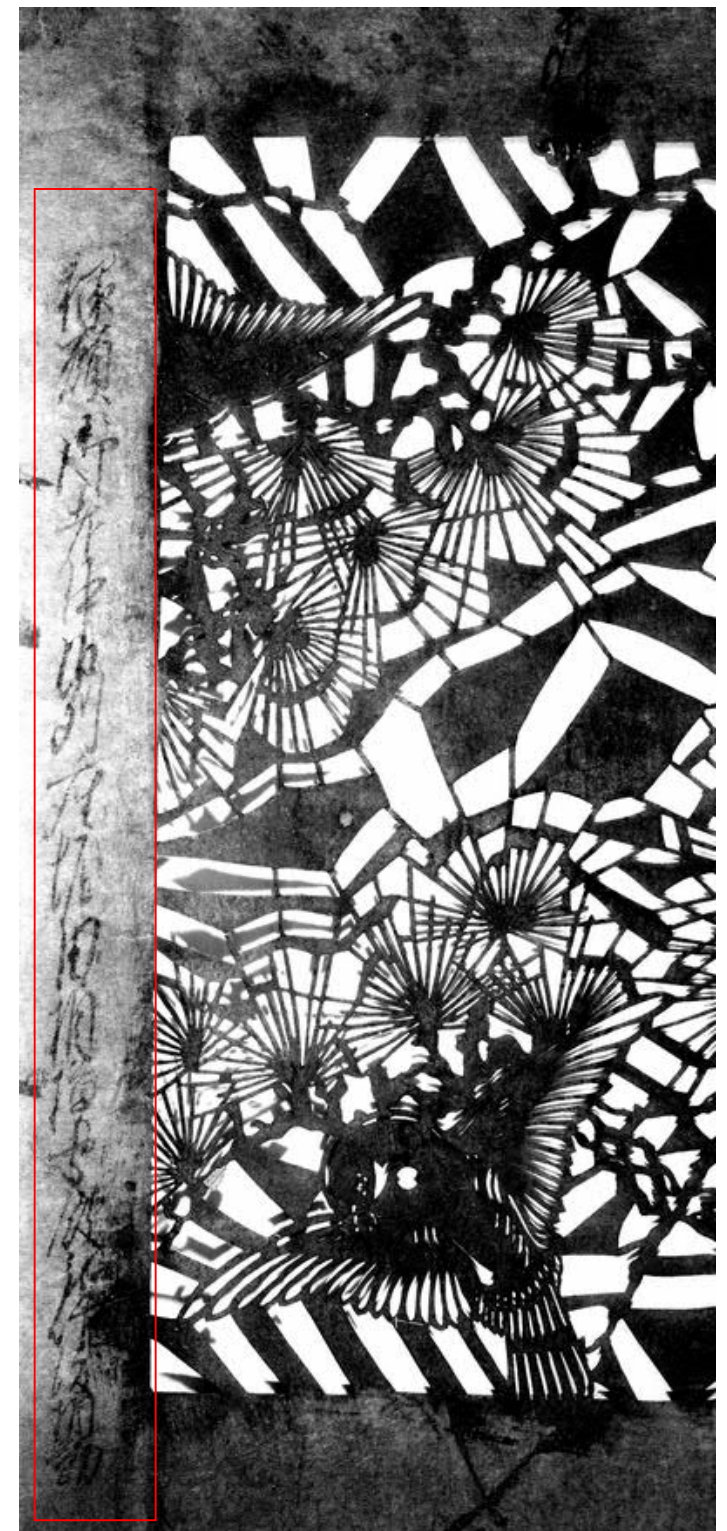
Shimamura stamp 1928-1863, Shiroko, Ise (Mie)

Identifying Katagami - Ink handwritings



Recycled paper letter content is about a Masayoshi HOTTA (birth 1810, death 1864).

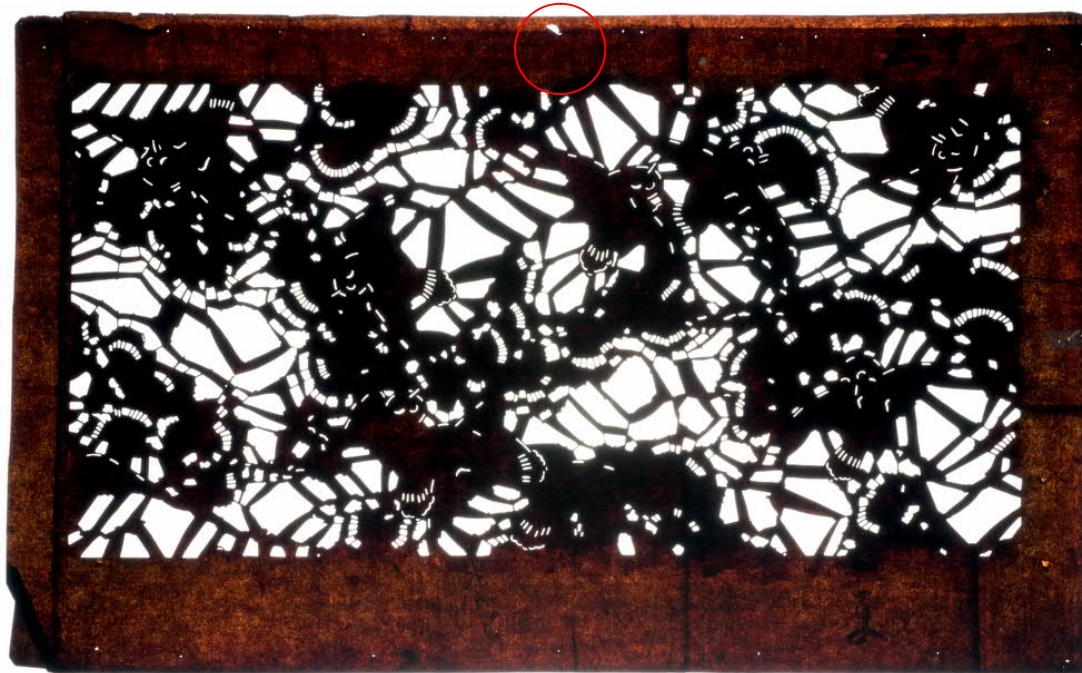
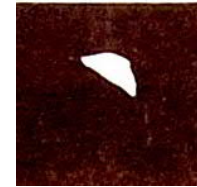
There are no merchant name stamps, but the Katagami can be dated after 1864.



Identifying Katagami -

Looking into the quality and techniques

A “Gara Boshi” cut out sign, indicates that a Katagami is part of a set.



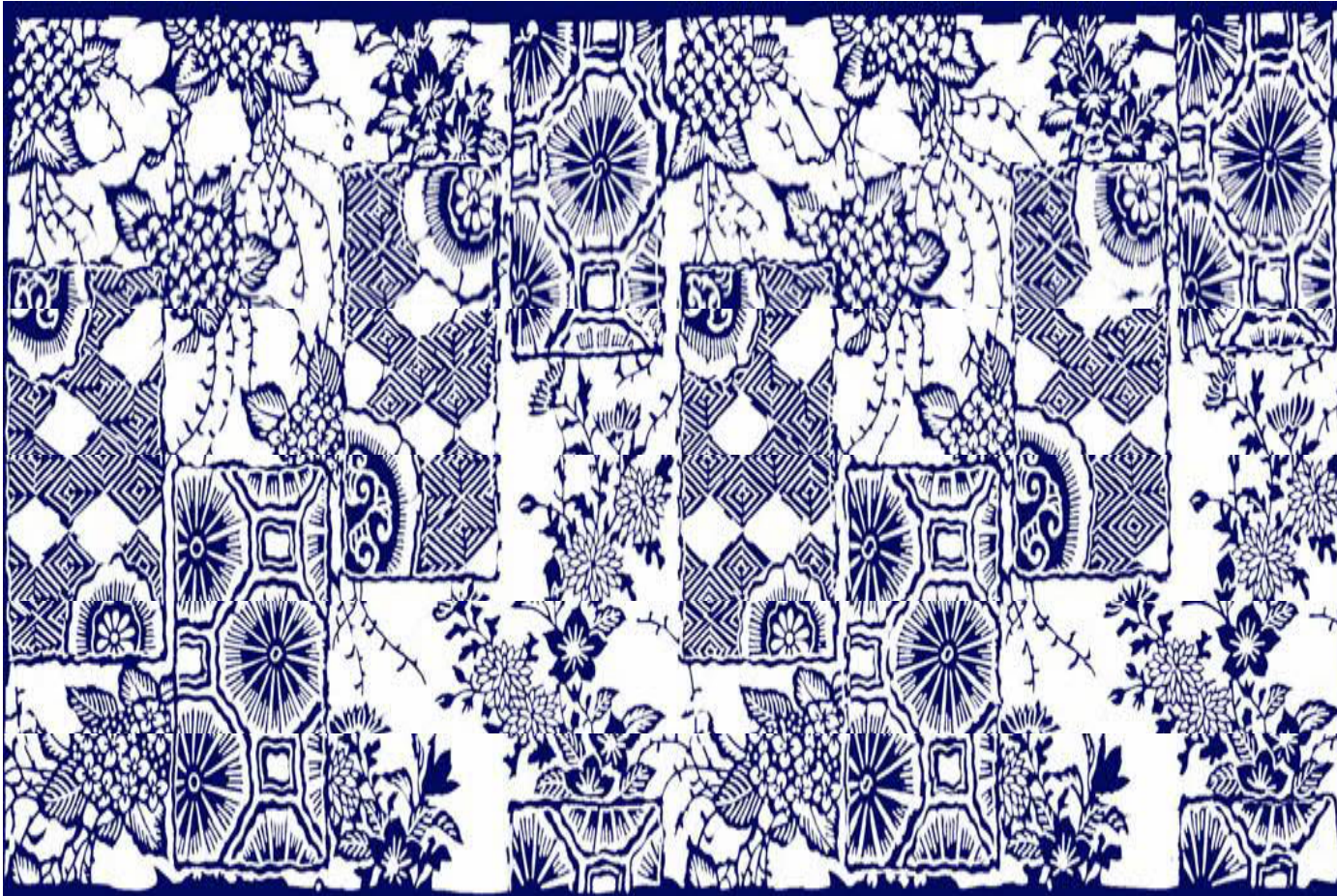
Two-piece “Nimai-gata” stencil “sets” may be used for complicated design patterns.

Every set uses a unique “Gara Boshi” shape.

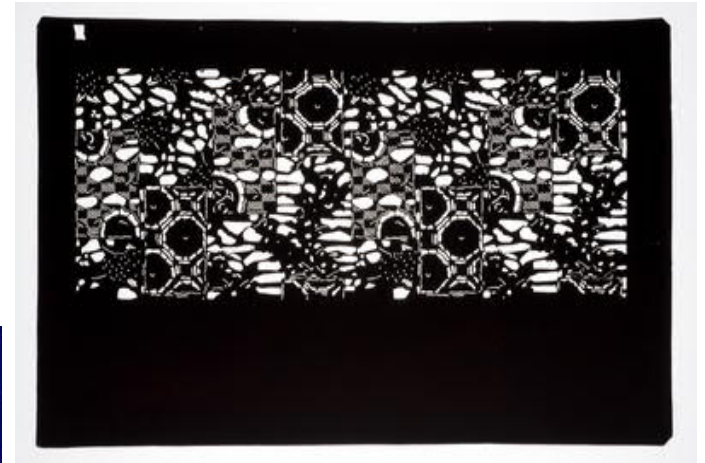
Identifying Katagami

The “Gara Boshi” "cut out sign“

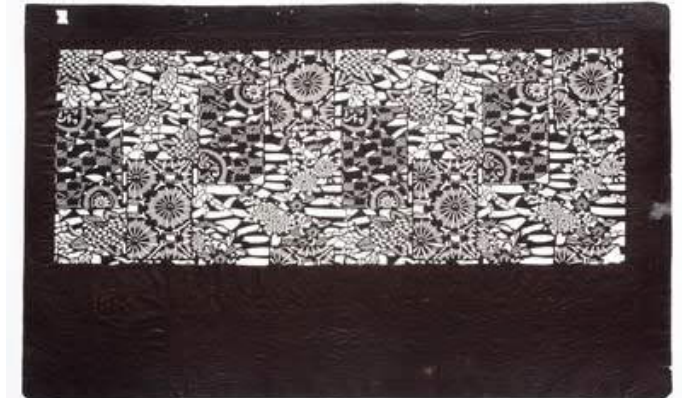
A pair of Katagami (Nimai-gata)
Both needed to dye the complete design.



Replicated image as a dyed fabric would appear.



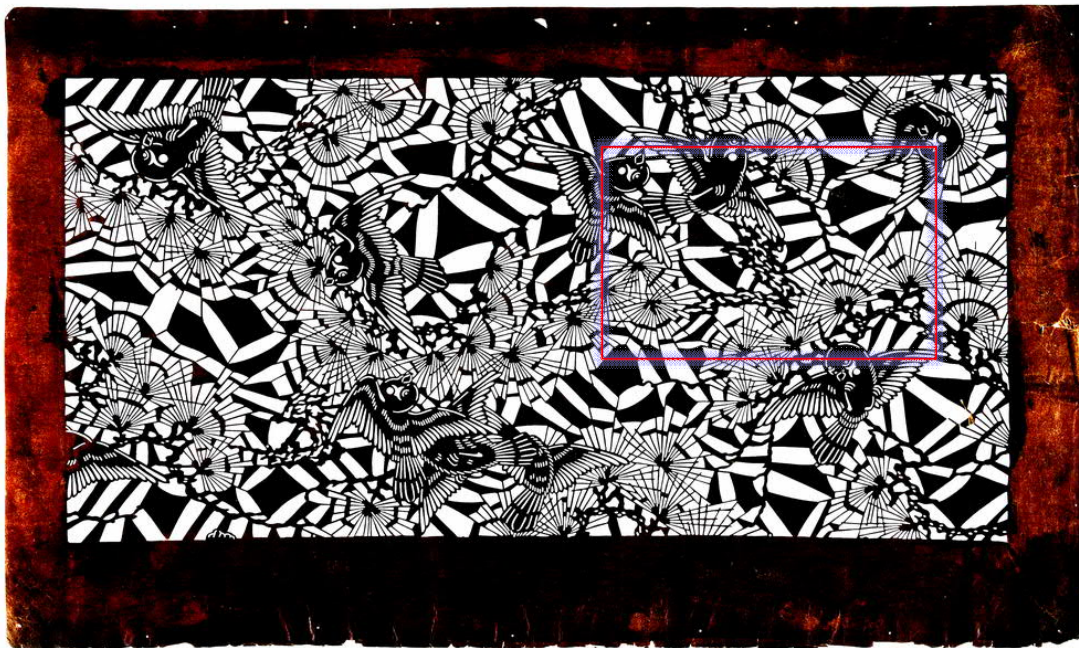
“main stencil” (*omo-gata*)



"Erasing Stencil"
(*keshi-gata*)



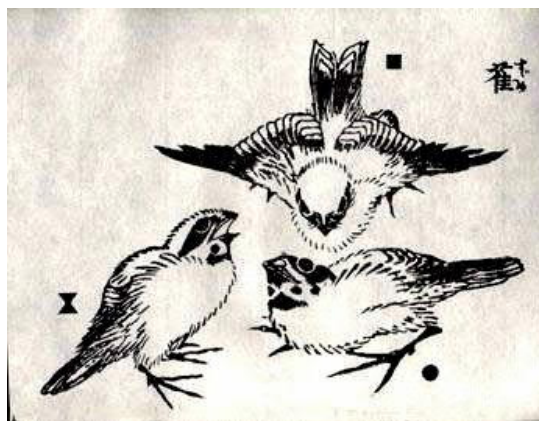
Identifying Katagami - Looking into the trend of pattern designs



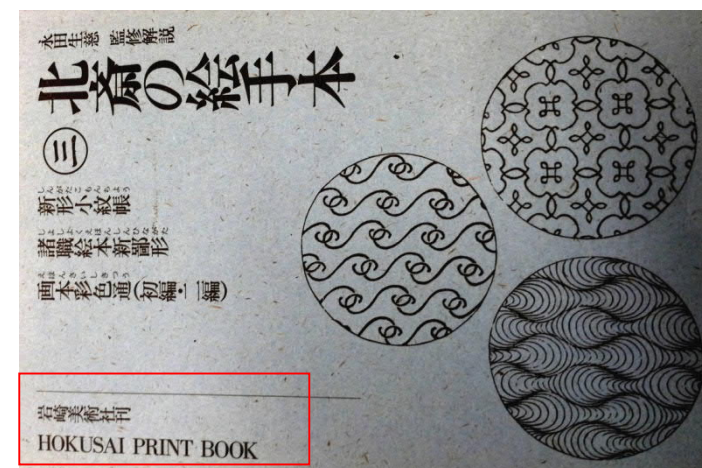
Utagawa Kuniyoshi 1854



Half of the Silver Studio collection
have strong similarities with
Kimono patterns in Ukiyoe



Pattern Design Manual by Katsushika Hokusai 1814 - 1867



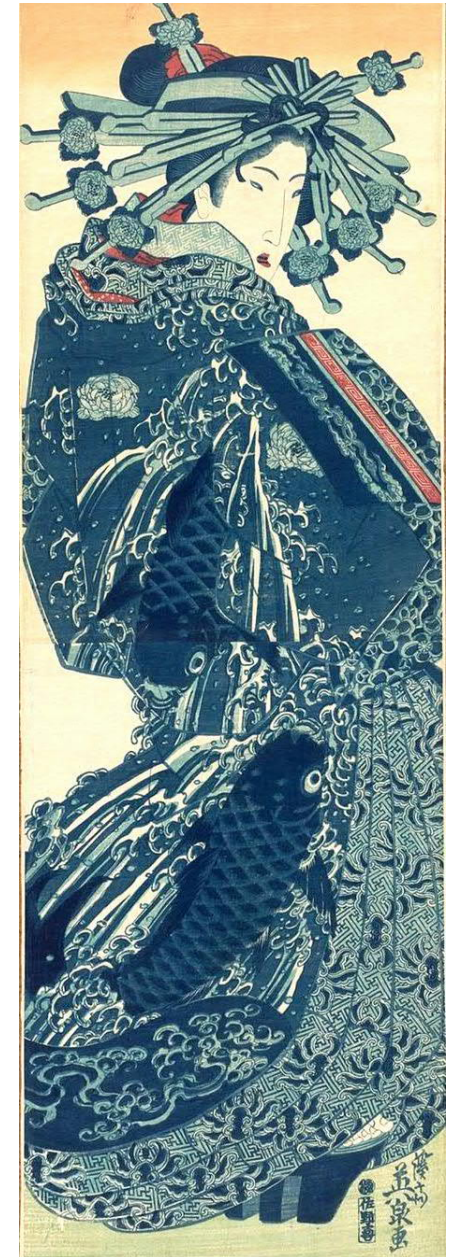
Identifying Katagami -

The quality of techniques and pattern designs



"Ito kake" is a technique which enables high detail designs to be accomplished in the late Edo era up to 1830.

"Carp swimming up a fall" designs were popular patterns typical of late Edo era (to 1867).



Keisai Eisen 1830 - 44

Identifying Katagami - Exploring the export to the West period



Arthur Silver (1853-1896)

This Katagami was collected by Silver in a time period overlapping the Japonisme movement.

Consequently this Katagami was definitely produced before 1891 in Japan.

Identifying Katagami

- Exploring the export period to the West



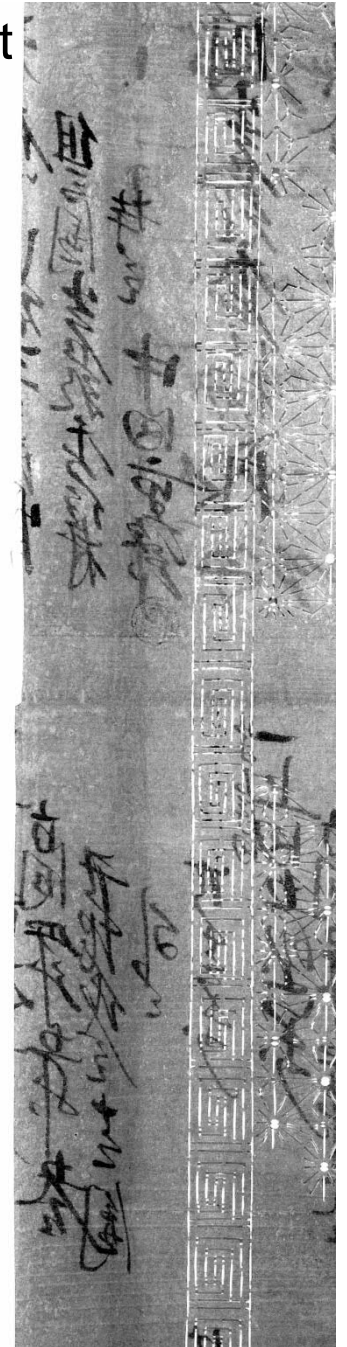
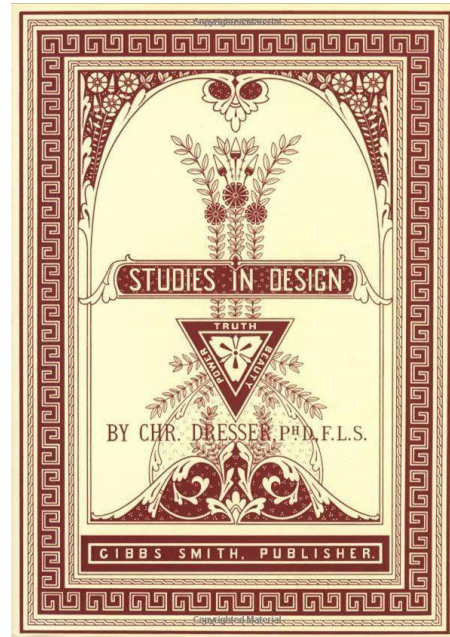
Export Katagami

This Katagami of recycled paper contains script about currency. The Meiji character notation format is of early Meiji period. Derived from the written content - **this Katagami is early Meiji, presumably around 1877-1885.**

It displays a poor level of craftsmanship in both cutting quality and technique. The designs are a mixture of Japanese and Chinese patterns.

Not a traditional Japanese design.

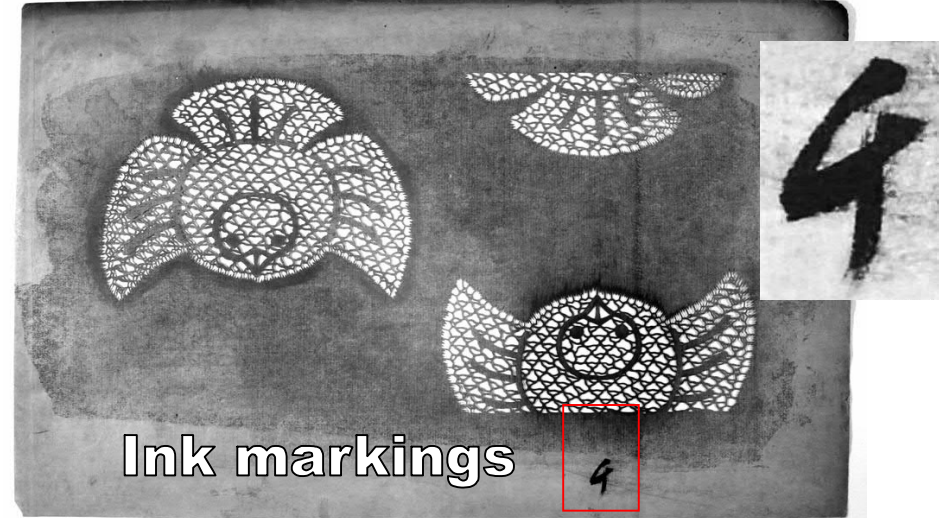
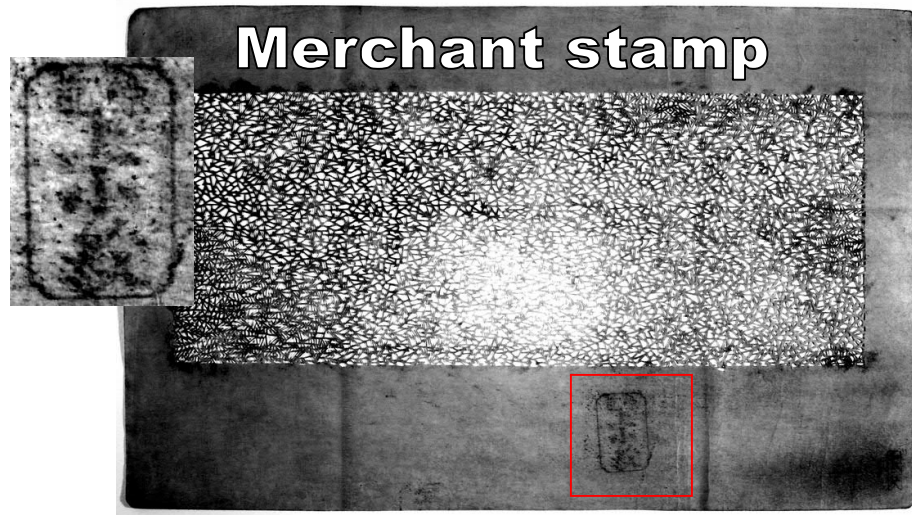
"STUDIES IN DESIGN"
Published in 1876 by
Christopher Dresser



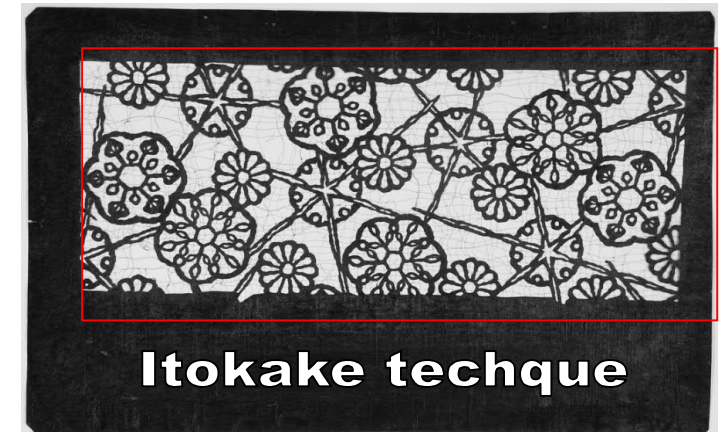
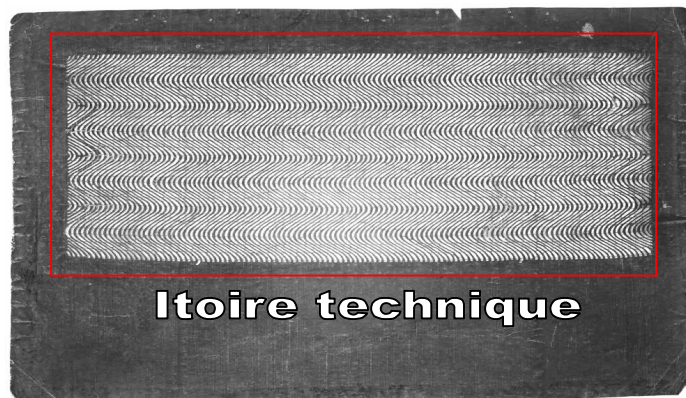
Identifying Katagami - Exploring the export period to the West

Exported Katagami in the Meiji period - the various types

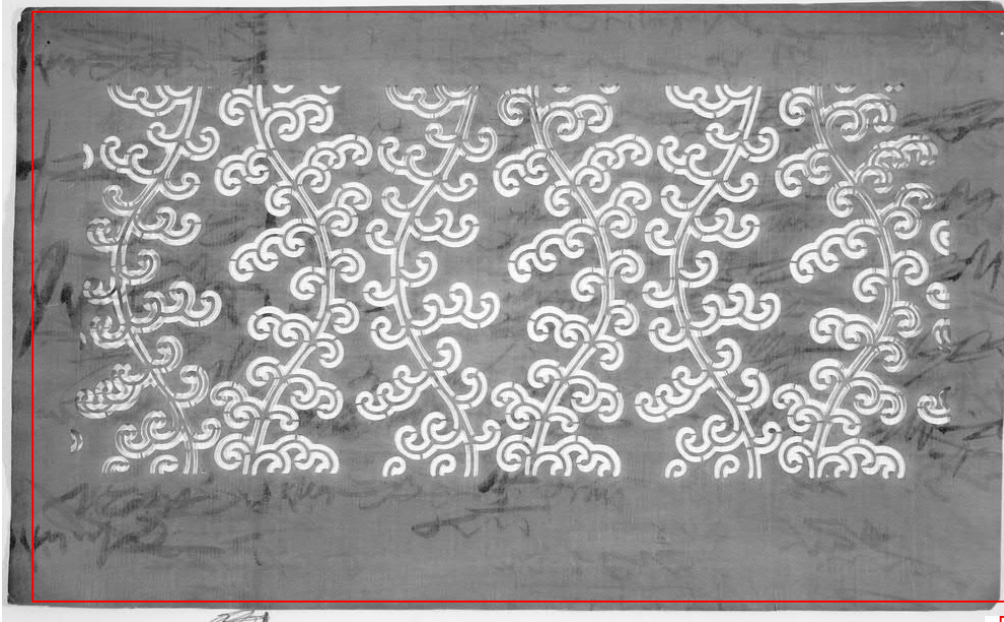
1 - Skilled Katagami made in the Edo period (1700-1867) with merchant stamps and/or ink markings.



2 - Skilled Katagami made in the Edo period (1700-1867) without merchant stamps or ink markings.



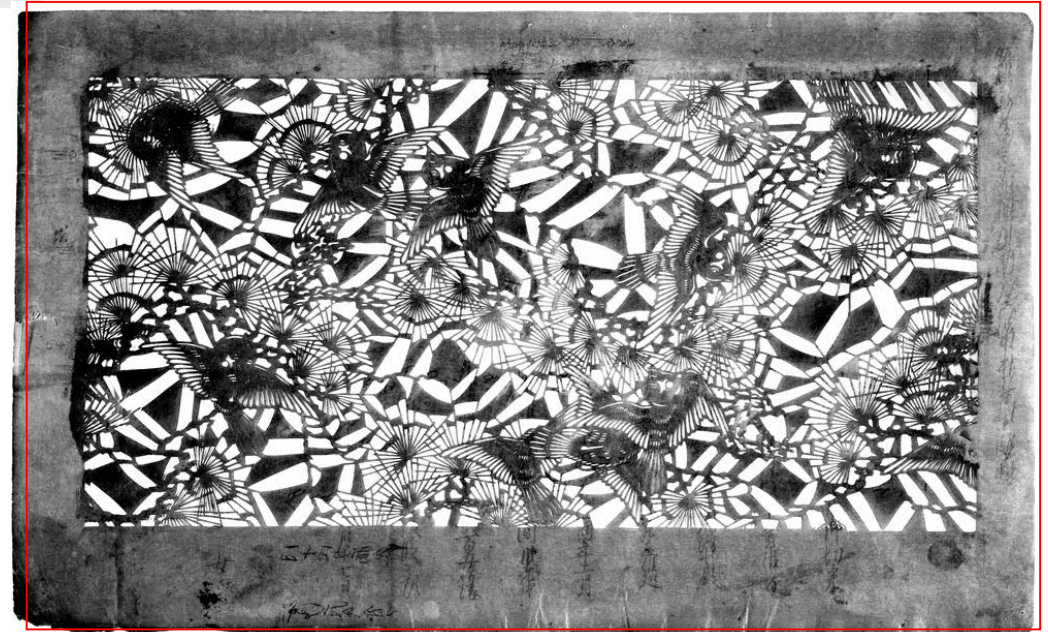
Identifying Katagami - Exploring the export period to the West



3 - Katagami made from the middle of Edo period (1700- 1779) to late Edo period (1780-1867) using recycled paper.

Recycled paper

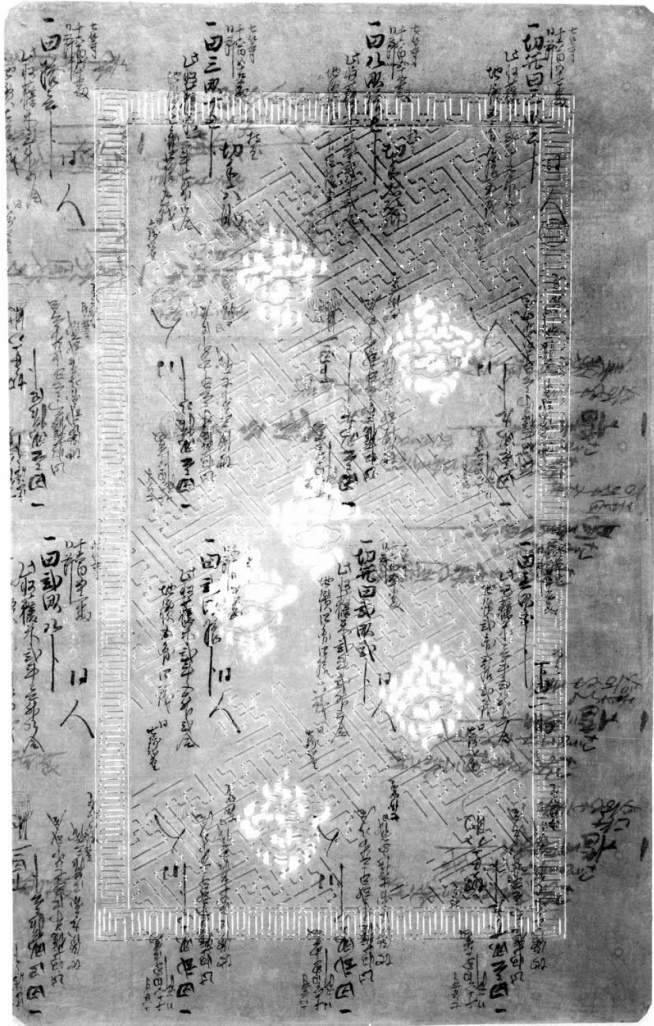
4 - Skilled Katagami made from the end of Edo period (1860-1867) to the middle of the Meiji Era (1868-1890) using recycled paper.



Recycled paper

Identifying Katagami - Exploring the export period to the West

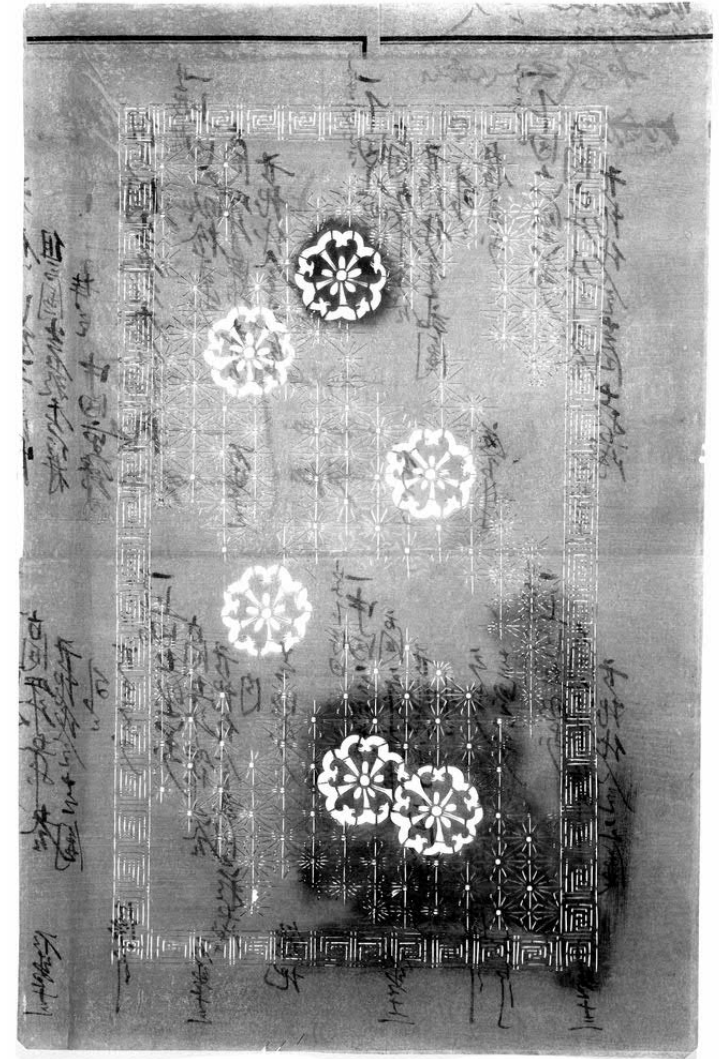
5 - Low skilled Katagami made in the early Meiji, presumably around 1877-1890



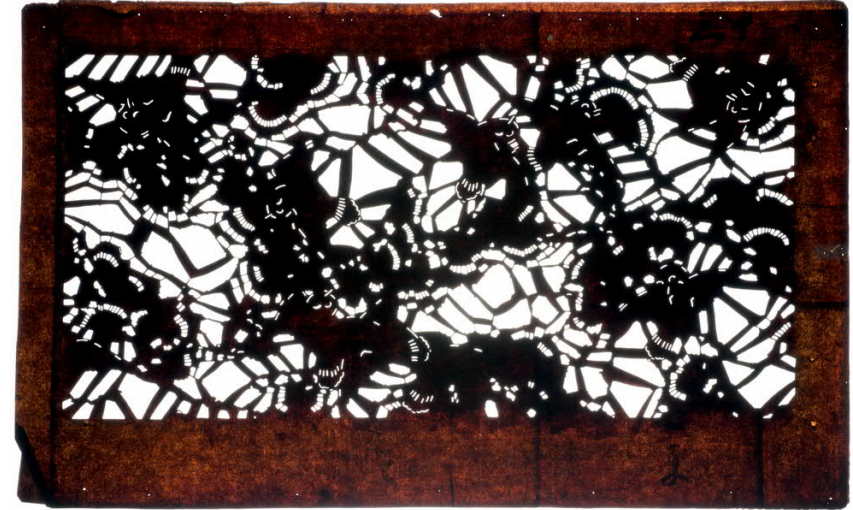
Recycled paper

Character expression
from Meiji era.

Written information
from Meiji era.



Data Analysis Conclusions



Production time

1865 (end of Edo) to 1890 (Middle of Meiji).

Producing area

Tokyo or to the east of Tokyo.

Maker

Independent Katagami artisan.

Technique

High skilled quality 2 set "Nimaigata".

Impossible to reproduce today.

Pattern design

Sparrow pattern design representative of late Edo period around 1852.

This is representative of how the research results are being documented.