DIGITAL EDITION: THE JAPAN TIMES ARCHIVES

For the first time ever, the archives of The Japan Times have been made available in digital format. The digital archives are searchable and include every issue of The Japan Times published since 1897.

Subscription Plan – Purchase Plan

The Japan Times
On March 22, 1897, The Japan Times, today the English-language newspaper with the largest circulation in Japan, was inaugurated in Kojimachi Ward (now Chiyoda Ward), Tokyo, with the backing of Prince Hirobumi Ito and Yukichi Fukuzawa, a philosopher and the founder of Keio University. Sueji Yamada, a businessman and relative of Fukuzawa, was installed as president through the good offices of the latter. Motosada Zumoto, Yamada’s protégé, then reputed as the best English writer in the country, was appointed editor-in-chief.

Toward the end of the Tokugawa era, an Englishman had started an English-language newspaper in Yokohama, also called The Japan Times. That paper was absorbed by The Japan Mail, which in turn was incorporated into The Japan Times.

Later, The Japan Times also absorbed both The Japan Chronicle (British lineage) and The Japan Advertiser (American lineage), merging all the English-language papers into one in the pre-World War II period.

After World War II, in 1957, The Japan Times inaugurated a “Daily International Airmail Edition” marking the occasion of the 60th anniversary of its founding. This new edition was honored with the Nihon Shimbun Kyokai (Japanese Newspaper Publishers and Editors Association) award.

No more than a promising developing nation in Asia when The Japan Times was inaugurated, Japan today has become a world power mostly on the strength of its economic achievements and enhanced international status. And with the growth of interest in Japan, The Japan Times has built up an unchallenged status as the representative English-language newspaper of Japan.

In October 2013, The Japan Times began an alliance with the International New York Times. With it, The Japan Times has begun taking on the great responsibility as an international media.
What makes The Japan Times special?

1. Over a century of Japan news, reported in real-time in English
Since its establishment in 1897, The Japan Times has covered the news of the nation and the world, from natural disasters and political developments to sports and culture.

2. Editorial policy aimed at mutual understanding
Since its establishment, The Japan Times has not only sought to report the news, but also to represent Japan to the international community, assisting where possible in improving understanding of the country abroad.

3. Histories recorded only in The Japan Times
Throughout its history, The Japan Times has provided a broad range of news, much of it not covered by Japanese-language media. In-depth reports on foreign communities in Japan are one example.

Highlights from The Japan Times Archives

- **Karuizawa Supplement**
  “Karuizawa Notes” offered reports on the Karuizawa seasonal resort scene, which was enjoyed by many expats over summers. Special supplements featuring Karuizawa were also issued.
  (August 31, 1921)

- **The Great Kanto Earthquake” extras**
  On September 1, 1923, a massive earthquake struck Tokyo. Three days later, American staff writer Randall Gould set up his typewriter outside the newspaper's damaged offices and wrote up this extra edition.
  (September 4, 1923)

- **“Hobnobbing with the Foreign Correspondents”**
  Soviet intelligence officer Richard Sorge appeared in this regular series. He made use of the classifieds in The Japan Advertiser (a forerunner of The Japan Times) for reaching out to his contacts.
  (December 6, 1934)

- **Steel and Iron Number**
  During this period, The Japan Times issued many special supplements reporting on Japanese industrial developments.
  (September 3, 1935)

- **Unscrambling Babel**
  A feature article on the Tokyo war crimes trial, beginning with the phrase “Court interpreting … is not an easy job…”.
  (February 27, 1947)

- **Advertisements**
  In addition to news articles, there are also fascinating advertisements for such things as beers, daily commodities, medicines, banks and resort hotels, which provide a window into life at the time.
Details of The Japan Times Archives

■ Search method:
Full-text search possible using data from OCR scan: The search result is indicated by a red frame.

■ Years covered in the archive:
1897 to 2014 (as of June, 2015), totaling approximately 497,175 pages. Data for subsequent years will be added one year at a time.

■ Purchase plans:
<Subscription> An annual subscription for the online-based digital archive (the annual contract is based on the number of simultaneous accesses permissible)
<Purchase> Includes all digitalized data in Blu-ray format along with the online-based version (purchases of select eras also possible)

■ System requirements:
1024×768 pixels or 1280×1024 pixels
<Windows> Internet Explorer 8.x, 9.x, 10.x • Google Chrome 33.x • Mozilla Firefox 27.x
<Macintosh> Safari 6.0.5

■ Authentication method:
IP registration or ID-password login

For further details, please contact
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