

Honolulu Museum of Art

Dr. Hiroko Ikeda collection

Dr. Ikeda was born in 1914 in Tokyo, Japan, and studied at Tokyo Women's Christian College under the Japanese folklorist Yanagita Kunio. She came to the United States on a scholarship in 1948, and earned a Doctorate of Philosophy from Indiana University in 1957. Before coming to Hawai'i, Dr. Ikeda was the Japanese Librarian at the University of California-Berkeley, where she played a key role in developing the library's Japanese collection.

Dr. Ikeda moved to Hawai'i in 1957, first as the head of the Asian Collection of the University of Hawai'i's Sinclair Library. She later became a professor of Japanese literature and folklore in the Asian Language Department (since renamed the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature) in 1962.

Dr. Ikeda's distinguished scholarly accomplishments and contributions to education were recognized by the Japanese government in 1995, when she was inducted into the fourth class of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, established by the Meiji Emperor in 1888, and awarded a ceremonial ribbon with gold rays and rosette. In her retirement, Dr. Ikeda was a passionate advocate for the Honolulu Museum of Art (then Honolulu Academy of Arts), tirelessly supporting the museum as a volunteer and generously donating her research library as a bequest.

池田弘子コレクションについて

1914年5月23日東京都港区に生まれる。1936年東京女子大学英文科卒。日本民族学の祖、柳田國男の愛弟子。1948年に渡米、インディアナ大学の民話学者で世界の昔話とその分類法の世界的権威ステイス・トンプソン (Stith Thompson) の元で民俗学を学ぶ。カリフォルニア大学バークレー校にて日本専門ライブラリアンとして勤務する傍ら、1957年インディアナ大学より博士号を取得。同年ハワイ大学図書館東洋部長としてホノルルに移住、のちにハワイ大学アジア言語文化学部の教授となる。1995年「秋の外国人叙勲」で勲四等瑞宝章受賞。2005年11月2日死去（91歳）。

ハワイ大学引退後はボランティアとしてホノルル美術館を多方面からサポート。後に個人で収集した研究書籍や雑誌、展示会図録などを美術館図書館へ寄贈。それら書籍データの作成とOPACへの追加作業が進行中である。