

Lectures 08-09
The Development of Edo Woodblock Prints
&
Genre Prints: Actors, Courtesans, Sumo Wrestlers, and Landscapes

1. What are woodblock prints?

- a. Named after the materials and technology used
- b. A brief rundown of the woodblock printing process

2. General history of woodblock printing in Japan

- a. From China in 8th century, but developed differently
- b. Originally monochrome for book illustrations
- c. Stylistically similar to Japanese-style painting (*yamato-e*)

3. Particulars of Edo Woodblock Prints

- a. By early 1700s, market for single-sheet prints rises, esp. in Edo
- b. Technological advances to cope with mass production
- c. The development of multi-colored prints from mid-1700s
 - Suzuki Harunobu (1725-70) and *benizuri-e*
 - *nishiki-e* → *ukiyo-e*

4. The Business of Ukiyo-e

- a. Artist, publisher, carver, printer
- b. Government censors

4. Representative Genres and Artists (Wednesday's session)

- a. Toshusai Sharaku (active 1794-95) and his Kabuki actor prints
- b. Kitagawa Utamaro and his *bijin* (beautiful women) prints
- c. Sumo Wrestlers
- d. Landscapes and views of Edo
 - Katsushika Hokusai (1760-1824)
 - Andô Hiroshige (1797-1858)