#### A List of Kunisada's Signatures: Its Usefulness and Problems

Masae Kurahashi Ritsumeikan University

#### Illustrated books

popular novels (合巻) books about Kabuki actors and plays (劇書) erotica (艶本·春本)

- Privately commissioned prints (摺物)
- Commercial ukiyo-e prints of

beautiful women (美人画) the adventures of Prince Genji (源氏絵) actors on and off stage (役者絵)

#### 1786-1864

#### "Kunisada"

used from 1807 to 1844

#### "Toyokuni"

used from 1844 to his death In 1864

HAYASHI Yoshikazu, *Utagawa Kunisada*, 1989 SHIND Shigeru, *Kunisada -The Kabuki Actor Portraits-*, 1993

SUZUKI Jz, Utagawa Kunisada no Koden to Gareki -Bijinga wo shutoshite-, 1996

HOTTA Takeshi, *Ukiyo-e Edokabuki no Sekaiten* -Kunisada wo chûshin-ni-, 2006

SEKIGAWA Tohru, *Gototei Kunisada Rakkan no Hensen*, Ukiyo-e Geijutu vol.15, 1967

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文政八年(一八)

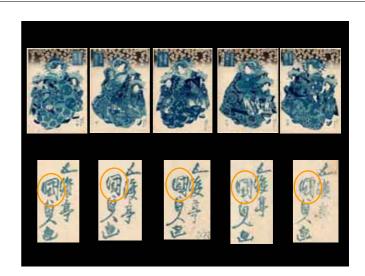
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## Selecting and organizing the Kunisada signatures











#### Courtesan's names in Yoshiwara saiken

Names printed	1823(文政6)	1830 (文政13)	1831 (天保2)
Kaomachi	×	Kaomachi	Kaomachi
Matsuno, Konatsu		Haruno, Momi-ji	Matsuno, Komatu
Hanaogi	Hanaogi	Hanaogi	Hanaogi
Yoshino, Tatsuta	Yoshino, Tatsuta	Yoshino, Tatsuta	Yoshino, Tatsuta
Nanahito	×	Nanahito	Nanahito
Tsuruji, Kameji		Tsuruji, Kameji	Tsuruji, Kameji
Yoso-oi	Yoso-oi	Yoso-oi	Yoso-oi
Wakana, Tomeki	Nio-i, Tomeki	Nio-i, Tomeki	Nio-i, Tomeki
Yatsuhashi	Yatsuhashi	Yatsuhashi	Yatsuhashi
Wakaba, Yayo-i	Kokin, Koyori	Kochô, Wakaba	Wakaba, Yayo-I

### Summary

- •The list of Kunisada signatures is a very useful tool in dating his prints.
- •However, there are also many variant signatures not included in the list.
- ●To date a print safely, one must use other tools in combination with the list (e.g. kabuki and actor performance dates, composition and style of prints, other contextual knowledge and historical records etc.)