



# Japan Screen Topics

ISSUE No. 78-11

## THE ROMANCE OF YOKOHAMA

161 feet 4 min. 28 sec.

1. (OLD PRINTS) Ships and merchants from Western countries converged on the port of Yokohama when Japan opened its doors to the world in the 19th century.
2. (AERIAL SHOT: HARBOUR) Yokohama was no more than a fishing village on Tokyo Bay when its harbour was founded in 1859... but today it has grown into one of the great seaports of the world.  
It became the main gateway for the entry of foreign culture and goods to the region around Tokyo. A colony of foreign businessmen took root and flourished. Their cultures mingled with Japan's, to create a community of unique charm.
3. (SHIP AT PIER) The Honmoku district is the heart of the harbour through which 100 million tons of cargo pass every year.  
This 30-ton gantry crane unloads 1,000 refrigerated containers a day. Trucks wait to whisk the containers to destinations all over the Japanese islands.
4. (SILK MUSEUM) Yokohama's Silk Museum commemorates the enormous role played by silk in Japan's commerce with the West until well into the 20th century.

More than 2,000 years ago, the Chinese made the discovery that eggs of a certain moth hatched into tiny caterpillars. These caterpillars ate mulberry leaves and generated silk, threads, in which they encased their bodies. The Chinese learned these silk threads could easily be unreeled from the silkworms and spun into cloth.

A demonstration at the Museum shows visitors how the process of boiling the cocoons and spinning the threads has been mechanized. (KIMONO) Silk lent itself to elaborate and beautiful costumes like this traditional Japanese wedding kimono, and also to Western fashions.

5. (AERIAL SHOT: HARBOUR) Yokohama has been destroyed twice in modern times... by an earthquake and fire in 1923 and later by wartime bombing.

(BRICK BUILDING) This red brick structure survived both catastrophies... and today remains a link to the past when Westerners introduced brick construction to Japan. It has been designated the commemorative building of the opening of Yokohama harbour, and today it is a public meeting hall.

6. (PEDESTRIANS) In the days of seaborne travel, Yokohama with its large foreign colony was a point of entry for Western style clothes. Motomachi, the downtown district, became a popular center for fashion design and sales in those days... and the tradition still endures.

7. (CHINESE GATE) More than 4,500 Chinese live in Yokohama. The city's famous China street has more than 2,000 Chinese restaurants, shops and food stores.

8. (WESTERN RESIDENCES) The foreign traders who flocked to Yokohama in the 19th century settled on a bluff overlooking the city. They built houses in the architectural styles of their



own countries. Today, the bluff is still the residential center for people of 70 different countries... a model setting of Western homes for students of art.

9. (STATUE) Since the 1850's, foreigners have had their own cemetery in Yokohama on a hill overlooking the harbour.

10. (LEAVES) Modern Yokohama with its 2,730,000 population is now the second largest city in Japan. As ever, it remains a city of cultural diversity, where Orient and Occident blend gracefully in one of the great seaports of the world.

#### COMPUTERS FOR KIDS

54 feet 1 min. 30 sec.

1. (SCHOOL) This primary school at the university city of Tsukuba near Tokyo is pioneering a new way of teaching arithmetic to children. It's called Computer Aided Instruction... C-A-I for short.

2. (TEACHER) No lecture today... the teacher simply selects a pre-programmed lesson and inserts it in a computer at the start of the arithmetic hour.

3. (CLASSROOM) Slates, blackboards and scratchpaper have been relegated to the past in this classroom. These fifth graders solve their arithmetic problems on television display screens, which they activate by punching buttons on desk computers.

A master computer monitors the individual progress of 40 students seated at display terminals in the room. A child submitting an incorrect answer gets a warning in written language

on the display screen... and a polite request to try again or refer back to the textbook. The computer even tells the page where guidance can be found.

The teacher merely patrols the room... concentrating on the boys and girls who are having difficulties.

The system was devised at nearby Tsukuba University. The school's 40 seat Computer Aided Instruction room actually is a laboratory for developing the process.

C-A-I systems have the advantage of keeping detailed control over each student's progress. They also increase the material that can be presented in a given span of time.

#### POUNDS OFF WITH POWERLIFTING

59 feet 1 min. 38 sec.

1. (DUMBBELLS) Dumbbells... typical equipment for a men's sports club. But, in this case the users are women.
2. (LS WOMEN TRAINING) Like any nation... Japan has its share of overweight women, and they've found a way to take off pounds and trim bulging waistlines. It's a sport called powerlifting, now enjoying a boom in the Japanese islands. About 50 women exercise this way once a week in this sports club in a Tokyo suburb. Powerlifting looks a little like Olympic weightlifting, but the techniques are easier. They can be mastered quickly by anyone from children of five to adults in their fifties.

The great thing for weight-conscious women is that there's no dieting. The exercise itself wears off the pounds and tightens up the flabby places. Working under the guidance of professional instructors, the students keep detailed records of their training and progress.



3. (WOMAN LIFTING BARBELL) Let's meet Mrs. Haruko Rokui... housewife... 29 years old... mother of one child. She took up powerlifting a year ago. When she started, she was afraid it would give her bulging muscles. On the contrary, Haruko now has trimmed her waistline by 10 centimeters and her hips by 4 centimeters.

She lost 7 kilograms in her first six months of powerlifting. Now her weight is 52 kilograms... normal for a Japanese woman of Haruko's 159 centimeter height. She even claims a world powerlifting record of 115 kilograms from the squat position.

Hard work, maybe... but powerlifter Haruko is happy about what it's done for her figure.

#### CHRYSANTHEMUM TIME

56 feet 1 min. 33 sec.

1. (FLOWERS) The Japanese are a nation of flower lovers, and the chrysanthemum... known in Japan as the "kiku", has a special place in their hearts. Professional gardeners raise chrysanthemums for public parks, and thousands of other Japanese cultivate them as a hobby.

Every year in October, Japan's chrysanthemums blossom in their full glory. Then it's time for chrysanthemum shows... like this one in a public garden near Funabashi City... a suburb of Tokyo.

About 2,000 varieties of chrysanthemums are on display here, many grown at home by amateur flower fanciers. The garden boasts tree-like plants with hundreds of chrysanthemum blooms in a variety of colors.

2. (FLOWER DOLL) The old Japanese art of dressing life-size dolls in robes made from flowers is revived yearly at the Funabashi garden in the chrysanthemum season. Fuji Musume is a heroine in one of Japan's traditional kabuki dramas.

(LONG HAired DOLL) This male doll is a personality from another famous kabuki play, "Momijigari."

In fact, the flower dolls this year all depict characters in Japan's pre-modern theater. Each robe is fashioned from hundreds of tiny blossoms... hours of intricate work for skilled, patient artists.

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