Railway Preservation Activities in Japan

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Opening of Japanese Railways (1872)
Shimbashi Station, Tokyo’s first railway terminal

Hiroshige III, *Freight Handling at Shimbashi Station* (1873)  Woodprint on paper, 37 x 75 cm

The *ukiyo-e* genre of art, fine wood-block prints developed during the Tokugawa (Edo) period, was the main medium of reportage until the photograph became widely used, and the first half of the Meiji period (1868–1912) saw its last flowering. Trains and stations attracted many *ukiyo-e* artists, whose works present a fresh image of the early days of Japanese railways.
British-built Locomotive No. 1
(Class 150)
American-built Locomotive *Benkei* (Class 7100)
Class 9600 (1913)
Class 8620 (1914)
Class 18900 (later C51 1919)
Class 9900 (later D50, 1923)
## 50 Years Later

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>1872</th>
<th>1920</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Route km</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government railways</td>
<td>29 km</td>
<td>10427.9 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private railways</td>
<td>0 km</td>
<td>3520.1 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Passengers</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government railways</td>
<td>495 thousand</td>
<td>405 820 thousand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private railways</td>
<td>0 thousand</td>
<td>116 007 thousand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Freight tonnage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government railways</td>
<td>0.5 thousand</td>
<td>56 624 thousand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private railways</td>
<td>0 thousand</td>
<td>10 171 thousand</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Japanese Railway Network in 1880 and 1920
By the early 1920s,

Network length exceeded 10 000 km.
Rail engineers established their own technologies and became independent of Western influence.
The railway symbolized industrialization and modernization

The railway became a source of national pride.
Opening of the Railway Museum (1921) followed by 50th anniversary of Japanese railways (1922)
Railway Museum at Manseibashi, Tokyo (1936)
Interior of Railway Museum
with Class 9850 Steam Locomotive
Transportation Museum in the late 1950s
Modern Transportation Museum, Osaka (1962)
New Railway Museum in Saitama (near Tokyo, 2007)
Umekoji Steam Locomotive Museum (1972)
車両の状態により煤煙のしぶきがちることがあり
注意してください。
Oigawa Railway
Yamaguchi Line steam train
Repairing closed former national railway line in Hokkaido
Active Members of RPSP