



## Mukōjima-Hyakkaen 向島百花園

The history of Muk jima Hyakkaen starts when the antiques merchant Sahara Kiku'u bought the land of the former residence of the Taga clan in 1804.

### History

The residence is located near the Sumida River in one of Tokyo's cultural, intellectual and Geisha centers.

Together with his friends, all men of culture, he created a flower garden. Sakai H itsu for example planned the sukiya style teahouse, which later became the Onari zashiki.

They started to plant Japanese apricot trees until around 360 of them covered the grounds.

The collection of different plants grew when these men started to plant Lespedeza, Japanese silver grass and Chinese bellflower as well. Soon they had a great assemblage of the plants mentioned in the works of the Many - sh (万葉集) and Shiky (詩經).

Before the name "Hyakkaen" became popular, the garden was known under several other.

One of it refers to the beautiful plum trees on the grounds.

At this time, the plums at Kameido already were very famous. The place was called the "ume yashiki" 梅屋敷. Because the Hyakkaen was established later, it received the name "shin ume yashiki" 新梅屋敷 - the new plum residence.

#### Sahara Kiku'u

佐原鞠塙  
1761 - 1831

It is not clear if his name is pronounced „Sahara“ or „Sawara“. In this book I am going with the version of the official website.

#### Sakai Hōitsu

酒井抱一  
1761 - 1829

A Japanese painter of the Kōrin School.