

07-アミツス



INTERNATIONAL MOTION PICTURE CO., INC.

Hattori Bldg., Takara-cho, Tokyo, Japan.

Cable: IANMUTSU Tokyo

TEL: 563-1341~4

## Japan Screen Topics

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### ART IN POSTAGE STAMPS

118 feet 3 min. 17 sec.

1. (POST OFFICE) Tokyo Central Post Office... mecca for stamp collectors in the nation's capital. Millions of Japanese are stamp savers, and business always booms at the post office on days when a new issue goes on sale.
2. (50 YEN) Every year Japan issues several commemorative stamps, like this one honoring the traditional handicraft of weaving. Each stamp starts as a large color drawing in the design office of the Postal Ministry.
3. (PRINTING PLANT) Next the stamp design goes to the printing office of the Finance Ministry. Six different colors appear in the design of the weaver stamp. To print it, the colors are separated. An individual plate is made for each hue.
4. (EYE AT LENS) A copying camera photographs each color plate, reducing its size on film to the exact size of the stamp that finally will be sold at post offices throughout the country.
5. (PLATES ON PRESS) The film is used to engrave the pattern of each of the six color plates on a rotary press cylinder. Then the actual printing of the stamp can begin.

Japan uses 26 denominations of ordinary postage stamps. The government prints more than four billion a year. Commemorative stamps come out several times a year. Twenty-seven special issues, comprising more than 903 million stamps, were printed and sold in 1976.

The stamps are printed, and perforated, at the rate of 50 sheets a minute.

6. (INSPECTORS) After a final check for smudges and printing errors, the weaver stamps are ready for sale.

7. (MUSEUM) The government's Communications Museum in Tokyo is a stamp collector's art gallery. Japan has issued 1,300 different postage stamps since modern postal service began in 1871, and all of them are represented here.

Like most countries, Japan started with simple, monochrome stamps. As new printing techniques developed, the stamps became colorful and artistic. Japan last year printed 240 million stamps for other countries that don't have the facilities to make multi-color issues.

New issues of Japan's own colorful stamps have been planned to delight collectors for many years to come.

#### 1977 BICYCLE FAIR

69 feet 1 min. 55 sec.

1. (SIGN) "77 Cycle Show"... Japan's annual bicycle fair... opens at Tokyo's Harumi Pier. Twenty-seven bicycle manufacturers and 71 parts suppliers participate. Japan is the world's second largest bicycle producer, and many foreign traders are here to conclude export deals.

2. (BICYCLE-HELICOPTER) The emphasis this year was on unusual adaptations of the bicycle principle... and one of the most popular was this bicycle-helicopter for playgrounds.

3. (AIRPLANE) This man-powered airplane didn't actually fly at the fair. Spectators pumped its pedals, and a meter told them whether they were generating enough power to get the plane off the ground.

4. (BICYCLE-MONORAIL) Children of all ages had fun on the 640 foot bicycle-monorail... inspired by the trains that link Tokyo with its international airport.

5. (ADAPTED BICYCLES) There are other new ideas... how about this "lovers' bicycle" built for two sitting side-by-side? Or the "bumpcycle," with an off-center axle designed to shake up the rider? ... And a tot's bike strong enough to bear the weight of an adult.

#### HOSPITAL FOR TOYS

61 feet 1 min. 42 sec.

1. (EXTERIOR) Every Sunday hundreds of children visit a special hospital inside Tokyo's Meguro Community Center. They aren't ill... the hospital is for their worn out and broken toys. It's run just like a real hospital. First the receptionist, then the diagnostician... and finally the toy goes to a specialist for treatment.

2. (REPAIRMEN) Even "operations" are carried out... the surgeons are men and women with a flair for mechanics or handicrafts.

In an era when cheap, disposable toys are thrown away as soon as they are broken, parents saw that the real worth of a toy is not its price, but the value a child sets on it. So this free, all-volunteer toy clinic was organized in March.

3. (STUFFED ANIMALS) "Cosmetic surgery" takes care of any external repairs.

Children from all over Tokyo are welcome. Besides making children happy, the hospital aims at teaching them the value of preserving and caring for old things.

#### KITE FIGHTING FESTIVAL

73 feet 2 min. 2 sec.

1. (HANDS PULLING STRING) Every year from May third to fifth, aerial warfare rages in the sky near Hamamatsu City on the Pacific Coast southwest of Tokyo.

But it's all in fun. The annual kite fighting festival has been held for 410 years on Nakadajima Sandflats near the city. These warrior kites are of a type popular in medieval Japan. Instead of balancing tails, they have long clusters of strings.

2. (STRING DRUM) Fifty-eight towns and communities in the Hamamatsu area take part, each entering a fleet of 20 kites. It takes a team of about 15 to 20 people on the ground to manage a single kite aloft and fly it. The teams try to entangle the line of their own kites with their rivals'. Then they pull their lines up and down briskly, trying to saw through the line of their opponents. When a line is broken, a kite crashes, and the owners destroy it.

The first kite fight was held four centuries ago to celebrate the birth of a son to a nobleman in the neighborhood.

3. (BUGLAR) One after another comes crashing to the ground. There are few survivors when the event is over. The kite fight is a major tourist attraction. About 400,000 persons visit the sandflats on each of the three days it is held.

The kites range in size from 21 to 32 square feet, and can cost anywhere from 75 dollars to about 350. The control lines on them range up to about a mile in length.

There's no official winner, and nobody keeps score. It's all in fun, and when the battle is over the residents of the 58 towns go home and start building their kites for next year's battle.