

*The Detailed Catalogue of the Heirloom Books of the Hirose Families
Ancient Sages Library*

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This Catalogue includes the all about Kangien, Japan's best private school of the Chinese classics; its establishment and development; the education, scholarship and philosophy of the principal directors of Kangien such as Hirose Tansō, Kyokusō, Seison and Ringai; and the world of the Chinese classical literature on which they placed great importance for human education. Tansō was rated highly as the greatest composer of Chinese poems of the late Edo era, and Kyokusō was also the greatest poet who praised by Yu Yue, the scholar-poet of the late Qing era, as "the principal of Japanese poet". The education, scholarship, philosophy and management of Kangien were united with the economic activity of the Hirose head family (Hakataya), the purveyor to the magistrate of Hita region. Through its 100 years history, they had cultivated the original scholarship and philosophy of Hirose family which made it possible to overcome the confusion brought by the Meiji Restoration. We believe firmly that this catalogue will contribute greatly to the new studies on culture, philosophy, literature, education and social thought which are necessary for considering the period of great change.

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