

**Biographical sources of engineers in Japan**  
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There were and are very scarce biographical books on engineers in Japan. In Western countries, some books such were published. In Germany, a book devoted to biographies of electrical engineers was published: Kurt Jaeger (ed.), Lexikon der Elektrotechniker, VDE-Verlag, Berlin, 1996. This book covers electrical engineers in the world, and the present speaker contributed articles on some Japanese. No book exclusively devoted to biographies of electrical engineers appeared in Japan.

Two biographical books were published in Japan on celebrated patentee-inventors: Publishing Committee for Teikoku Hatsumeika-Den, Teikoku Hatsumeika-Den (Biographies of Inventors in Japanese Empire), Tokyo, 1930. 2 Vols., c. 1,000 pages each. Among 200 patentee-inventors described, 29 are related to electrical inventions. Shigetaro Nara (ed.), Nihon Hatsumeika-Den (Biographies of Inventors in Japan - In commemoration of Seventy-five Years of the Patent Law), Tokkyo Shinbunsha (Patent Newspaper Publishing), Tokyo, 1961. 1,052 pp. Among 260 patentee-inventors described, 42 are related to electrical inventions. They are not scholarly books, but a kind of Who's Who to pay a tribute of praise to distinguished patentees. A substantial number of the patentees described were alive at that time.

One can find chapters of Who's Who such appeared in various yearbooks of electrical industries in Japan.

The present speaker maintains that scholarly biographical books of individual electrical engineers must be written in Japan. We can find good examples in the United States. For this purpose, mutual understanding and close cooperation of engineers and historians is indispensable.