



## Sakutaro and Photography

Sakutaro Hagiwara had been passionate about photography ever since picking up a camera when he was in junior high school. He was especially fond of stereoscopic photography, which involves taking pictures with a camera with two lenses, and using an optical device to view them as 3D images. Today, we often see photographs in 3D, but over 100 years ago, it was rare in Japan, and he was apparently scoffed at by his friend, saying “What is that thing? It looks like a toy.”

Many of the photographs taken by Sakutaro depict landscapes extending far into the distance, such as of roads, rivers, and railroad tracks. Looking at the stereographs while slowly shifting one’s line of sight from the foreground to the background gives one the illusion that they are seeing “a long-lasting dream” (*My Camera*). Sakutaro stated, “I want to capture the nostalgia in my heart that is reflected in the scenery of nature, by utilizing the optical functions of the mechanism.” (same as above) In his photographs, you can sense a deep connection with his poetry, which expresses a poignant nostalgia that cannot be satisfied even if seeing one’s own hometown.



Stereograph taken by Sakutaro, *Near Omori*. (Maebashi City Museum of Literature collection)