

Photographs of the 1927 Kita-Tango Earthquake

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The Kita-Tango earthquake, whose magnitude was estimated as 7.3, occurred on March 7, 1927. This event was the first destructive shallow earthquake since the Earthquake Research Institute (ERI), the Tokyo Imperial University was established in 1925. Staffs of the faculty of science and ERI, the Tokyo Imperial University conducted aftershock observations and field surveys after the earthquake. The National Museum of Nature and Science (NMNS) possesses many images related to this earthquake, including 101 films, 33 printed photographs, and 17 slides showing the surface displacements of the Gomura and Yamada active faults, the land slide, and the damage in some towns. These were mainly taken by Akitsune Imamura of ERI. These films were in two envelopes marked "SEISMOLOGICAL INSTITUTE, IMPERIAL UNIVERSITY, TOKYO, JAPAN". In some photographs mounted on cardboard, there is a label written as "Todai (University of Tokyo)" attached on the back. We investigated the locations where each photograph was taken and summarized these into some lists. NMNS also possesses 16 picture postcards issued by Shimizu-shokai. The printed photographs for the 1927 Kita-Tango earthquake are disclosed on the NMNS' s website. All materials for photographs have been reported by Murotani et al. (2017, BNMNS).

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