

Site of the Gyokado

Emperor Gosai (1638–1685), the 111th emperor, is said to have lived on this site. Gosai is remembered for his contribution to the preservation of Japan's literary tradition and for commissioning high-quality copies of many important works in the palace archives. His farsighted approach means that, while precious manuscripts were later lost when the palace was destroyed by fire, the works they contained remain available to us now thanks to the circulation of his copies. Emperor Gosai maintained his interest in the preservation of literary and other manuscripts even after he abdicated. The results of his accomplishments form the present-day Higashiyama Imperial Archives (Gobunko).

The composition of Japanese *waka* poetry played a central role in the cultural life of the nobles who lived in and around the palace. The following poem was composed by Emperor Gosai to evoke the first day of spring:

The heart that celebrates

this first day of spring

never changes.

In many countries,

poets celebrate this day with poems.

(Yo o imau / kokoro kamarade / kara no uta mo / kaku ya haru tatsu / kyou no kotobuki)

(From the collection of poems, *Shin-meidai wakashu* (1710), no. 14)