

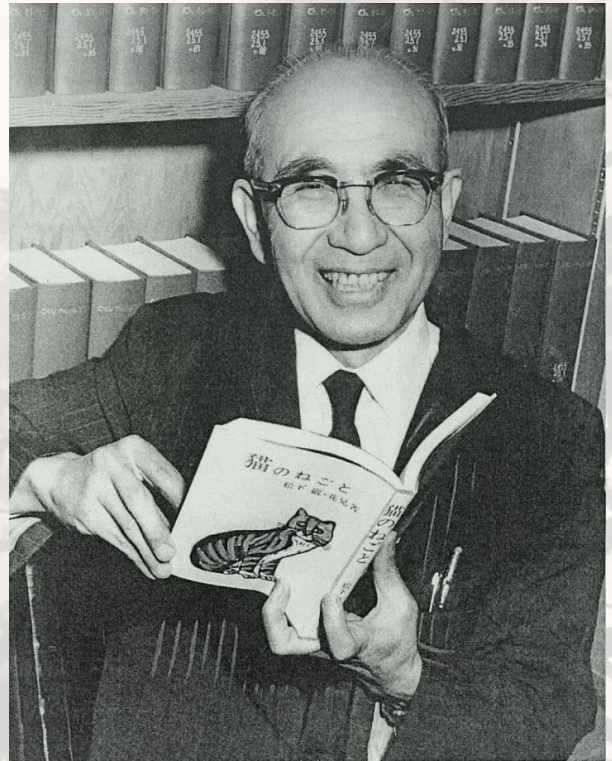
Iwao Matsushita (松下巖)

Iwao Matsushita worked as a Japanese Subject Specialist in the Far Eastern Library (FEL) from the 1950s until the 1960s or 1970s. In addition to his work at FEL, he also donated about 1500 Japanese and English books to the UW Libraries in the 1960s.

Iwao was born in 1892 in Miike, Japan. He studied English language and literature at the University of Foreign Languages in Tokyo, after which he taught high school English. He and his wife came to Seattle in 1919. In 1927, Iwao taught the first Japanese language course at the University of Washington.

He was also an active photographer—nature photography, as well as photos of cats were specialties of Iwao—and

one of the co-organizers of the Seattle Camera Club. Like other Japanese immigrants and those of Japanese descent, Iwao and his wife were sent to internment camps in the 1940s. After the war, he once again taught Japanese-language courses at UW, as well as Japanese classes at the reopened Seattle Japanese Language School, and authored at least five Japanese books. He passed away in 1979. UW Libraries Special Collections holds a collection of his papers, as well as a collection of Seattle Camera Club photographs.



Iwao Matsushita, ca. 1966