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Cover: A scene from *Shioyaki Bunsho* (Bunsho the Saltmaker), a story from *Otogi Zoshi* (folk tale books), which is held in the Kyoto University Library.

From the 14th to the 17th century, illustrated short story collections called *Otogi Zoshi* were popular among the general populace in Japan. Some of the stories remain well-known to this day.

Shioyaki Bunsho is a story of social climbing. The hero of the tale, born into a low-class family, makes a great fortune in the salt business. His daughter's marriage to an influential court noble leads to his own appointment as a high-ranking official. Because of this happy ending, many wealthy families gave colorful and ornate books containing the story to their daughters as marriage gifts.

This book is among the many rare books and other materials that can be accessed via Kyoto University Rare Materials Digital Archive.