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Cover: “Illustration of a Chinese Market in Nagasaki” (*Kiyō Tōjin Yashiki Zukei*). Kyoto University Library collection, artist unknown.

Dating from the late Edo period (circa 19th century), this painting skillfully and vividly depicts a scene from Nagasaki in the west of Japan, and is a valuable source of information about the society and customs of the period.

During the Edo period (17th–19th century), Chinese merchants were housed in *tōjin yashiki* (Chinese residences) as a measure by the shogunate to prevent smuggling. The painting depicts stalls set up in a plaza within one such residence selling daily necessities, such as fish, vegetables, and firewood, as well as samples of Japanese goods for export, such as lacquerware and Imari porcelain, which indicates that it was a market for the Chinese residents. The Chinese people in the illustration include shipowners, sailors, and servants. The Japanese people in the painting are all merchants, except for the two government officials wearing formal *haori* jackets and loose *hakama* trousers.