

A description of a tsunami in the essay "Kyu-ai Zuihitsu" written by To-u Momoi (? - 1792)

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In the end of 18th century, To-u Momoi, who was a son of a rich merchant in Kyoto wrote an essay called "Kyu-ai zuihitsu". He spent a life of long travels. He began travel in 1758 and finished travels by the end of 1788. He visited almost all part of the Japanese countries, and recorded many episodes experienced in his travel in his essay. But unfortunately, he seldom wrote year of each episode. He mentioned in a section on a tsunami which hit the Japan Sea coast of the mouth of Gonogawa river, Shimane prefecture, Western part of Honshu Island. Unfortunately he did not write the year of the Tsunami. He saw this tsunami from afternoon to the night, and he wrote "it was September and full moon night". We check the tsunami catalog written by Watanabe(1998), and found out that the Sado Kinkai earthquake of October 31, 1762 (September 15, the 12th year of the Horeki Era in Japanese calendar).

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Keywords: a tsunami in Japan Sea, a historical tsunami, the 1762 Sado-Kinkai earthquake

