

THE PROVINCES

The ten old provinces named in these tales, and the modern prefectures they became. The provinces were abolished in 1871; Hearn uses the old names because his sources do.

Province	Today	In
Echigo	Niigata Prefecture, less the island of Sado	—
Echizen	the northern portion of Fukui Prefecture	The Story of O-Tei
Iyo (Iyō)	Ehime Prefecture, from the abolition of the han system in 1871	Ubazakura; Jiu-Roku-Zakura
Mino	southern Gifu Prefecture	Jikininki
Musashi	Tokyo Metropolis, most of Saitama Prefecture and part of Kanagawa Prefecture	Yuki-Onna
Mutsu	Fukushima, Miyagi, Iwate and Aomori Prefectures, with two municipalities of Akita	Oshidori
Noto	the northern part of Ishikawa Prefecture, including the Noto Peninsula	The Story of Aoyagi
Tamba (Tanba)	central Kyoto Prefecture and east-central Hyōgo Prefecture	A Dead Secret
Tōtōmi	western Shizuoka Prefecture	Of a Mirror and a Bell
Yamato	Nara Prefecture	The Dream of Akinosuké

One correction, and it is Hearn's or his source's, not this edition's. The Story of O-Tei begins “in the town of Niigata, in the province of Echizen”. Niigata is not in Echizen. It is in Echigo, the province that became Niigata Prefecture and gave the town its name; Echizen is two provinces down the coast and is now northern Fukui. The names are close in English and closer in Chinese characters, and the slip has been reprinted in every edition this editor has consulted, including the electronic text this one is set from.

The text above is left exactly as Hearn published it. Nothing in the story turns on the province, and correcting an author's geography inside his own sentence is not this edition's business. Knowing that it is wrong is the reader's business, and now it is on the page.

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