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## **The Modern Japanese History of the Necromaterials as Revealed by Patent File Data : Note the Photo-illustrated Memorial Tablets**

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Patent documents reveal how technologies were adapted for necromaterials in modern Japan. Pre-1945 records show responses to disaster and war, such as temporary cemeteries or resource-saving coffins. *Kin-Ihai* Co. (1915–1931) produced photo-inlaid ancestral tablets based on a 1910 utility model, representing an early startup in the necromaterials industry. Located in Aoyama, not downtown Tokyo, *Kin-Ihai* Co. illustrates nontraditional entry into the necromaterials industry field. Such firms merit further study.

Key words: Modern Japan, necromaterials service, ancestral tablets, photographs, patents documents