Miidera-gire is an ancient Japanese paper sheet with different calligraphies on both sides. On one side, a part of a Buddhist scripture has been written in cursive hand of Heian period (about 9th–12th century). The other side has a part of Monzen-chu (an anthology of Chinese literary works). The paleographical style of Monzen-chu seemed to be older than that of the Buddhist scripture and was similar to some Chinese manuscripts written in the Tang Dynasty (AD 618–907). However, amid these elegant calligraphies, many copies and counterfeits written several centuries later are in circulation. We, therefore, measured the radiocarbon age of Miidera-gire by accelerator mass spectrometry. The calibrated radiocarbon age indicated 666–776 [cal AD] (2σ error). It concluded that the Monzen-chu was written first on the obverse side, and the Buddhist scripture was written on the reverse side long afterwards. Because only a few incomplete books of Monzen written from the 9th century onwards remain, this calligraphy is one of the oldest examples among the extant manuscripts of Monzen.

Key words: Miidera-gire, Monzen, Ancient Japanese paper sheet, Radiocarbon age