



Masahiro Endo, a Tokyo calligrapher, is very busy nowadays. He does work for the Imperial Household, an agency that takes care of Japan's imperial family. The youngest princess is getting married, so there are wedding invitations and other royal calligraphic matters needing Mr. Endo's attention. But he somehow finds time to do work for me at the behest of the Usami brothers, Masataka of San Juan Capistrano and Shozo of Tokyo, both old friends. The latest Endo calligraphy to grace my home is shown above. The ideographs spell out "Yu-Yu Jiteki," a Japanese phrase meaning "Beyond worldly concerns and living a life of quiet dignity," a philosophy that appeals to me in retirement. Just last December, at a Nagano Prefecture spa, I discovered that my inn's bathing pools were named "Yu-Yu Jiteki," and the sign leading to them is shown below. Reading left to right, it means "Yu-Yu Jiteki Spa," and the second character means "ditto" to avoid repeating the complicated first character. Mr. Endo's calligraphy reads from right to left, an old-fashioned way of writing Japanese, and it has no modern "ditto."

Jackson Sellers, February 2005





“Yu-Yu Jiteki” calligraphy at upper right in my workshop, “Jackson Sellers” calligraphy at upper left, both by Tokyo calligrapher Masahiro Endo.