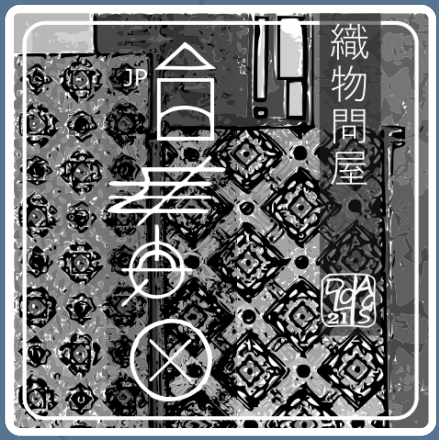

06-ÉCONOMIE

COMMERCE

JAPON

07-COMMUNICATION

APPARENCE

TEXTILE

orimono donya

The orimono donya (織物問屋), or textile merchant, played a central role in the textile economy. Unlike the weaver, he generally did not produce the fabrics himself. His role was to organize the flow of goods, finance production, and connect workshops with urban markets. During the Edo period and later in the Meiji era, these merchants often served as the true orchestrators of the local textile system. They commissioned designs, provided capital, selected raw materials, and ensured sales in major consumer centers. The most prosperous built grand residences and participated in local public life. They embodied a form of commercial capitalism based as much on market knowledge as on risk management.