佐久間 象山
文化3年（1811）～元治元年（1864）

松代藩士の佐久間国著の長男として、松代町浦町（有楽町）に生まれた。幼名を啓之助、諱は啓、通称を修理、号を象山・子明という。

天保4年（1833）、江戸に出て佐藤一斎に学び、渡辺篤山、藤田東湖などと親交を深めた。同10年（1839）には、江戸神田阿玉ヶ池に私塾を開く。同13年（1842）、8代藩主・真田幸之が老中海防掛となり、顧問として海外の事情を研究した。弘化元年（1844）、黒川良安と蘭学・漢学の交換教授を行い、オランダの百科事典などによって少学の知識を身につけた。

その後、嘉永3年（1850）には、深川の藩邸で砲学の教授を始め、勝海舟、橋本内衛などの人材を輩出した。安政元年（1854）、門人である吉田松陰のアメリカ密航未遂事件に連座し、松代に蟻居を命じられた。

文久2年（1862）蟻居を許され、将軍家茂の命により元治元年（1864）に上洛。武政合体・開国佐幕を説くなどの活動中に三条木屋町で尊王攘夷派に暗殺された。54歳であった。

Zozan Sakuma 1811～1864

Zozan Sakuma was born in Ura Village, the first born son of Kuniyoshi Sakuma of the Matsushiro clan. His childhood name was Keinosuke. This parents called him Hiraki, but was more commonly called Shuri by everyone else. In publications he was referred to as Shime or Zozan. His postmortem name is Seikou Jinkeishin Koji. Considered a prodigy from early childhood, he left for Edo in 1833. He studied under Issai Satou and became close friends with Kazan Watanabe, Touko Fujita, and others. In 1839 he opened his own private school in Edo (now Tokyo). In 1842, when Yukitsura Sanada became the Chief of International Defense, Zozan began conducting research on international affairs as an advisor. In 1844 he crossed studied with Masayasu Kurokawa on Western sciences and Chinese studies. He gained much knowledge of the West by reading a Dutch Encyclopedia. In 1850 he began instructing on artillery and weapons at the Fukagawa Residence, which attracted top talents such as Kaishu Katsu and Sanai Hashimoto. In 1854 he was implicated in a failed attempt to send Shoun Yoshida to America as a stowaway, and was ordered to stay confined in Matsushiro. Nine years later he was released from his confinement, but was ordered by shogun Iemochi to go to Kyoto in 1864. While advocating of opening of Japan’s doors internationally, he was assassinated by a member of the Sonnō Jōi, an anti-shogunate faction. Zozan was 54 years old.