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## Two New Series Planned by Tales & Co. to Launch in Monthly Shonen Magazine

Haiku-themed Youth Drama "Aomugi to Hototogisu" and Battle Fantasy "Soten no Kyojokoku"



Kodansha's "Monthly Shonen Magazine" (hereinafter "Getsumaga") will launch two new manga series. "Aomugi to Hototogisu" (Original Story: Yuki Hisao, Art: Atsumu Wada), which depicts high school students participating in the Haiku Koshien competition, will begin in the July issue (on sale June 5). "Soten no Kyojokoku" (Original Story: Miri Mikawa, Art: Kanba Kobaya), a "gekokujo" (overthrowing the elite) battle fantasy, will start in the September issue (on sale August 6). Both works were selected by the Getsumaga editorial department from projects submitted by creators to Tales & Co. Inc., a subsidiary of note inc.



### New Series: "Aomugi to Hototogisu"

#### <Synopsis>

Mugi Hongo is a popular high school student who excels in both academics and sports. However, he secretly harbors the pain of failing to become a novelist. Meanwhile, his classmate Asuka Hoshigoe is quiet and mysterious but has a deep passion for haiku. When Mugi encounters Asuka's poetry, the world of words he once abandoned begins to shine again. This is a youth "girl-meets-boy" story woven through haiku.

- Original Story: Yuki Hisao ("Haikei, Sakuramori no Kimi e", "Hanasaku Kamisama no Hanayome")
- Art: Atsumu Wada ("Shinjuku no Zashikiwarashi", "Shumatsu no Folklore")
- Publication: Monthly Shonen Magazine
- Start Date: July Issue (On sale June 5)

Interview with the Creative Team:

(Yuki Hisao × Atsumu Wada × Editor; Interviewer: Takeshi Hagiwara)

<https://talesandco.com/n/n7e8d881b9bdb>

※A portion of this interview will also be featured in the July issue of Monthly Shonen Magazine.

The first chapter of the novel version is also available:

<https://talesandco.com/n/ne26713233d61>



## New Series: "Soten no Kyojokoku"

< Synopsis >

In ancient times, there was a giant castle that functioned as an entire nation. Samurai lived in the castle tower, humans on the ground, and demons and insects underground. Kabutomaru, living in the world of insects, has his younger sister taken away by the samurai. To bring her back and bring light to the insect people, Kabutomaru and the demon Shiranui charge up the stairs of rebellion toward the ground and the castle tower.

- Original Story: Miri Mikawa ("Dragon Kingdom Fantasy" series, "Sugar Apple Fairy Tale" series)
- Art: Kanba Kobaya ("Haraiya Amagiri no Koukeisha", "Kono Futari, Kyobo ni Tsuki")
- Publication: Monthly Shonen Magazine
- Start Date: September Issue (On sale August 6)

※A creative team interview (Miri Mikawa × Kanba Kobaya × Editor; Interviewer: Takeshi Hagiwara) will be published soon on the Tales & Co. Inc. note page (<https://talesandco.com/>)

## Background of the Projects

The development of "Aomugi to Hototogisu" and "Soten no Kyojokoku" began when the Getsumaga editorial department approached Tales & Co. Tales & Co. operates a business that connects media outlets with projects and works submitted by creators. For these projects, Tales & Co. introduced manga original story proposals entrusted to them by creators, and both parties collaborated on the planning and production of the original stories. Manga production is handled by the Getsumaga editorial department.

The division of labor, where an original author and a manga artist form a team, has produced major hits such as "The Kindaichi Case Files" and "Blue Lock." In recent years, this system has expanded, with an increasing number of creators from different genres, such as novelists and screenwriters, providing original stories for manga. Tales & Co. acts as an editorial team that designs and organizes the optimal division of labor for each project, collaborating with publishers to deliver creators' stories to readers.

Creator registration and project submissions to Tales & Co. are accepted via the official website: <https://talesandco.com/>

### **Comment from Takeshi Hagiwara, President and CEO of Tales & Co. Inc.**

The mission of Tales & Co. is to maximize the potential of the stories entrusted to us by creators. I am very pleased to deliver these two works in manga form together with the Monthly Shonen Magazine editorial department.

"Aomugi to Hototogisu" focuses on the traditional Japanese culture of haiku, depicting youth growing up in the landscape of Ehime. Even if the term "haiku" makes you feel a bit hesitant, I encourage you to read it. The appeal of this work lies not in technical knowledge of haiku, but in the way the characters "strive to feel" as they search for the right seventeen syllables. After reading, the scenery outside your window may look a little different.

"Soten no Kyojokoku" is a battle fantasy where boys raised in the lowest depths without knowing the sky stand up against an oppressive ruling class. Key highlights include the grand scale of a world where an entire nation exists within a giant castle, and the emotional weight that builds with every battle. Please experience the beginning of this epic struggle starting from Chapter 1.

Although the genres and settings are entirely different, both works were polished alongside the Getsumaga editorial department with a firm belief in the power of the authors' storytelling. I hope you enjoy reading them.

### **Comment from Yasuyuki Mimura, Editor-in-Chief of Monthly Shonen Magazine**

#### **Regarding "Aomugi to Hototogisu":**

The concept of Getsumaga is "The boy is waiting for an encounter." Boys attend school daily and work hard to learn social skills, yet they are waiting for an event or an encounter that will excite them and change their lives. I want to deliver stories to those boys. This work is exactly that—a story that begins with an "encounter." An encounter with haiku, a subject that may seem modest at first glance, represents an encounter with someone who changes one's life and the moment life gains color. That is the essence of the first chapter. Please enjoy the brilliance of a classic Getsumaga youth manga.

#### **Regarding "Soten no Kyojokoku":**

What is shonen manga? I believe it is "rebellion against adults" or "resistance against becoming an adult." People become adults by acquiring social skills, common sense, and learning to read the room. Magma-like anger and rebellious spirits are not necessarily welcomed in real-world

society. That is why shonen manga exists. This work is spun from primitive "anger," "rebellion," and "thirst." I am very excited about the scale of the world and the adventures and battles of the boys who challenge it.

## **About Tales & Co. Inc.**

Established in May 2024 as a subsidiary of note inc. to expand the potential of stories and creators. The company acts as an agent for creators, produces original content, and undertakes planning for external companies, collaborating with publishers, film companies, and game developers. It has over 1,000 registered creators and co-operates the story posting site "TALES" with note inc.

Location: 6-6-2 Kojimachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 102-0083

Established: May 24, 2024

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【For inquiries regarding this press release】

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