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| **Your article** |
| Mori Ōgai (February 17, 1862 – July 8, 1922) |
| **[Enter any *variant forms* of your headword – OPTIONAL]** |
| Mori Ōgai served as a surgeon in the Japanese Imperial Army, was a translator, novelist, dramatist and literary theorist in the Meiji and Taisho periods. While a dramatist in his own right, he is as important for his translations (especially of Ibsen) and his critical writings.  Mori Ōgai was born Mori Rintarō to an aristocratic family in Iwami Province in Southwestern Japan. After the Meiji Restoration, his family moved to Tokyo and he began to study German. Graduating from medical college in 1881 at the age of 19, he enlisted in the Japanese Imperial Army, which sent him to Germany to study, returning in 1885. During his time in Europe, Mori became interested in Western literature and began translating German works into Japanese.  His critical assertions in the popular and intellectual presses resulted in drama considered as literature the equal of other forms, and that well respected individuals could read drama, attend theatre and engage in serious discussion about both. His debates in print with Tsubouchi Shōyō, his intellectual rival, focused on the nature and purpose of drama. Tsubouchi advocated for realism, Mori sensing a universal ideal behind literature. Collectively they staked out important principles behind modern Japanese dramatic literature. |
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| Further reading:  (Keene)  (Powell) |