

Some additional words on "Ninomiya" and "Cat" to non-Japanese users.

You find "Bar", "Kiss !", "Toilette 1" and "Toilette 2" easy to understand. And perhaps you may be tolerant enough to accept "Mr. Kinoshita". Yet, most non-Japanese users will find "Ninomiya" and "Cat" unknown. I would like to add some words on them.

"Ninomiya"

Mr Ninomiya is a historical person in the Edo era. He was a specialist of agricultural policy.

He was born to a poor family, and he had to work hard to support his family's life. He served a wealthy family, and his primary duty was to collect firewood.

He was an industrious boy who loved to study. It is a famous story that he kept reading books even while he carried firewood on his back. Thanks to such industriousness, he became very smart, and later promoted to a minister. Born to a poor family, he never fail to think of poor peasants. He tried to save them by encouraging technical improvement of agriculture. Until a generation before, it was a common custom in Japan to put the boy Ninomiya's statue (especially reading books with firewood on his back) in primary school. He was regarded as a symbol of hard-working children.

"Cat"

I know that everybody knows cats. But this "Cat" is special. Look at the blank icon carefully, and you will find that the cat has its left hand up. This is a special image of cat called "maneki-neko", which is said to bring good fortunes. It is popular, especially among shop managers, to put statues of the "maneki-neko" at their houses, their shops, etc..

Some "maneki-neko" has its right hand up. Some people say that the types fortunes the "maneki-nekos" will bring are different, according to the hand they lift up. I am not very sure of it. Anyway, the "maneki-neko" will certainly bring some kind of good fortunes to you and your Macintosh.