

Spring 2025 Special Exhibition

“CONNECTING HISTORY”

～ Our Museum’s Collection Telling the Story of Ishikawa Prefecture ～



In 2024, the Noto Peninsula experienced a massive earthquake in January and extreme rainfall in September, which caused severe damage to Cultural Properties in the region. These disasters have made it clear that Cultural Properties will be lost unless they are proactively preserved. At the same time, however, museums nationwide face a shortage of storage space, occasionally even creating further problems related to discarding materials. Museums now find themselves at a crossroads: how they will survive going forward? Given these circumstances, museums must communicate how they intend to pass these materials down to future generations, and achieve their missions.

This exhibition puts the spotlight on materials newly identified in recent years, along with related items in the museum’s collection, under various themes. Every single one of the materials the museum preserves is an item that clearly reflects the time in which it was created, and by connecting these together, we can learn even more about the history of Ishikawa. Passing on Cultural Properties to the future is, itself, a matter of “connecting history.” We hope that this exhibition demonstrates not only the appeal of these materials, which tell the story of Ishikawa, but also the crucial role played by history museums in preserving and passing down Cultural Properties, and offering back to their communities any knowledge gained.

Overview and Major Exhibits

Introduction: A Connected Collection at the Prefectural Museum of History

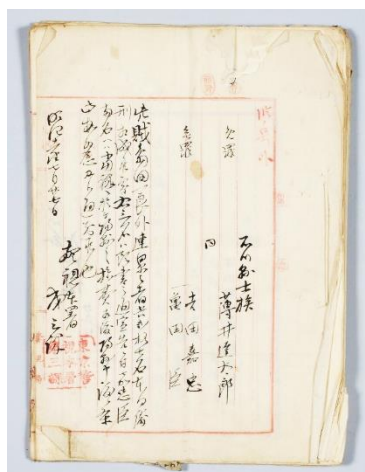
- The Evolution of Suzu Ware



Polished Suzu Ware Jar — Muromachi Period (1336–1573), 15th c.

Even before becoming the Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History, the museum had already begun to collect Suzu Ware pottery, a typical style of medieval Japanese pottery from the latter half of the 11th century to the latter half of the 16th century. This particular piece is a Suzu Ware jar with a smoothly polished outer surface. Suzu Ware jars and pots were made with a distinctive *tataki-me* (“strike marks”) surface pattern. However, in the 15th century, many Suzu Ware items began to be made with this *tataki-me* pattern removed and with the surface polished — as seen in this piece — due to influences from other types of pottery (such as the Echizen Ware, which had spread along the Sea of Japan coast).

- New Materials Regarding the Kioicho Incident

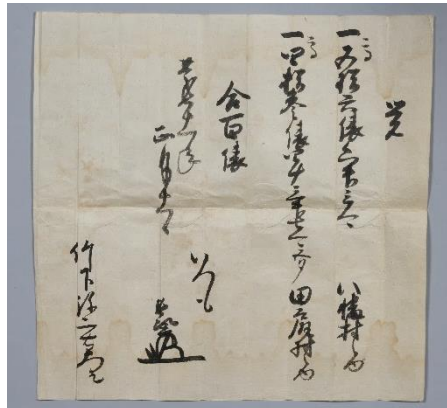


Kioicho Incident Court Record — Meiji Era (1868–1912), 1878

This official document describes the trial results of the people involved in the Kioicho Incident: the May 1878 murder of Toshimichi Okubo, one of the most powerful figures in the national government at the time, by Ichiro Shimada and other ex-samurai assassins.

Section 1: The Story of the Feudal Domain

- Deciphering the Documents of a Vassal's Retainer



Record of Land Granted in Exchange for Pledge of Service — Edo Period (1603–1868), January 11, 1606

This document was handed down by the Takeshita family, who were retainers to the Murai family, one of the highest-ranking samurai families in the Kaga Domain. It shows that the second-generation head of the Murai family, Nagatsugu, granted them the territory of 100 *pyo* (lit. “straw bags”) worth of land, or enough land to grow about 6,000 kg of rice annually.

- Benkichi Ono and Science and Technology in the Kaga Domain

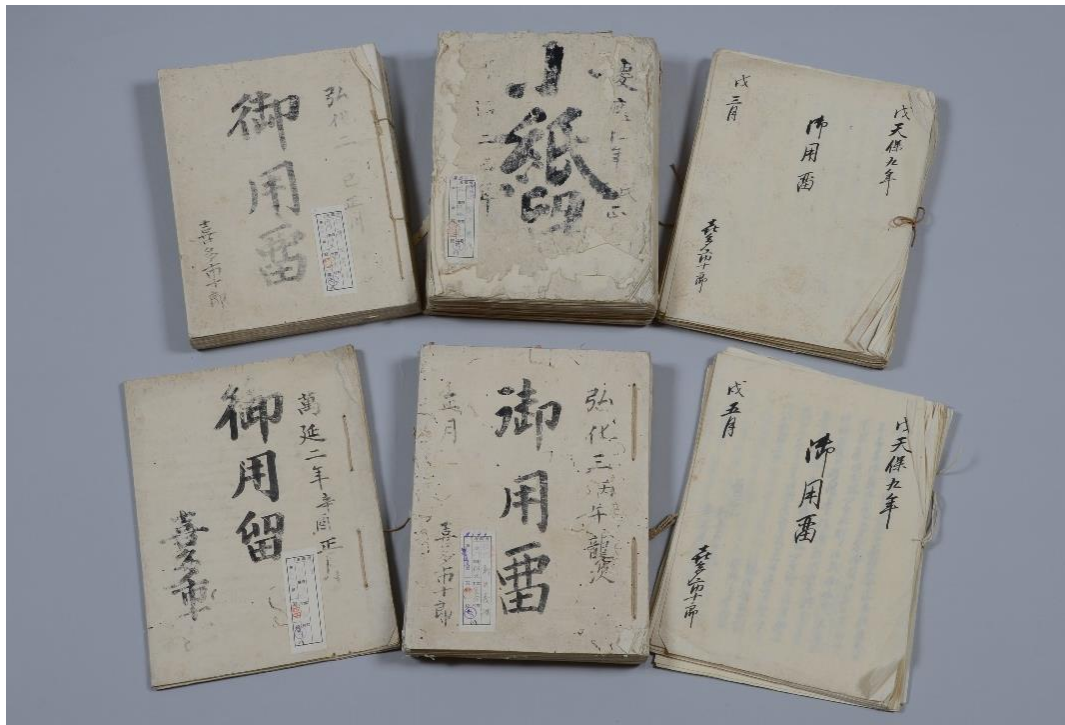


Children and Cart — Edo Period (1603–1868), 19th c.

This spring-driven automaton has a space on top for a sake cup, which serves as the switch to activate the mechanism, causing the cart to move forward and the doll riding the cart to wave its fan and shake its head. It is believed to be the work of the 19th-century inventor Benkichi Ono.

Section 2: The Story of the Community

- The Nitta Family's Rule over the Region as Tomurayaku



Nitta Tomurayaku Family Documents — Edo Period (1603–1868) to Meiji Era (1868–1912)

The Nitta family lived in the villages of Kawashiri and Kurami (in the present-day Tsubata Town, Kahoku District), and for generations, the family served as village-wide administrators known as *tomurayaku*. Many of these documents and diagrams are related to development around Kahoku Lagoon, and taken as a whole, these precious materials give us a closer look at real life in farming villages near Kahoku Lagoon during the Edo Period (1603–1868).

- A Village Coexisting with Mt. Hakusan



Two Tablets Offered by Mt. Hakusan Ascetic Monks —

Left: Muromachi Period (1336–1573), 1484; Right: Muromachi Period (1336–1573), 1485;

Ishikawa Prefecture-Designated Cultural Properties

These tablets were given as offerings to Mushigao Shrine, on the upper reaches of the Ushikubi River. They are inscribed with information such as the names, ages, and number of days of training of eleven ascetic monks, who had climbed Mt. Hakusan using Mushigao Shrine as their base and completed their training. Very few other ascetic monk tablets like these still remain from as far back as the Muromachi Period (1336–1573).

Section 3: The Story of Modernity

- Japanese Swords and Nationalism



Military Sword — Showa Era (1926–1989), 20th c.

The military swords for the Imperial Japanese Army, which was modeled after European armies, were initially European-style sabers, but became Japanese-style swords in 1934. This change in shape was for pragmatic reasons, but some have also argued that it tied in with the nationalist movement of the pre-World War II period, with the Japanese-style swords representing a return to the traditional spirit of Japan.

Section 4: The Story of Technique

- The Lineage of Painters Who Served the Kaga Domain



Turtles and Cranes by Senkei Sasaki — Edo Period (1603–1868), 1841

These paintings are by Senkei Sasaki (1773–1848), a painter who served the Kaga Domain government, depicting both turtles and cranes — two auspicious symbols — by the waterside. The artist's signature and seal indicate that they were painted in 1841, when Sasaki was 69 years old. Beginning in the early 19th century, the Kaga Domain government became major patrons of the Sasaki family, and commissioned them to do many paintings on the sliding doors and walls of the lords' palace.

Final Section: The Stories Told by the Collection — The Potential of New Themes

- Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and Buddhist Altars



Standing Amida Nyorai — Edo Period (1603–1868), 18th–19th c.

This wooden Standing Amida Nyorai Buddha statue was an heirloom of a family of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists in Kanazawa. Jodo Shinshu Buddhists initially focused their faith on words representing Amida Nyorai, but during the Edo Period (1603–1868), wooden statues also became objects of worship.

[Exhibition Period] Sat., Apr. 26 to Sun., Jun. 8, 2025

[Opening Hours] 9:00 to 17:00 (last admission at 16:30)

Open 7 days a week during the exhibition period

[Venue] Special Exhibition Room and Project Exhibition Room

[Admission Fee] Adults ¥800 (¥640), university and professional school students ¥640 (¥510)

- Free admission for high school students and younger
- Prices shown in parentheses above are price per person for groups of 20 or more, or prices for visitors 65 and older.
- Free admission upon presentation of disability certification or Mirairo ID, for holder and one accompanying person.
- Additional fee required for admission to the Kaga-Honda Museum.
- Electronic tickets are also available (with no designated date/time).

Electronic Tickets

Admission: Adults ¥800, university and professional school students ¥640

Notes :

- Discounts (such as for visitors 65 and older) are not available with electronic tickets. To take advantage of discounts, please purchase tickets at the counter on the day of your visit.
- Electronic tickets have no designated date or time, and there are no guarantees for admission time slots.

[Organizers] Ishikawa Prefectural History Museum, Yomiuri Shimbun

[Special Cooperation] The Hokkoku Shimbun

[Support] Kanazawa City Board of Education and NHK Kanazawa Broadcasting Station