

Shotoen Museums and Gardens

Commemorative Museum of Korean Missions

◆ **Exhibition Title** : Bajosai who Acrobatics on Horse Made the People of Edo Era Excited.

Event Period: June 25th, 2025 to September 8th.

◆ **What is Chosen Tsushinshi / Joseon Missions to Japan**

The Korean Missions were diplomatic missions that came to Japan during the Edo period (1603-1868) as Missions for the King of Korea. At the time, diplomatic relations were restricted in Japan, so the Korean Envoys were the missions that told valuable information and culture from foreign countries, and are said to have had a major impact on Japanese society. The Korean Missions traveling back and forth between Japan and the Joseon Dynasty enabled the two countries to maintain peaceful relations for over 200 years.

◆ **Exhibition Overview**

Bajosai means the art of riding a horse, striking various poses while on a running horse. At the request of Tokugawa Iemitsu, Bajosai came to Japan in 1636 accompanying the 4th Korean mission. They demonstrated their horseback riding skills at the Tsushima Domain residence and Edo Castle. At the time in Japan, Korean Bajosai were said to be the best in the world, and excited the people of Edo. That excitement remains in various forms, such as paintings and crafts.

This exhibition focuses on Bajosai of the Korean missions, and introduces documents from our collection.

◆ **View Point**

You can see various documents about the Bajosai.

◆ **Recommended works**



「Document's Title : Hōei Karaku Saikenzu(The Book about Kyoto Landscapes in detail in 1704-1711)

The Hōei Karaku Saisominzu is a Kyoto geography book that depicts Honkokuji Temple and the Korean envoys who stayed there. The first part of the book depicts the ground of Honkokuji Temple, and the six scenes that follow are divided into upper and lower parts, with the upper part depicting the procession of the Korean envoys and the lower

part depicting a succession of horseback riders.

Shotoen Museums and Gardens Ceramics Museum

◆ **Exhibition Title:** The beauty of utility: The world of pottery

Event Period: June 25th, 2025 to September 8th.

◆ **Exhibition Overview**

"Beauty of utility" was advocated by Yanagi Muneyoshi, the founder of the Mingei movement, and refers to the beauty found in everyday household items. The Mingei movement, which sought to find beauty in items created by the handiwork of anonymous artisans, is said to have begun in 1926 when Yanagi Muneyoshi and others published the "Statement of Intent for Founding the Japan Folk Crafts Museum." Ceramics that have enriched people's lives are also part of the composition of "mingei." This exhibition focuses on the beauty of utility in ceramics, and introduces works from the Shotoen Ceramics Museum's collection by artists who participated in the Mingei movement along with Yanagi Muneyoshi. We will also introduce Imari ware, as well as works from China and Korea.

◆ **Highlights**

Potteries sported people's lives in Japan since ancient times. Pottery with unique characteristics that are specific to each region has been produced all over Japan. At this exhibition, you can enjoy a variety of Japanese pottery.

◆ **Recommended works**



Cup with Underglaze Cobalt-blue Design of Wave and Plover

This cup was made in 1640-60's and called Soba Choko that can be used to hold vinegared dishes or salads. Yanagi Muneyoshi, who advocated the beauty of utility, was particularly attracted to the beauty of Imari ware's Soba Choko. Soba Choko was used for a variety of purposes during the Edo period and were in high

demand, so many were made. They are painted in indigo blue, and you can see the original world of the craftsmen in this small vessel.

◆ **Introduction about Imari ware**

Imari ware is a type of porcelain that originated around 400 years ago in the area of

present-day Arita-cho, Saga Prefecture, and is still being produced today. It was also exported to Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries, attracting much royalty and aristocracy.

Even today, Imari ware continues to have many fans.