

Harima-cho A Place of History and Culture

The Onaka Ancient Village Remains (National historical site)

大中遺跡(国指定史跡)

In the Yayoi Period, the location of the Kakogawa River running through the center area of the Harima region had made the area prosperous and developed. Remains of the culture of the time resemble Old Stone Age culture. The Onaka Ancient Village Remains were discovered by three members of the Harima Junior High School Archaeology Club in June, 1962. At that time, it is said, lots of shells were scattered on the heights and many shards were excavated when people tilled the fields. The Remains are located on the south edge of a Pleistocene epoch plateau 13m above sea level, on the east edge of inundated fields near the Kakogawa River. The remains, including the residence sites in the area of 44,000 m², represent a time from the mid-Yayoi Era to the mid-Kofun Era (A.D.200 ~ 400). And together with excavated earthenware, shards, ironware and whetstone, a broken mirror, verifying international

exchanges between China and Japan, was found. These archaeological finds and residence remains are important items of the times when rice farming had taken root and the life of people had become stable enough to be classified a society. The finds also tell us what the social life in the times was like when the ancient community began to take its form.



Naikoukamon Kyohen (Mirror Fragment) (Town-designated cultural asset)

内行花文鏡片(町指定文化財)

Excavated from Onaka Ancient Village Remains residence site, this mirror is presumed to have been made in the late-Han Era in China. The flat part's 2.5cm width would yield a perfect shape with a

21.2cm diameter if restored. It was intentionally divided and burnished to create a flat face, with two bored holes for hanging purposes. This is a highly valued archaeological specimen.

The Shishimai of Komiya Lion Dance (Town-designated intangible folk cultural asset)

古宮の獅子舞(町指定無形民俗文化財)

This is the only shishimai lion dance in Harimacho and is performed with two people. According to oral tradition, it's a ritual of devotion to the Komiya temple god Enoki Daimyojin, from the Kan'ei Era featuring Taijin music. Each year, on September 23rd of the lunar calendar, 10 dances like "Botan" and "Shiokumi" are performed with a distinctive feature of elegance.

Hokyojin Monument (A stone Structure Containing Buddhist Sutras) (Town-designated cultural asset)

石造宝篋印塔(町指定文化財)

This monument is made of granite and is 157cm in height from the foundation stone.

Long weathering and abrasions on the stone have made it impossible to read the engraved inscriptions on the stone. Judging from the techniques used for every part, it is presumed to have been built at the beginning of the Muromachi Era. This is one of few valuable stone works in Harima-cho.

Atagozuka - Burial Ground

(Prefecture-designated cultural asset)

愛宕塚古墳(県指定文化財)

The only round burial ground in Harima-cho with a moat, built in the mid-Kofun Era, has been worshipped by people as “Atago-san” since the olden days. Its name comes from the shrine on the top of the burial ground where Atago Bodhisattva is enshrined. The grounds are about 22m by 23m. The top is 15.3m above sea level and the bottom is 13.1m above sea level. It is 2.2m high with a moat 4.5m in width.

The Ae Shrine

(Prefecture-designated cultural asset) 阿閉神社本殿(県指定文化財)

The main shrine buildings, built in the same style and in the same scale, with two pillars at the front and thatched roofs, stand on the lines running north and south. The front edges of the buildings are connected with corridor-bridges. This style of architecture with four main shrine buildings linked together by bridges is rarely seen elsewhere and that has led the shrine to be appointed as a prefectural asset.

A Photograph of “Joseph” Hiko and Van Reed (Father of the Japanese Newspaper)

「ヒコとヴァン・リードの写真」(新聞の父)

Born in Komiya, Harimacho, Hikotaro grew up in Hamada. In 1850, at the age of 13, he was shipwrecked on Eiriki-maru. He was rescued and taken to the U.S.A. by an American merchant. He became the first Japanese to be naturalized as an American citizen in 1858 and was baptized a Christian. He chose the name, “Joseph Hiko”. When he returned to Japan in 1859, he made every effort as a translator to contract “The Treaty of

Friendship” between Japan and the U.S.A and help send envoys of the Tokugawa shogunate to America. It is said he had the honor of meeting President Lincoln on his third visit to America in 1861 and was introduced to democracy at that time. Hiko visited his hometown Harima three times and set up a tombstone for his parents at Rengeji Temple in Honjo, which is now commonly called, “The tombstone with European letters”.

After being rescued by an American merchantman in 1850, Hiko visited San Francisco, Washington D.C. and New York. He became the first Japanese who had the honor of a formal meeting with 14th president, Pierce Franklin. Hiko published the first Japanese newspaper, “Kaigai-shinbun”, in 1864, with news of the world and abridgement of American history. The title “Joseph Hiko - Father of the Japanese Newspaper” is originated from this achievement.

This glass-board photograph shows Hiko, with his friend, Van Reed in San Francisco. It was given to his brother-in-law who lived in Komiya as a commemoration of Hiko's home coming. The visit took place in Kanagawa Prefecture. The Osaka Magistrate's Office, however, confiscated it from him and that was big news at that time.



The Sitting Statue of Yakushi-Nyorai (Town-designated cultural asset)

薬師如来座像(町指定文化財)

This is one of the oldest and most precious statues of Buddha. It is a joined block construction 140cm in height, on a draping-ropes-styled pedestal. The statue's robe is simplified and the carvings are shallow to give it absolute elegance. Part of the statue's face, its right arm and the medicine pot in its left hand show marks from past repairs. Judging from the whole appearance of the statue and the technique used, it is presumed to have been built at the end of the Heian Period.



Enmanji Temple Shaka-Jyuroku-zenshinzou (Town-designated cultural asset)

圓滿寺「釈迦十六善神像」(町指定文化財)

In Enmanji Temple there is an image of Buddha between two Bodhisattvas in the center of 16 guards (gods), who bring luck to people, painted on a silk screen with an oath dated to 1395. Restoration took place in 1465 and the restoration of an epiphany in

1680 is on the back. This principal image of the Buddha of three old villages, Imazato, Iwamitsu and Futago is highly valued to learn the way in which people believed in gods in the 14th century.

The Shinyu Waterway built by Denbei Imazato 新井水路開削の今里傳兵衛



In the years preceding the building of the waterway in Myoureki 1 (1655), the people of the area suffered from insufficient water supply due to

ponds and wells providing the only irrigation for each rice field in the area. There was no rain before the rice-planting season of Shouou 3 (1654) and a long spell of dry hot weather in August resulted in no harvest, even seed rice, for the next year. As a village chief of the Komiya area, Denbei Imazato called the chief of 23 villages together and after obtaining their consent, planned the building a flood-control channel from Saijo Hiramatsu Gokanoi Sluice (Kakogawa) to Oike, Komiya. He presented the

plan to the lord of the domain asking for permission. Construction of the channel started at the beginning of the year in 1655 and was completed in March of the next year. It was a great undertaking, totaling in the length of 13km, 164,000 workers in total were utilized and the irrigated area affected was 600 hectares. This waterway was newly developed by using the Gokanoi Sluice, and it was named the Shinyu Waterway.

The Ae Shrine Camphor Tree in Futago(Town-designated cultural asset)

二子阿閩神社クスノキ(町指定文化財)

This camphor tree is thought to have been planted when Ae Futago Shrine was established in 1688 and is worshipped as a holy tree even today. This over

300-year-old tree is the oldest in town. It is 16m in height and 5m in girth. It is a precious tree with a long history in the shrine.

The Harima Elementary School Camphor Tree (Town-designated cultural asset)

播磨小学校クスノキ(町指定文化財)

This memorial tree was planted in 1900 as one of eight camphor trees to commemorate the move of Harima Elementary School (called Ae Elementary School at that time) to its present site. In order to expand the school playground, other trees were cut down. The only remaining 100-year-old tree is 12m in height and 2.9m in girth. It is a valuable tree with a long history in the school.



Rishu Woodcut Sutra (Town-designated cultural asset)

版木「理趣経」「播州賀古郡野添村光明遍照山無量壽院本尊畧縁起」(町指定文化財)

The Rishu Woodcut Sutra is a set of four double-sided Rishu woodcuts inscribed with the name of the year Benmei 19 (1487) and the Buddhist history. Letters are engraved on each thick cherry plank. The unique esoteric Buddhist text of the sutra, which is a way to eternal wisdom and

spiritual enlightenment, was engraved in Rishu. A summary of the Muryojuin history from ancient times up to the Benmei year 19 was included in the Buddhist history. Those woodcuts are valuable historical material to study Buddhist history in the feudal times of Japan.

Moon-Watching Diaries : Records for lunar observations in the Edo Period

(Town-designated cultural asset) 御月見日記(町指定文化財)

Three journals handed down in the Kawabata community in Nozoe village were kept yearly without fail for about 150 years starting in 1720. They give us an account of the circumstances of

village life in general and the occurrences in social life in those days. The journals are authentic and valuable historical records to study people's life and social contexts.

Renge-ji Temple Raihan (Town-designated cultural asset) 蓮花寺「礼盤」(町指定文化財)



“Raihan” is a compact platform on which the chief priest of the Buddhist temple sits to worship Buddha. An old record was left inside written in Indian ink telling the history of the “Raihan” and a magnificent procession of *₁Ikeda Terumasa's wife, Tokuhime, to see her father, *₂Ieyasu Tokugawa. The record portrays the feeling of social life in the Tokugawa period.

*₁ Ikeda Terumasa (1564-1613) : A General who owned Himeji Castle.

*₂ Ieyasu Tokugawa (1542-1616) : The first shogun of Tokugawa Era.