

Museum Collection Exhibitions in  
The Collection Galleries

**1F-2 Ceramics**  
**Chinese Tomb Figures**  
**Immortal Life Entrusted to the Earth**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**1F-3, 4 Feature Exhibition**  
**Buried Prayers: Time Capsules of Faith**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**1F-5 Metalwork**  
**Unearthed Metalwork: Vestiges of Ancient Devotion**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**1F-6 Lacquerware**  
**Sacred Lacquers: Vessels of Faith**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

## Exhibition Schedule

**Special Exhibition**  
**The Tale of Genji: Radiant Culture of the Japanese Imperial Court**  
October 6–November 29, 2026  
Heisei Chishinkan Wing

**New Year's Feature Exhibition**  
**Goats and Lambs, Ewes and Rams: Celebrating the Year of the Sheep**  
December 22, 2026–February 7, 2027  
Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 2F-2

**Feature Exhibition**  
**Layered Histories: Renowned Tea Utensils and Their Boxes**  
December 22, 2026–March 22, 2027  
Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-2

**Feature Exhibition**  
**Celebrating the Japanese Doll Festival**  
February 13–March 22, 2027  
Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Gallery 1F-4

Cover: *Abe no Nakamaro Gazing at the Moon in Mingzhou*, detail. By Tomioka Tessai (1836–1924). Important Cultural Property. On view August 11–September 6, 2026. *Dōtaku Ritual Bell with Crossed Band Design*. Excavated from Rokutan-ji Temple, Osaka. Important Cultural Property. *Mask*. Excavated from Ōhara, Iwate. The works listed above belong to the Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo. *Seated Miroku (Maitreya) Buddha*. Nara National Museum (Photo courtesy of Nara National Museum). Important Cultural Property. *Tile Incised with Monk*. Excavated from Bon'yama, Kyoto. Kyoto National Museum. *Sutra Inscribed on a Bronze Plaque*, detail. Excavated from Ninna-ji Temple. Ninna-ji Temple, Kyoto. Important Cultural Property.

English translations by Melissa M. Rinne, Senior Specialist, and Chloe Pearce, Research Fellow.

## ADMISSION

**July 14–September 6, 2026:**  
Admission to the Museum Collection Galleries  
Adult ¥700 Univ. Student ¥350

Admission is free for visitors under age 17, high school students, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver, and Campus Members (including faculty). Please show ID.

**June 16–July 12, 2026, and September 8–October 4, 2026:**  
Admission to the Museum Gardens and Outdoor Exhibits  
Adult ¥300 Univ. Student ¥150

Admission is free for visitors under age 17, high school students, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caregiver, and Campus Members (including faculty). Please show ID. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

## HOURS

**June 16–October 4, 2026:**  
Tuesdays–Thursdays, Saturdays, Sundays  
9:30 am–5:00 pm (Entrance until 4:30 pm)

Fridays  
9:30 am–8:00 pm (Entrance until 7:30 pm)

**CLOSED ON MONDAYS**  
\*Except July 20, and September 21, 2026.  
\*The museum will also be closed on July 21 and September 24, 2026.

## ACCESS

**VIA JR OR SUBWAY**  
Get off at Kyoto Station. From bus platform D2 in front of the station, take City Bus #86 or #206 or #208 to the "Hakubutsukan Sanjusangendo-mae" bus stop. Walk about one minute to the museum.

**VIA KEIHAN RAILWAY**  
Get off at Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the museum.

**VIA HANKYU RAILWAY**  
Get off at Kyoto-Kawaramachi Station. Walk east over the bridge to the Keihan Railway Gion-Shijo Station. Take an Osaka-bound Keihan train to Shichijo Station. Walk east along Shichijo/Nanajo Street (about seven minutes) to the museum.

**KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM**  
527 Chaya-cho, Higashiyama-ku  
Kyoto, Japan 605-0931  
Tel. (075) 525-2473  
<https://www.kyohaku.go.jp/>

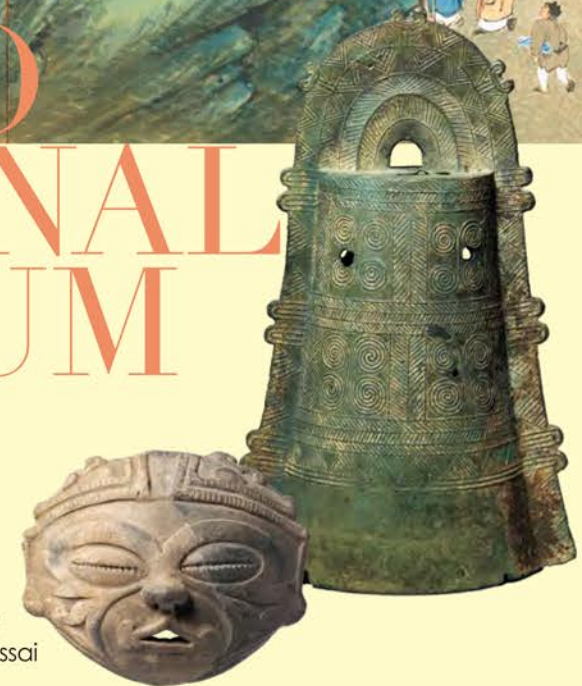


NEWSLETTER  
JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026



# KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

## Vol. 170



Feature Exhibition  
**Masterworks of the Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts**  
From Archaeological Artifacts to Tomioka Tessai

Feature Exhibition  
**Buried Prayers: Time Capsules of Faith**



Feature Exhibition

## Masterworks of the Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts From Archaeological Artifacts to Tomioka Tessai

July 14–September 6, 2026, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Galleries 3F-1, 2 and 2F-1, 2

The Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, located in Nishinomiya, Hyogo, was founded in 1976 by Tatsuuma Etsuzō (1892–1980). Trained in archaeology at Kyoto Imperial University, Etsuzō retained a lifelong passion for the field, even after inheriting his family's brewing business. He devoted his resources to acquiring and preserving archaeological materials, drawing on his own archaeological expertise to assemble one of Japan's leading collections, with a particular emphasis on bronze *dōtaku* bells.

The Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts also houses a great number of outstanding paintings, including many by Tomioka Tessai (1836–1924), who was a close associate of Etsuzō's grandfather, Essō (1835–1920). This exhibition traces the discerning gazes of Tatsuuma Essō and Etsuzō—figures who, while engaged in business, maintained an insatiable curiosity for art and archaeology.

(By Ishida Yukiko, Chair of the Department of Archaeology)



**Important Cultural Property**  
**Abe no Nakamaro Gazing at the Moon in Mingzhou**  
By Tomioka Tessai (1836–1924)  
Japan, Taishō period, 1914  
One from a pair of six-panel folding screens  
Ink and colors on silk  
Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo  
(on view August 11–September 6, 2026)

Feature Exhibition

## Buried Prayers: Time Capsules of Faith

July 14–September 6, 2026, Heisei Chishinkan Wing, Galleries 1F-3, 4

Since ancient times, people have imbued objects with their prayers and buried them in the ground. Such interments were deeply intertwined with Buddhist thought, functioning like time capsules that combined supplications to purify and protect the land with aspirations to transmit teachings to the distant future.

This exhibition focuses primarily on deposited objects excavated in the Kyoto–Osaka region, tracing examples from different time periods: the interment of earthenware in the Kofun period (ca. 3rd–6th c.); offerings buried beneath building foundations (*chindangu*) and coins from the Asuka (592–710) and Nara (710–794) periods onward; and sutra deposits and sutra mounds (*kyōzuka*) from the Heian (794–1185) and Kamakura (1185–1333) periods. It also provides an overview of the history of such practices through the Muromachi (1392–1573) and Edo (1615–1868) periods. The exhibition further highlights the diverse beliefs—including Buddhism—that underlie the practice of depositing objects, exploring the wishes and prayers people consigned to the earth.

(By Ōtani Gen and Sōnō Tamino, Research Fellows)



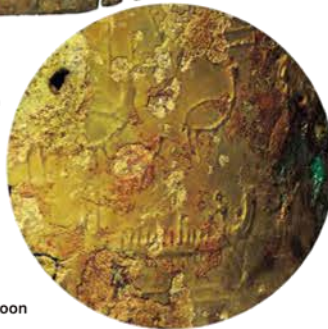
**National Treasure**  
**Votive Objects from the Foundation Stone of the Sūfuku-ji Pagoda**  
Excavated from the remains of Sūfuku-ji Temple, Shiga  
Japan, Asuka period, 7th century  
Ōmi Jingū Shrine, Shiga



**Tile Incised with Monk**  
Earthenware  
Excavated from Bon'yama, Kyoto  
Japan, Heian period, 12th century  
Kyoto National Museum



**Important Cultural Property**  
**Dōtaku Ritual Bell with Flowing Water Pattern**  
Cast bronze. Excavated from Inomukai, Fukui, Japan, Middle Yayoi period, 3rd–1st century BCE  
Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo



**Objects Excavated from the Ipsil-ri Site**  
Bronze. Excavated from Ipsil-ri, Gyeongju, South Korea  
Korea, early Iron Age, 1st century BCE  
Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo



**Mask**  
Earthenware. Excavated from Ōhara, Iwate  
Japan, Final Jōmon period, 13th–4th century BCE  
Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo



**Important Cultural Property**  
**Spouted Vessel**  
Earthenware. Excavated from Shiizuka shell mound, Ibaraki, Japan, Late Jōmon period, 25th–13th century BCE  
Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo



**Illustrated Catalogue of Curious Shells**  
By Kimura Kenkadō (1736–1802)  
Japan, Edo period, 18th century  
Book; ink and colors on paper  
Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts, Hyogo



**Important Cultural Property**  
**Seated Miroku (Maitreya) Buddha**  
Stone. Excavated from the Hachigatamine Sutra Mound, Nagasaki  
Japan, Heian period, 1071  
Nara National Museum (Photo courtesy of Nara National Museum)

### Museum Collection Exhibitions in The Collection Galleries

**3F-1, 2 Feature Exhibition**  
**Masterworks of the Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts: From Archaeological Artifacts to Tomioka Tessai**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**2F-1, 2 Feature Exhibition**  
**Masterworks of the Tatsuuma Collection of Fine Arts: From Archaeological Artifacts to Tomioka Tessai**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**2F-3 Medieval Paintings**  
**Minchō and Muromachi Ink Painting, Part I**  
July 14–August 9, 2026  
**Minchō and Muromachi Ink Painting, Part II**  
August 11–September 6, 2026

**2F-4 Momoyama–Edo Paintings**  
**Folding Screens of the Modern Era from the Hakuju sai Collection**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**2F-5 Chinese Paintings**  
**Modern Chinese Painting: Works by Liu Haisu, Xu Beihong, and Wang Jiyuan**  
July 14–September 6, 2026

**1F-1 Sculpture**  
**Sculpture of the Kamakura Period**  
July 14–September 6, 2026  
**Inside Buddhist Sculptures: Votive Deposits and Dedicatory Inscriptions**  
July 14–September 6, 2026