



No.127
705.4×256.9cm



No.124
435.5×179.0cm



No.125 (9/20-10/11)
256.0×139.5cm

Carpets
Collection
of
the Tokugawa
Art
Museum



No.126 (10/13-11/3)
244.8×134.4cm



No.123
784.0×325.0cm



No.128
219.0×109.0cm

Section VII Europeans and Imported Animals, Animal Products

In the Edo period, many exotic animals were imported to Japan, including elephants from Vietnam, horses from Persia (Iran), camels from West Asia, and birds such as parrots and parakeets from South East Asia and Africa. Birds were especially adored among the shogunal and high-ranking *daimyō* families and wealthy townsmen and were even exhibited to the public as exotic species from foreign lands. In addition, ray skin, known as *samegawa*, was harvested at fishing grounds in Southeast Asia and India and transported to Nagasaki, first by the Portuguese prior to the Edo period and then by the Dutch in the Edo period. Many art works crafted from imported materials have been passed down in the Owari Tokugawa family, including sword hilts made from *samegawa* and other items using ivory and tortoiseshell. There are also paintings of rare birds that the Europeans brought to Asia, revealing an interest among the Japanese of that time in these never before seen living beings and the study of nature's creatures that they invoked.



No.143 (9/20-10/11)

Section VIII European Utensils and Serving Dishes — Pottery, Glassware, Metalware —

In the Edo period, pottery brought to Japan by the Dutch was highly prized and was known as “Oranda” (Holland) ware, regardless of where it had been made. This “Oranda” ware consisted of white glazed blue-and-white wares and multicolored stonewares primarily made in Delft, Holland, and salt-glazed stoneware that were made in the Rhineland region of Germany. They were brought as gifts for the shogunal family, high officials of the shogunate and other related people or in fulfillment of custom orders from Japan. In the Owari Tokugawa family collection, there are large-scale German stoneware pieces that in Japan are only known to have been passed down in *daimyō* families, as well as Japanese-made European-style ceramics imitating Delft wares. These rare vessels of various European materials along with other items related to Europe-Japan trade affirm that the Owari Tokugawa family was in an extraordinary position that enabled them to obtain incredibly rare items.



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REFERENCE

Successive Generations of the Owari Tokugawa Lords

	name	year of birth and death	age at death
1st	義直 Yoshinao	1600-1650	51
2nd	光友 Mitsutomo	1625-1700	76
3rd	綱誠 Tsunanari	1652-1699	48
4th	吉通 Yoshimichi	1689-1713	25
5th	五郎太 Gorōta	1711-1713	3
6th	継友 Tsugutomo	1692-1730	39
7th	宗春 Muneharu	1696-1764	69
8th	宗勝 Munekatsu	1705-1761	57
9th	宗睦 Munechika	1732-1799	67
10th	斉朝 Naritomo	1793-1850	58
11th	斉温 Nariharu	1818-1839	21
12th	斉荘 Naritaka	1810-1845	36
13th	慶藏 Yoshitsugu	1836-1849	14
14th	*慶勝 (慶恕) *Yoshikatsu/Yoshikumi	1824-1883	60
15th	茂徳 (茂榮) Mochinaga/Mochiharu	1831-1884	54
16th	義宜 Yoshinori	1858-1875	18
17th	*慶勝 *Yoshikatsu	1824-1883	60

*Yoshikatsu took the position twice.



© The Tokugawa Art Museum
1017 Tokugawa-cho, Higashi-ku, Nagoya, 461-0023
TEL: 052-935-6262 / FAX: 052-935-6261

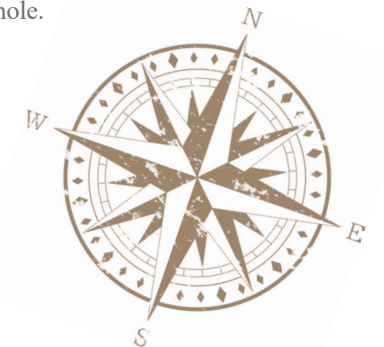
2020
Autumn Special Exhibition

The Westward Gaze Warrior Lords and the Taste for Items from Foreign Lands

From
September 20 (Sunday)
To
November 3 (Friday)

Foreword

European merchants who advanced into East Asia during pre-modern times brought merchandise and gifts to Japan, by way of China and Southeast Asia. Japanese people referred to these objects as *nanban* ("from the Southern barbarians") or *oranda* ("from Holland") items depending on which Europeans brought them, and received them as new cultural assets that conveyed the tastes of foreign cultures. Items related to Japanese-European trade that were passed down in the Owari Tokugawa family, which was the foremost of the three Tokugawa branch families, include some of the rarest objects to be found in Japan, which may indicate that they were obtained by special routes. This exhibition introduces Japanese-European trade-related items and documents in this important collection of the Owari Tokugawa family as a whole.



Section I - Section III
Hōsa Library Exhibition Rooms
Section IV - Section VIII
Tokugawa Art Museum Main Building

Section I
Discovering Europe
 – Maps and Geography –

Highly accurate maps were an indispensable tool for politics, trade and military affairs. Armed with the understanding that the earth was spherical, the Europeans transposed territorial area and distance onto two-dimensional charts and maps, which grew in accuracy as they discovered new continents and countries. By the 19th century, the content of these European maps was already comparable to the world maps we use today. The Japanese learned these European methods of measurement and cartography through



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China and Europe and produced various kinds of maps. Every kind of map—from the common maps that circulated among the townspeople to maps that were difficult to obtain at the time—have been passed down in the Owari Tokugawa family. It is believed that they were collected for their value in both political and military affairs making them an essential item for a ruling family.

Section II
Concerns over Colonization
 – Documenting the Latest in European and Global Affairs –

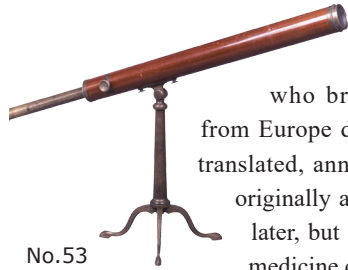
From the middle of the 18th century, as the European policy on the colonization of Asia became more evident, the knowledge of the regional features of Europe, such as its nature, culture, history, and industry, as well as the latest information on various national and world affairs took on an importance that could not be overlooked. In particular, the Opium War (1840-42), in which Britain launched an invasion of China, was a major event that triggered Europe's colonization of Asia. Intellectuals of Qing-dynasty China collected and compiled all the information related to Europe that they could and published it with the intention of raising public awareness of the crisis. Amidst these tensions throughout Asia, the same sense of crisis was also felt in Japan. Similarly, the Japanese also collected



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information about Europe and compiled it in books, sometimes with the addition of maps and illustrations. The Owari Tokugawa family also collected such books with great interest and it is clear that they were paying close attention to the world affairs that were being led by the Europeans.

Section III
New Knowledge from Europe



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It is estimated that about 10,000 European books known as *Ransho* (lit. "Dutch books" after the traders who brought them to Japan) were imported from Europe during the Edo period and were actively translated, annotated and copied. Most of these books originally arrived by ship in the late Edo period and later, but it is known that books related to Western medicine came to Japan as early as the 17th century.

The study of European science and scholarship that was acquired from these books and from the Dutch traders who brought them, which was known as *Rangaku*, advanced even more after the 8th Shogun Tokugawa Yoshimune (r. 1716-1745) eased import restrictions on all books except for those related to Christianity to promote industrial development. As a result, fields of scholarship with practical applications, such as Western medicine and astronomy, were studied widely in Japan.

The foreign books that were in possession of the Owari Tokugawa family range widely from 17th-century Chinese books recording various kinds of knowledge spoken of by the Jesuit missionaries, to 19th-century European books translated into Japanese, revealing that the Japanese were also very passionate about the latest European knowledge and actively sought to take it all in.

Section IV
Luxurious Textiles from Europe

A wide array of different textiles were brought to Nagasaki, first by the Portuguese and Spanish, who were known as "Southern barbarians" (*nanbanjin*), and the British and the Dutch from the 16th to the beginning of the 17th century and then, during the Edo period, by the Dutch East India Company. These textiles can be divided into two types; European products, mainly a variety of woolen fabrics made in Holland and Britain; and Asian products, such as cotton and silk fabrics made in India, silk fabrics with gold thread made in Iran, and silk fabrics made in China. This is because the Europeans picked up additional Asian products at the Southeast Asian relay ports along their way.

The various kinds of textiles owned by the Owari Tokugawa family also range widely from European products to Asian products. Among them, there are fabrics that were cut out and used as material for processing into other items, as well as the functional items that were made from these materials. It is clear that these items were used actively in their everyday lives.



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Section V
"Kinkarakawa"
 – European Decorated Leather –

In addition to key trade commodities, such as raw silk, textiles, and leather products, the Dutch East India Company also brought expensive items, such as made-to-order products and gift offerings. European gilt leather used for interior decoration, known as *kinkarakawa* in Japanese, was one such special item. This luxurious decorative leather with vividly colored flowers and animals on gold ground was imported to present as gifts to the high officials of the shogunal government, mostly in the 17th and 18th centuries. Circulating almost exclusively in the regions of Nagasaki, Osaka, Kyoto, Sakai, and Edo, gilt leather was very rare and extremely expensive. As a result, this material, large pieces of which were used to decorate entire walls of rooms in Holland, was cherished for its rarity in Japan, where it was cut into small pieces and made into smaller products. In the Owari Tokugawa family, not only have large quantities of this precious 17th-century *kinkarakawa* been preserved, but it is particularly noteworthy that it has also been preserved in its "raw material" form without any processing. These leatherworks can be said to exemplify the pre-eminent position of the Owari Tokugawa as the senior house of the three main Tokugawa branch families.



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Section VI
Indian Carpets that the Europeans Loved

For Europeans, carpets made in South and West Asia that they started imports during the 14th century were not originally used as practical items that were placed on the floor. They were initially very expensive and treated as special cloths that were used as luxurious decorative table coverings or placed under the bodies or over the coffins of deceased individuals of noble status. From the 16th century onward, Europeans also started bringing Iranian and Indian carpets by ship to Japan, where they were used not only as floor coverings, but also as decorations and hangings on festival parade floats or were remade into costumes or other attire. In the Edo period, importation of South Indian carpets, which the Dutch East India Company brought to the Southeast Asian trading ports such as Ayutthaya in Siam in fulfillment of custom orders from Japan or for presentation as gifts to the shogunal family or high officials of the shogunate became highly popular. The Owari Tokugawa collection includes an extremely rare carpet that is one of only three with the same design known to exist in the world as well as large carpets appearing in historical documents as having been a gift to the shogunal family. Such holdings demonstrate the special position held by the Owari Tokugawa family at that time to have been able to acquire such rare and precious items.