



# KYOTO NATIONAL MUSEUM

Vol. 146

NEWSLETTER  
JULY TO SEPTEMBER, 2020

Special Exhibition

# Kannon Worship:

## The Thirty-three Pilgrimage Sites of Western Japan

July 23–September 13, 2020, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

The Thirty-three Pilgrimage Sites of Western Japan (J., *Saikoku sanjūsansho*) were purportedly established by Priest Tokudō (dates unknown), the founder of Hase-dera Temple in Nara, in 718. According to legend, Priest Tokudō received an oracle from the King of Hell, Enma, “Many have been sent to hell because of their evil deeds in previous lives. Please teach people that they can acquire merit by visiting the sacred sites of Kannon (Skt., Avalokiteśvara) and the compassionate mind of this bodhisattva.” He was then bestowed a written pledge and thirty-three seals in the shape of a wish-fulfilling jewel, which were passes to birth into Buddhist paradise. The thirty-three temples that Priest Tokudō distributed these seals became part of the belief in sacred Kannon sites and Japan’s oldest pilgrimage route, in which talismans were distributed.

The overall distance of this route extends approximately 1000 kilometers, encompassing the Kinki region from Wakayama, Osaka, Hyogo, Kyoto, Nara, Shiga, and Gifu prefectures. The concentration of a third of these pilgrimage sites in Kyoto, the longstanding capital of Japan and center of culture, led to the spread of belief in Kannon and the culture of pilgrimages throughout Japan.

On the occasion of 1300 years since the founding of the Thirty-three Pilgrimage Sites of Western Japan, this exhibition celebrates this pilgrimage in Kyoto, which has deep ties to this practice. Introduced here through stunning images of the bodhisattva Kannon and treasures from these sites is the allure of this pilgrimage, which attracts people even today, regardless of age, gender or nationality. On exhibit are numerous objects that have been preserved and passed down together with belief in Kannon.

(By Hada Satoshi, Chair of the Department of Fine Arts; translation by Maya M. Hara, edited by Fabienne Helfenberger)



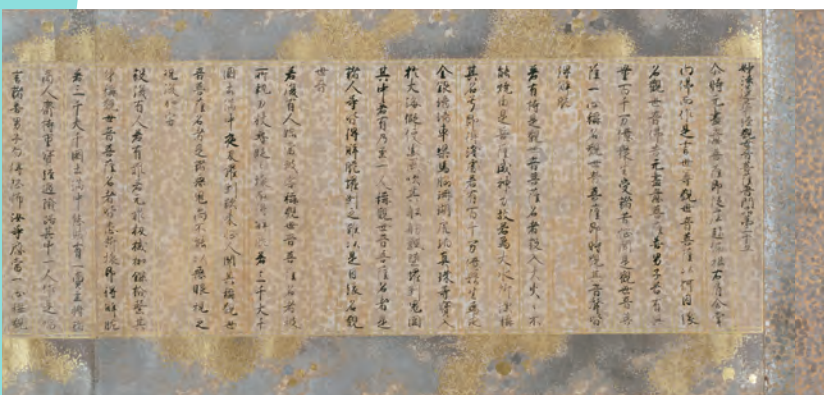
Portrait of Priest Tokudō, detail  
Hokki-in Temple, Nara



**Kokawadera engi emaki** (Illustrated Legends of Kokawa-dera Temple). Kokawa-dera Temple, Wakayama. National Treasure. Detail. (On view July 23–August 16, 2020.)



**Rokudō-e** (Six Realms of Rebirth)  
Shōju Raigō-ji Temple, Shiga. National Treasure.  
(On view August 18–September 13, 2020.)



**Hokke ippongyō** (Lotus Sutra Copied in Single Volume per Chapter), Chapter 25 “The Universal Gate of Bodhisattva Kannon” (from the scriptures of Hase-dera Temple). Hase-dera Temple, Nara. National Treasure. Detail. (On view August 18–September 13, 2020.)



Mandala of the Images of Kannon from the Thirty-three Pilgrimage Sites. Kannonshō-ji Temple, Shiga. (On view July 23–August 16, 2020.)

Seated Nyoirin Kannon (Skt., Cintāmanicakra Avalokiteśvara)  
Wood with polychromy, Chōhō-ji (Rokkaku-dō) Temple, Kyoto.

## Special Exhibition

### Celebration of the Emperor's Enthronement

# Treasures from the Imperial Palace

October 10–November 23, 2020, Heisei Chishinkan Wing

With the enthronement of the new Emperor and Empress, the era name changed to Reiwa. On this celebratory occasion, this exhibition features works of art from the Sannomaru Shōzōkan (The Museum of Imperial Collections), which has been home to imperial court culture.

(By Yamakawa Aki, Chair of the Department of Exhibitions and Public Relations; translation by Fabienne Helfenberger)



Enthronement of Emperor Reigen  
By Kano Einō (1631–1697)  
Kyoto National Museum. Detail.



Cover: Seated Nyoirin Kannon, Chōhō-ji (Rokkaku-dō) Temple, Kyoto. Bodhisattva with One Leg Pendant, Oka-dera (Ryūgai-ji) Temple, Nara, Important Cultural Property. *Rokudō-e* (Six Realms of Rebirth), Shōjū Raigō-ji Temple, Shiga, National Treasure, detail, on view August 18–September 13, 2020. *Kokawadera engi emaki* (Illustrated Legends of Kokawa-dera Temple), Kokawa-dera Temple, Wakayama, National Treasure, detail, on view July 23–August 16, 2020. Mandala of the Images of Kannon from the Thirty-three Pilgrimage Sites, Kannonshō-ji Temple, Shiga, detail, on view July 23–August 16, 2020.

## ADMISSION

**June 2–July 21, 2020:**

Admission to the Museum Partially Open

**Adult: ¥300 Univ. Student: ¥150**

Admission is free for high school age and below, seniors over 70, visitors with disabilities and one caretaker, and for Campus Members including faculty. Please show I.D. Guide booklet is provided with adult admission only.

**July 23–September 13, 2020:\***

Special Exhibition Admission

**Adult: ¥1600 (¥1400)**

**Univ. Student: ¥1200 (¥1000)**

**High-School Student: ¥700 (¥500)**

Admission is free for middle school students, and for visitors with disabilities and one caretaker. Please show I.D. Fees in parentheses are for groups of 20+.

\*During special exhibition periods, all visitors must pay special exhibition admission.

## HOURS

**June 2–July 21, 2020:**

9:30 am–5:00 pm (Entrance until 4:30 pm)

**July 23–September 13, 2020:**

9:30 am–6:00 pm (Entrance until 5:30 pm)

## CLOSED ON MONDAYS

\*When Monday is a national holiday, the museum remains open on Monday and closes the following Tuesday, except on August 10, 2020.

\*The Museum will be closed on July 22, 2020.

## ACCESS

### VIA JR OR SUBWAY

Get off at Kyoto Station. From bus platform D2 in front of the station, take City Bus #206 or #208 to the "Hakubutsukan Sanjusangendo-mae" bus stop. One-minute walk 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 Gionshijo Station. Take 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/>

