

Hanawa Hokiichi Memorial Museum

埧保己一記念館

はなわ ほ き い ち 埧保己一記念館 Hanawa Hokiichi Memorial Museum

368 Hachiman-yama, Kodama-machi,
Honjo-shi, Saitama 367-0298
(Inside ASUPIA Kodama)

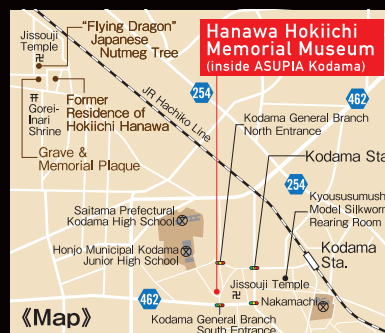
TEL 0495-72-6032

<http://www.city.honjo.lg.jp/>

Free
Entry

[Museum Hours] 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

[Closed] Mondays (or the following day
if Monday is a holiday)
Year-end and New Year's holidays



◎From Honjo-Kodama IC on the Kan-Etsu Expressway
: 15 minutes by car

◎From Kodama Station on the JR Hachiko Line
: 10 minutes on foot

《Access》 ◎From Honjo Station on the JR Takasaki Line to
Kodama Station Entrance : 20 minutes by bus

◎From Honjo-Waseda Station on the Joetsu Shinkansen
: 15 minutes by taxi

A renowned scholar who overcame blindness to compile and publish the 666-volume Gunshoruiju, as well as found and administer Wagaku-kodansho, a center for the study of Japanese classics.

Hokiichi Hanawa

The blind scholar of classical Japanese literature and culture, Hokiichi Hanawa, is a major figure in the history of Honjo City.

Hokiichi was born in 1746 in Hokino Village, located in the Kodama District of the former Musashi Province (what is now the Hokino section of Kodama-machi in Honjo City). He lost his eyesight when he was 7. At the age of 15, he followed his ambitions to Edo (now Tokyo), where he became a pupil of Ametomi, a kengyo in the guild of blind professionals (kengyo was the second-highest rank in the hierarchy of the guild, which mainly consisted of blind musicians, masseurs, and acupuncturists).

While Hokiichi continued his training, he also studied under teachers such as the poet Soko Hagiwara and the classical scholar Kamo-no-Mabuchi. This eventually led him onto the path of Japanese classical studies.

When he was 34, he resolved to compile the Gunshoruiju ("A Classification of a Multitude of Texts") for the sake of society and posterity. He went on to spend over 40 years collecting various old documents that were at risk of becoming lost to the world forever. He gathered these in the Gunshoruiju, whose first series compilation totaled 666 volumes once completed.

At the age of 48, Hokiichi founded the Wagaku-kodansho, a center for the study of Japanese classics, where he trained many disciples and left a profound and lasting mark on the development of Japanese classical studies.

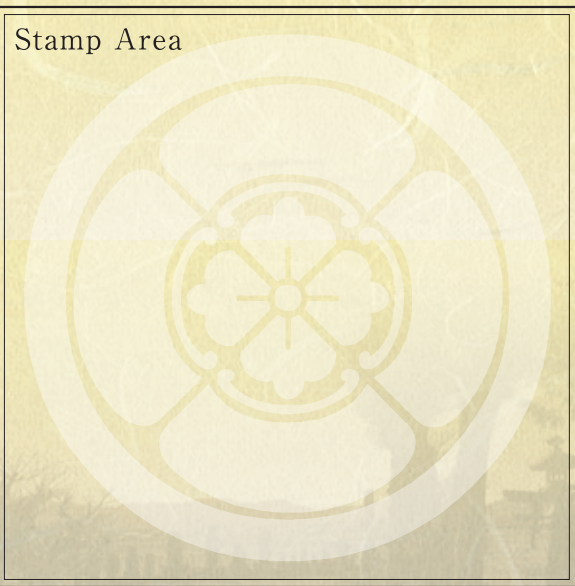
In February 1821, he was appointed to the position of sokengyo, the highest rank in the guild of the blind. He died in Edo on September 12 of that same year at the age of 76.

The Memorial Museum displays a collection of Hokiichi's personal effects and related artifacts (designated cultural properties of Saitama Prefecture), and introduces his amazing legacy.

It is said that from a young age,
Hokiichi loved violets and
other flowers that bloomed in the fields.
Even after he became blind,
he could vividly recall colors such
as the red of Chinese lantern plants
and the yellow of citrons, and distinguish
among them by feeling their shapes
or smelling their aromas.



Stamp Area



Designated National Historic Site

Former Residence of Hokiichi Hanawa and Nearby Cultural Properties

Former Residence of Hokiichi Hanawa (Designated National Historic Site)



The house in which Hokiichi was born. It is a traditional Japanese private residence (minka) constructed in the thatched irimoya style, characterized by the gabled, hipped roof.

Grave of Hokiichi Hanawa and Centennial Plaque (inside Hokiichi Hanawa Park)



The headstone is engraved with an epitaph and a traditional Japanese waka poem. The commemorative stone plaque was erected in 1921 to mark the centennial of Hokiichi's death, with an inscription by the famed industrialist Eiichi Shibusawa.

Ryuseiji Temple's "Flying Dragon" Japanese Nutmeg Tree



Ryuseiji Temple is where Hokiichi is said to have often played as a child. The Japanese nutmeg tree is a natural monument designated by Honjo City.

Highlights of the Hanawa Hokiichi Memorial Museum

(The personal effects of Hokiichi Hanawa and related artifacts are designated cultural properties of Saitama Prefecture)



The 666-volume Gunshoruiju



A pouch that Hokiichi's mother stitched for him



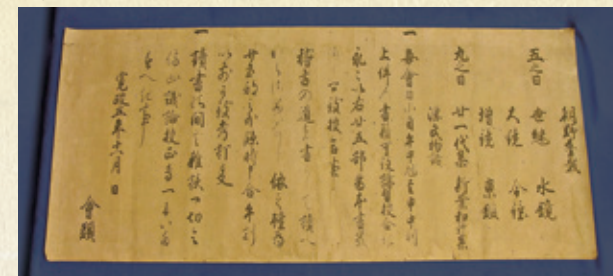
Eave-end roof tile from the Tenman-gu shrine that was part of the Wagaku-kondansho



A chest that Hokiichi carried with him on his journey to Edo



Edict from when Hokiichi was made kengyo



Rules and regulations of the Wagaku-kodansho