

December 19, 2023  
Keio University

**KeMCo New Year Exhibition 2024**  
**Where the Dragons Are**  
**Special Feature: Daybreak of Chinese Style Calligraphy in**  
**Premodern Japan: Hayashi Razan and His Community**  
**(January 10 – February 9)**

The Chinese zodiac sign for 2024 is the Dragon, the only fictional inhabitant of the zodiac. Dragons have long been represented in Eastern and Western artifacts in various ways: – controlling nature, hiding in secret locations, serving as guardians, fighting, and much more.

To start the New Year, this exhibition brings together dragons from across the collections of Keio University and takes you on a journey to the home of these mythical animals in their diverse forms.

The origin of Japanese dragons can be traced back to China, so as a special feature, this exhibition presents the calligraphy of Hayashi Razan and the people around him who led the new Chinese studies and poetry movement of the early Edo period, introducing the ever-present community of people who transmitted and developed this fascinating aspect of Japanese culture.

### **1. Overview**

**Date:** Wednesday, January 10 to Friday, February 9, 2024

Closed on Saturdays and Sundays

\*Open on Saturday January 20 & Saturday February 3

\*Closed on Monday January 22 & Monday February 5

**Venue:** Keio Museum Commons, East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus

**Open hours:** 11:00 – 18:00

**Admission:** Free, open to the general public

**Gallery Talk:** “Daybreak of Chinese Style Calligraphy in Premodern Japan: Hayashi Razan and his Community”

Monday, January 15, 2024, 14:00–15:00

Presented by Prof. Takashi Horikawa (Professor at the Keio Institute of Oriental Classics)

\*Please check the website for details and updates on the related programs.

<https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/>

### **2. About the Exhibition**

The Chinese zodiac sign for 2024 is the dragon, the only fictional inhabitant of the zodiac. Dragons have long been represented in Eastern and Western artifacts in various ways – controlling nature, hiding in secret locations, acting as guardians, fighting, and much more.

To start the New Year, this exhibition brings together dragons from across the collections of Keio University and takes you on a journey to the home of these mythical animals in their diverse forms.

**Special Feature: Daybreak of Chinese Style Calligraphy in Premodern Japan: Hayashi Razan and his Community, from the Century Akao Collection**

As the times change, culture also changes. Calligraphy is no exception. In the world of Chinese poetry and writing in Japan during the shift from the Middle Ages to the early modern period, the dominant role shifted from Zen monks, who were the leaders of *Gozan* literature, to scholars of Chinese classics and *kanshi* poets who both served the shogunate and ruling class.


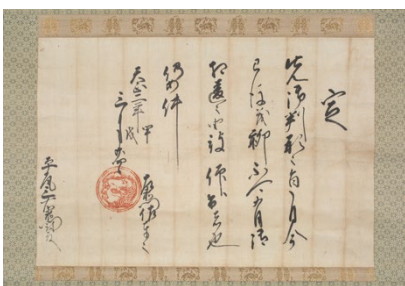

Early modern Chinese style calligraphy, generally known as *Karayo*, evolved in the late 17th century with the arrival of *Huangbo* priests and calligraphy handbooks from the Ming dynasty.

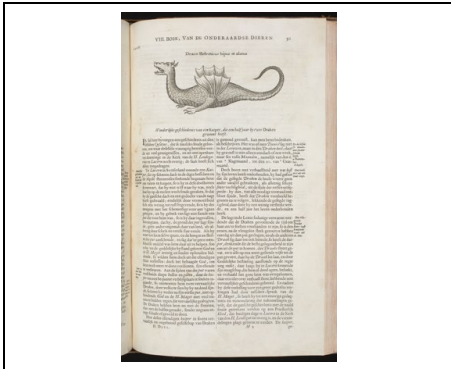
This special feature focuses on the first half of the 17th century, the eve of *Karayo*, and showcases calligraphy by the leaders of the new Chinese studies and Chinese poetry, particularly Hayashi Razan and his contemporaries.

**3. Exhibition Highlights**

- 1 *Eiga no Taigai*, compiled by Fujiwara no Teika, mid-to-late Muromachi period.
- 2 *Red-stamped Official Document by Takeda Katsuyori*, 1574.
- 3 *Letter by Ii Naomasa*, 1602.
- 4 *Mundus Subterraneus*, Athanasius Kircher, Amsterdam, 1682.
- 5 *Tokyo Famous Places, 1st Holy Place, Asakusa Kinryuzan Temple Ground*, Utagawa Hiroshige III, 1883.
- 6 *Book of Hours in Latin ('O Intemerata')*, Louen (?), c. 1480.
- 7 *Oracle Bone with scripts*, 14-11th century BCE.
- 8 *Letter Box with Clouds, Dragon and Centipede in Makie*, Muromachi period.
- 9 *Hollyhock-shaped Octagonal Mirror with Coiled Dragon*, 8th century.
- 10 *Single-line Calligraphy by Muan Xingtao*, 17th century.
- 11 *Mediational Life of Animals and Plants* (from the archive of HIJIKATA Butoh body movements), performed by Yukio Waguri, 2005
- 12 *Waka Poem by Fujiwara Seika*, 17th century.
- 13 *New Year Calligraphy by Hayashi Razan*, 1648.
- 14 *Grapes*, drawn by Shokado Shojo and inscribed by Ishikawa Jozan, 17th century.

Repository: 1= Keio Institute of Oriental Classics (Shido Bunko), 2-6 = Mita Media Center (Keio University Library), 7=Department of Archaeology and Ethnology, 8-10, 12-14=Keio University (Century Akao Collection) ,11= Hijikata Tatsumi Archive at Keio University Art Center  
Works marked with an asterisk (\*) are displayed in the special feature section.

		
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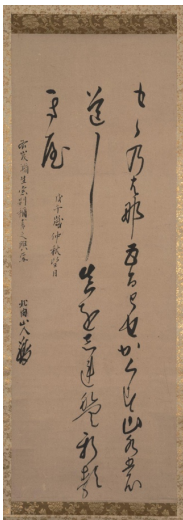
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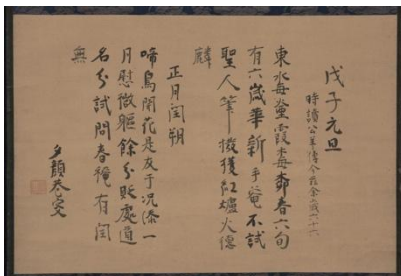
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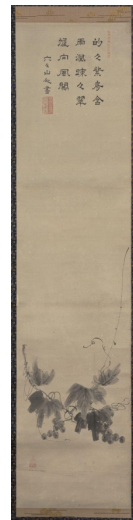
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#### **4. Venue and Access**

**Venue:** Keio Museum Commons (KeMCo)

**Address:** 2-15-45 Mita, Minato-ku, Tokyo 108-8345  
East Annex, Keio University Mita Campus

**Access:**

- Tamachi Station (JR Yamanote Line/Keihin Tohoku Line) 8 minutes on foot
- Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line) 7 minutes on foot
- Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line) 8 minutes on foot



Keio Museum Commons  
(East Annex, Mita Campus)

#### **5. Organizers**

**Organized by** Keio Museum Commons / Keio Institute of Oriental Classics (*Shido Bunko*)

**Cooperation by** the Department of Aesthetics and Science of Arts, Keio University Faculty of Letters / Department of Archaeology and Ethnology, Keio University Faculty of Letters / Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies, Keio University / Historical Documents Room, Keio University Faculty of Letters (*Komonjoshitsu*) / Mita Media Center (Keio University Library) / Keio University Art Center / Keio University Hiyoshi Media Center (Hiyoshi Library) / Keio University Shinanomachi Media Center (Kitasato Memorial Medical Library)

※Please direct any requests or inquires to the contact information below.

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