



Keio Museum Commons × Inumakannon Enpukuji The Temptation of Saga-bon: Dreams and Devotion in Exquisite Printed Books (September 30 – November 28)

This exhibition presents a significant collection of Saga-bon, the movable-type printed books that played a pivotal role in the history of Japanese literature and book production. It features an extensive selection of these elegant and meticulously crafted works, offering a rare opportunity to appreciate their beauty and the sophisticated artistry involved in their creation. We invite all to come and enjoy exploring this one-of-a-kind collection of Saga-bon.

1. Overview

Date: September 30 (Tue.) – November 28 (Fri.), 2025 *Closed on Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays

Weekend openings: October 4 (Sat.), November 15 (Sat.)

Temporary closures: October 6 (Mon.), November 17 (Mon.)

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (Mita Campus East Annex)

Open: 11:00–18:00

Admission: Free

*Please check the website for the latest information: <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/all-post/20250930-en/>

2. Concept

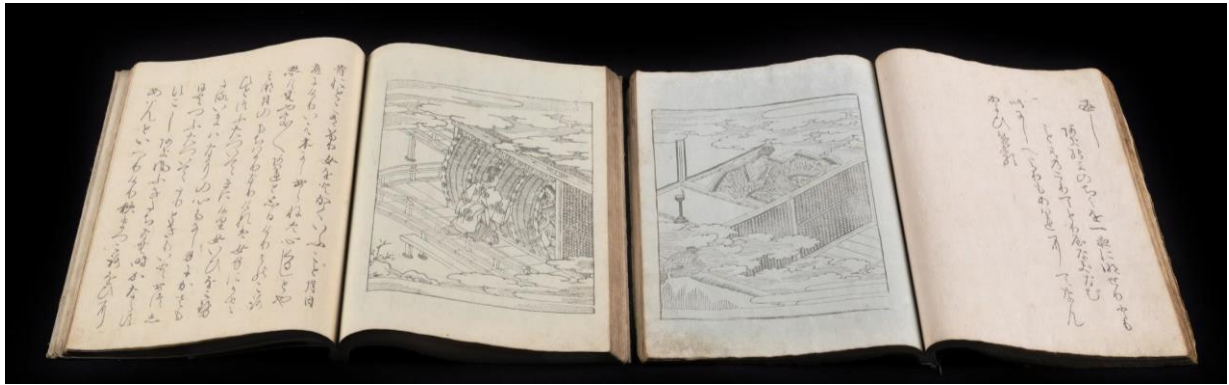
“Saga-bon” are said to be among the most beautiful books in Japanese publishing history, with their decorative and colourful paper, shimmering patterns, innovative illustrations, and elegant typeface. This series of books, which vividly depicts the world of Japanese classical literature, is considered to have been published by SUMINOKURA Soan, a wealthy merchant from Sagano area, Kyoto. Crafted with extraordinary care and advanced techniques, the Saga-bon are true works of art, reflecting the passion and curiosity for bookmaking that flourished among people celebrating the dawn of a peaceful new era in early Edo period.

This exhibition centres on the collection of the Inumakannon Enpukuji in Chōshi, Chiba, which boasts one of the world's largest collections of Saga-bon, alongside rare books from Keio University's collection. Through these exceptional materials, visitors can experience the dazzling beauty and unique appeal of Saga-bon, while also exploring the latest research on these still-mysterious books.

3. Main Exhibits

1. *The Tales of Ise (Ise Monogatari)*, second variant Saga-bon edition, published in Keichō 13 (1608), upper volume, 2 volumes extant
2. *The Tales of Ise (Ise Monogatari)*, published around the Genna-Kan'ei era (early 17th century), 2 volumes in 2 books
3. *The Tales of Ise (Ise Monogatari)*, first variant Saga-bon edition, published in Keichō 13 (1608), 2 volumes in 2 books, formerly owned by Mother of TOKUGAWA Yoshinao
4. *Essays in Idleness (Tsureszuregusa)*, first variant Saga-bon edition, published in the Keichō era, upper volume, 2 volumes extant
5. *Hōjōki*, first variant Saga-bon edition, published in the Keichō era, 1 book in Tetsuyōsō
6. Illustrated Scroll of the Origin of the Kannon of Inumasan, painted by KANŌ Tomohito Masanari, Meireki 2 (1656)

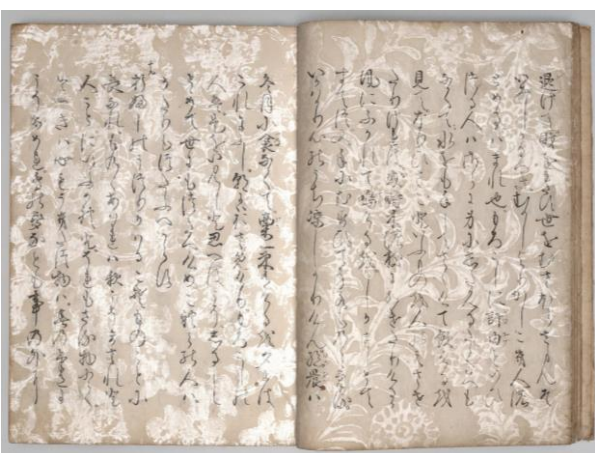
*All works are from the Inumakannon Enpukuji Collection



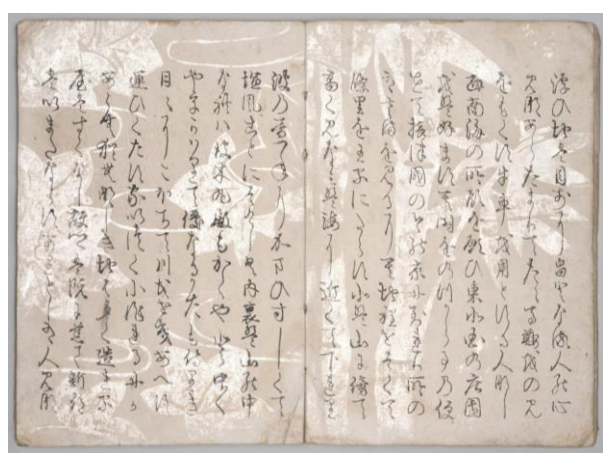
1 (Left), 2 (Right)



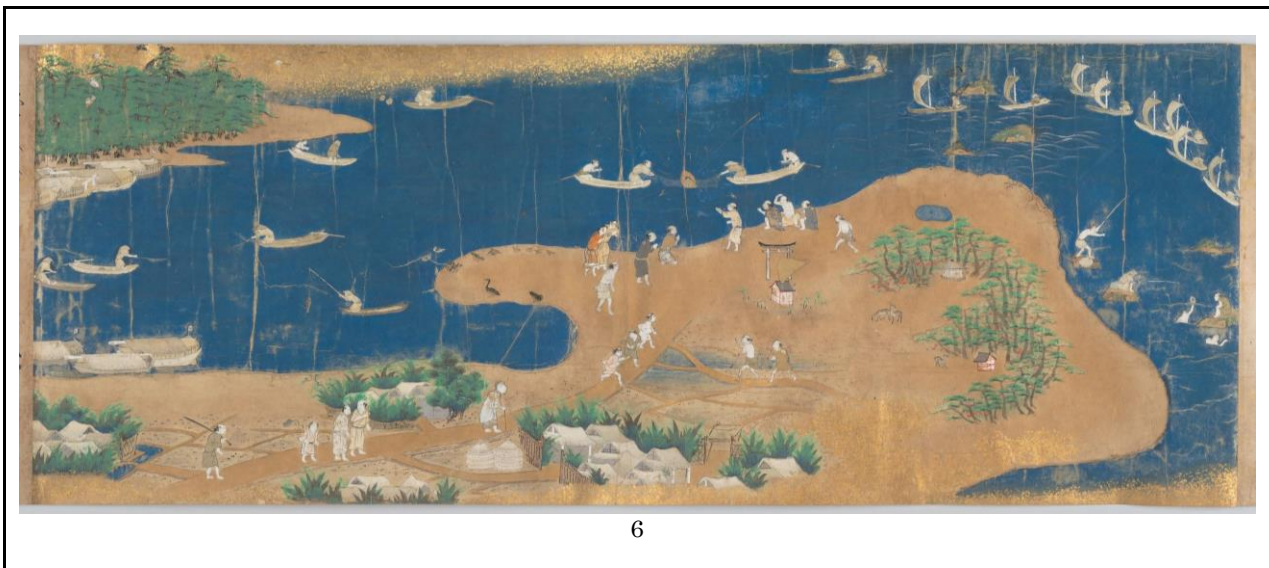
3



4



5



6

4. Related Programs: Open to everyone *admission is free, but participants must sign up in advance

Symposium

Inumakannon Enpukuji and Saga-bon (tentative title)

Date: October 4 (Sat.), 13:30–

Venue: Keio University Mita Campus East Research Building 8th Floor Hall

Speakers: Shosei Hirahata (Chief Priest, Inumakannon Enpukuji)

Hiroaki Takagi (Part-time Lecturer, Kindai University)

Dan Koakimoto (Professor, Faculty of Letters, Hosei University)

Takahiro Sasaki (Professor, Keio Institute of Oriental Classics [Shido Bunko])

Talk Event Speaker Panel

The Temptation of *Saga-bon* (tentative title)

Date: November 27 (Thu.), 18:15–

Speakers: Hisaki Matsumoto (Publisher, Graphic Designer)

Takahiro Sasaki (Professor, Keio Institute of Oriental Classics [Shido Bunko])

Gallery Talks

Gallery talks by Takahiro Sasaki (Professor, Keio Institute of Oriental Classics [Shido Bunko]), co-curator of the exhibition.

Dates: October 20 (Mon.), November 15 (Sat.), and November 28 (Fri.)

Each session: 14:00–14:45

*There will be more programs related to the exhibition. Please check our website for the latest information. <https://kemco.keio.ac.jp/en/all-post/20250930-en/>

5. Concurrent Exhibition

point of view — Kazuo Okazaki

Date: 4th part runs from September 30 (Tue.) – November 28 (Fri.)

Venue: 2F Stair Landing, Keio Museum Commons (Mita Campus East Annex)

“point of view” refers to the objects displayed on the landing and the expansive KeMCo atrium space that encompasses them. This small project is a new attempt to highlight the university’s collection and academic resources in a way that differs from regular exhibitions while also showcasing the artworks of contemporary artist Kazuo Okazaki for 2025.

6. Venue and Access

Venue: Keio Museum Commons (East Annex)

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-minute walk
- Mita Station (Toei Subway Asakusa Line/Mita Line) – 7-minute walk
- Akabanebashi Station (Toei Subway Oedo Line) – 8-minute walk



Keio Museum Commons
(East Annex, Mita Campus)

7. Organizer

Organized by Keio Museum Commons and Inumakannon Enpukuji

Cooperation from the Keio Institute of Oriental Classics (Shido Bunko) and Mita Media Center (Keio University Library)

Co-curated by Takahiro Sasaki (Professor, Keio Institute of Oriental Classics)

Supported by Yasuyuki Sasaki (Associate Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University)

*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contact information provided below.

Inquiries about press release:

Keio University Office of Communications and Public Relations (Teranishi(Ms.))

Tel: +81-3-5427-1541

Email: m-pr@adst.keio.ac.jp <https://www.keio.ac.jp/en/>