

October 7, 2026

Press Release

Keio University

**Fukuzawa Yukichi Memorial Keio History Museum 2026 Fall Special Exhibition
(October 15—December 12)****Fukuzawa Yukichi and Minakata Kumagusu: Lives Beyond Completion
What Connects Two People Who First Seem to Have Little in Common?**

—*Examining Kumagusu through Fukuzawa, Reexamining Fukuzawa through Kumagusu*—

Minakata Kumagusu (1867–1941), described as “the utmost limit of Japanese potential,” and Fukuzawa Yukichi (1835–1901), one of modern Japan’s leading thinkers and educators, had almost no direct contact with one another. However, it is known that Kumagusu was conscious of Fukuzawa, an individual who remained an independent figure outside the establishment and lived his life without official rank or title. Moreover, Fukuzawa and Keio Gijuku’s own network of connections in Wakayama broadly and deeply overlapped with the people around Kumagusu, influencing him.

This exhibition seeks to examine the points of convergence and divergence between these two fascinating figures, both of whom have been the subject of extensive research. By comparing their approaches to the pursuit of knowledge, their views of humanity and nature, their perspectives on Asia and their relationship with the nation-state, as well as their distinctive personalities, the exhibition attempts to reexamine what each of them sought to achieve.

1. Exhibition Details

Dates: October 15 (Thu.)–December 12 (Sat.), 2026

Closed: Sundays and public holidays (open November 22 and 23), October 28 (Wed.), November 19 (Thu.), November 24 (Tue.), and November 25 (Wed.)

Location: Keio History Museum Temporary Exhibition Room, Old University Library (2F)

Museum hours: 10:00–18:00 (last entry 17:30)

Admission: Free and open to the public

Organized by: the Fukuzawa Yukichi Memorial Keio History Museum, the Minakata Kumagusu Archives, and the Minakata Kumagusu Museum

With support from: Wakayama Prefecture, Tanabe City, and Shirahama Town

In cooperation with: the National Museum of Nature and Science

Details: https://history.keio.ac.jp/?page_id=4979

*Please check the museum’s website for the latest information: <https://history.keio.ac.jp/en/>

2. Featured Items

London Caricatures, drawn by Minakata Kumagusu, 1903. Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Archives

Portable Microscope Used by Minakata Kumagusu. Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Museum

Minakata Kumagusu’s Shell Collection. Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Museum

Illustrations of Fungi, drawn by Minakata Kumagusu. Collection of the National Museum of Nature and Science

Large Caramel Box for Storing Specimens. Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Archives

Minakata Kumagusu's Death Mask, made by Yasuda Ryūmon. Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Archives
Manuscript of *An Outline of a Theory of Civilization*, written by Fukuzawa Yukichi, 1875. Collection of the Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies

Letter from Minakata Kumagusu to Dogi Hōryū (*Minakata Mandala*). Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Archives



1. London Caricatures, drawn by Minakata Kumagusu



2. Portable Microscope Used by Minakata Kumagusu



3. Minakata Kumagusu's Shell Collection



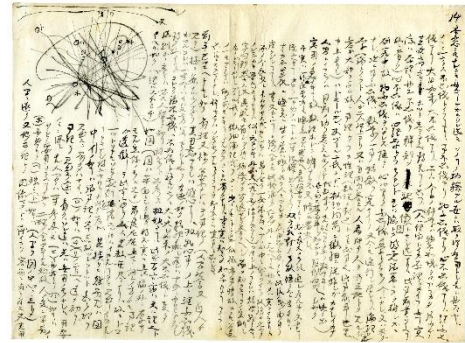
4. Illustrations of Fungi, drawn by Minakata Kumagusu



5. Large Caramel Box for Storing Specimens



6. Minakata Kumagusu's Death Mask



7. Manuscript of *An Outline of a Theory of Civilization*, written by Fukuzawa Yukichi, 1875

8. Letter from Minakata Kumagusu to Dogi Hōryū (*Minakata Mandala*)

- 1, 5, 6, 8 Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Archives
- 2, 3 Collection of the Minakata Kumagusu Museum
- 4 Collection of the National Museum of Nature and Science
- 7 Collection of the Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies

3. Related Events

(1) Symposium: “Connecting Fukuzawa Yukichi and Minakata Kumagusu: Kishu, London, and Beyond”

Date and time: October 31 (Sat.), 2026, 14:00–16:30 (doors open at 13:30)

Venue: South School Building Hall, Mita Campus, Keio University

Registration: Not required (first 500 attendees on a first-come, first-served basis)

Moderator: Masaki Shimura (Associate Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University)

Panelists: Hiroshi Aramata (novelist); Takayuki Tatsumi (Professor Emeritus, Keio University); Bunkyo Kim (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University; Director, Fukuzawa Yukichi Association); Yoshinobu Takeuchi (Former President, Minakata Kumagusu Research Society); Takeyuki Tokura (Professor, Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies, Keio University)

(2) Gallery Talks (Six talks, each beginning at 14:00 and lasting approximately 50 minutes. Admission is on a first-come, first-served basis for up to 20 participants.)

October 17 (Sat.): Tsuyoshi Hosoya (Deputy Director General and Head of the Department of Botany, National Museum of Nature and Science)

October 23 (Fri.): Takeyuki Tokura (Professor, Keio University Fukuzawa Memorial Center for Modern Japanese Studies, Keio University)

October 27 (Tue.): Masaki Shimura (Associate Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University)
November 6 (Fri.): Yoshiya Tamura (President, Minakata Kumagusu Research Society)
November 9 (Mon.): Masaki Shimura (Associate Professor, Faculty of Letters, Keio University)
November 16 (Mon.): Masaya Kishimoto (Part-Time Lecturer, Musashi University)

(3) Walking Tour: “Visiting Places Connected to Kumagusu and Fukuzawa”

Date: December 6 (Sun.), 2026

Route: Kanda–Ueno area (tentative)

Participation: Free, limited to 20 participants (participants selected by lottery)

*Details will be announced on the museum’s website.

*Please direct any requests or inquiries to the contacts listed below in advance of any press coverage.

*This news release has been sent to the MEXT Press Club and the social, educational and cultural news departments of other media outlets.

- Contact information for inquiries about this exhibition

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- Source of this release

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