



函館市北方民族資料館

World-Class Northern Peoples Collection

HAKODATE CITY MUSEUM OF NORTHERN PEOPLES

Information

The indigenous peoples living in the natural environment of the north have developed their own unique cultures. Few examples of ethnological materials related to the northern peoples are still extant in the world today. The materials collected by Osamu Baba and Sakuzaemon Kodama, both of whom were Hakodate-based authoritative scholars in the fields of anthropology, archaeology and ethnology, and the materials from the Hakodate City Museum are superb examples of the artifacts of northern cultures and have attracted great interest, not only inside but also outside Japan. Following in the path of the investigations and studies conducted by these pioneers over many years, the Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples exhibits world-class valuable ethnological materials related to northern peoples.

■Artifacts Previously Stored at the Hakodate City Museum

The Hakodate City Museum has collected many precious historical materials throughout its long history. The materials related to northern peoples, collected by philanthropists and Hokkaido Development Commissioner between 1879 and 1886, have become especially famous worldwide for their rarity.

■Baba Collection

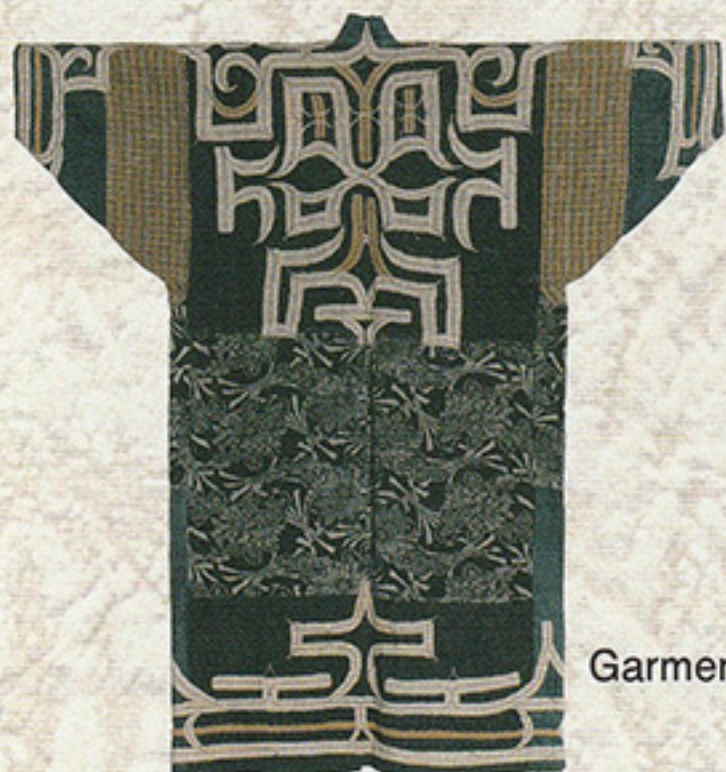
Around 1935, Osamu Baba, one of the most authoritative northern peoples researchers in the world, diligently explored Sakhalin, the Kuril Islands and Hokkaido and collected many ethnological materials. These materials are known as the Baba Collection and are famous both inside and outside Japan. Notably, the academic importance of the Ainu materials in this collection was recognized worldwide when they were designated one of the Important Tangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan in 1959.

■Kodama Collection

Before and after World War II, Sakuzaemon Kodama, an emeritus professor of Hokkaido University, insisted that the research on Ainu ethnological materials be carried out quickly because he was very concerned they would be sent abroad and lost. Therefore, he devoted himself to collecting, investigating and studying these materials at his own expense.

These very valuable ethnological materials are known as the Kodama Collection and have served as the basis of Ainu research in Japan for decades. The results of the research conducted by him and his family members, many of whom were also researchers, have been exhibited at numerous research institutions.

Clothing aesthetics - The sensibilities of dress



Garment (Ainu)

Indigenous northern peoples created sophisticated and warm clothes for cultural purposes such as participating in grave ceremonies or rituals.

It is clear that the northern peoples assigned great value to clothing in their lives. Indigenous women handcrafted the delicate colors and patterns of the clothes and adornments, which not only served decorative purposes but also acted as amulets to protect against disease or misfortune.



Hood (Aleut)



Leather shoes (Koryak)

Northern gods - Prayer, all God's creatures

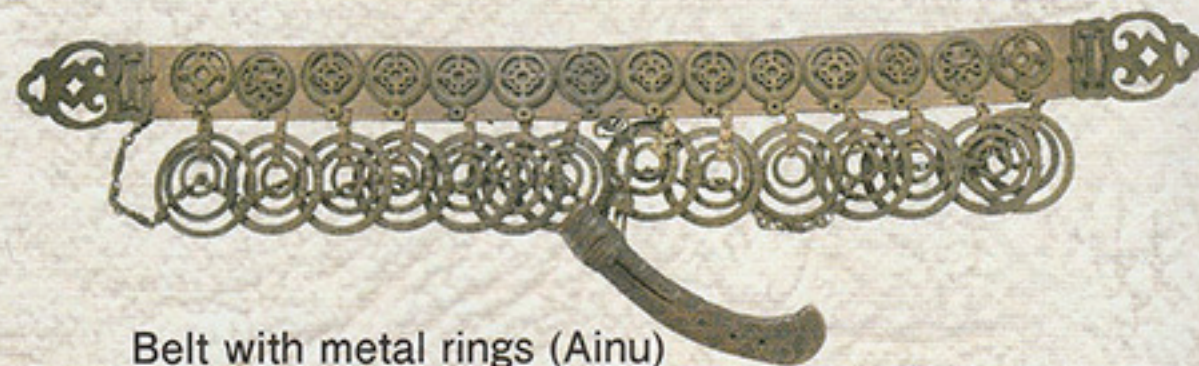


Wooden figure for charm (Ainu)

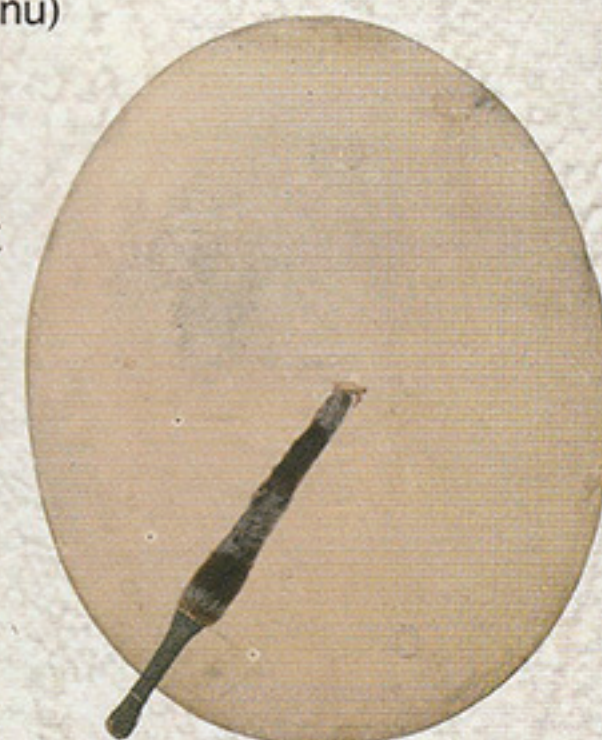
People living in the natural environment of the north believe that everything around them is a god and has a spirit.

They coexist in harmony with the gods and spirits, who save people from illness and hunger.

Various animals and plants exist in nature as the incarnations of the northern gods while spirits from across time and space play roles in the daily lives of the people.



Belt with metal rings (Ainu)



Drum and Drumstick (Uilta)

Northern silk road - santan-trade and santan-fuku

Through Santan-trade, northern peoples living in Sakhalin traded with those who lived in the lower region of the Amur River during the Qing dynasty between the 17th and 19th centuries.

The Qing dynasty ordered the northern peoples to trade goods that were in high demand, such as marten fur, and gave them Chinese clothes, adornments, iron products and foods in return as a form of interethnic trade.

Of these Chinese goods, the northern peoples especially valued Santan Nishiki silk brocade fabrics, which were used to make clothes for Qing officials.



Santan-fuku

Livelihoods based on handcrafts - Nature, blessings, techniques



Tray (Ainu)

The elaborate designs of daily tools were inspired by the blessing of the northlands.

The peoples created delicate patterns and uniquely shaped earthen vessels or wooden wares in harmony with nature and developed various kinds of tools using the wisdom they employed in everyday life.

They carefully crafted each wooden ware, conscious of the warmth and comfort these items lent them in their daily lives.



Shoulder bag and Tobacco pouch (Uilta)



Okhotsk type earthen vessel
(Okhotsk culture)

Baidarka - Seal skin boat of the Aleut, far northern hunters

The Aleut, living on the komandorskiye and Aleutian Islands in the Bering Sea, were great hunters of sea mammals such as sea otters, seals, sea lions, and fur seals.

They used Baidarka skin boats, in particular, for sea otter hunting. The hunters' skillful navigation made hunting easier.

Pioneers of Ainu ethnology

Headed Straight for Zipangu, the Land of Gold, and Ezo



Illustration from *A Voyage Around the World: Travels in Japan* (Sekai Shukoki: Nihon Kiko Fuzu)

Foreign missionaries and explorers seeking northern routes carefully investigated the northern region – including the Ezo region (currently Hokkaido, Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands) – and reported on northern affairs to the world for the first time between the 16th and 17th centuries.

Japanese also began to be interested in the Ezo region for the purpose of development and national defense against the Russians' southward expansion around the end of the 18th century. As a result, Japanese people explored the region in earnest to gather data and learn more.





The Koro-pok-guru Dwarf Under the Butterbur - A Legend and Dream of the Northlands

The World of the Northern Peoples

The Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples displays many valuable ethnological materials that educate us about the traditional wisdoms and cultures of the northern peoples such as the Ainu, Uilta and Aleut, who lived in harsh natural environments.



The Distribution of Northern Peoples

Map



■ Admission Fees

	Museum only	Entry to Two facilities	Entry to Three facilities	Entry to Four facilities
Adults	300yen	500yen	720yen	840yen
Students, Children (including university / college students)	150yen	250yen	360yen	420yen

● When you purchase a ticket for the 2 facilities or the 3 facilities, you may enter two or three of the following facilities: the Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples, the Hakodate City Museum of Literature, or the Old Public Hall of Hakodate Ward, the Former British Consulate of Hakodate.

● Entry to the Museum is free for children under 6 years of age.

■ Facility Hours

9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. from Apr. 1 to Oct. 31

9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. from Nov. 1 to Mar. 31

● The museum is closed between December 31 and January 3.

It may also be closed for maintenance at certain times.

Foundation for Culture and Sport Promotion in Hakodate
Hakodate City Museum of Northern Peoples

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