

Shura

They were found in the bottom of the perimeter moat of the Mitsuzuka Kofun in 1978. The articles found include two sleigh runners, large and small, and one lever.

The name Shura comes from Ashura, a belligerent god appearing in Indian myths. In association with a legendary episode that Ashura's fierce attack did upset the mighty Taishakuten whom nobody could force to move, a wooden sleigh to move a boulder (Taishaku in Japanese) became called "Shura." Presently, the small sleigh runner is exhibited at Fujiidera Municipal Library and the large sleigh runner and the lever, at Osaka Pref Chikatsu-Asuka Museum. They were all designated as national important cultural asset in 2006.



I-no-Manari

In 2004, an epitaph was found in Xian, China (Changan, the capital of Tang), which reads as follows: the deceased, whose surname is "I" forename is "manari" and native country is Japan, was sent to Tang, studied hard here and died at 36 in January 734. It provided valuable information throwing light upon the actual states of Japanese envoys sent to China in the Tung dynasty. From this epitaph, I-no-Manari was identified as a 19-year old delegate who was sent, along with Abe-no-Nakamaro and others, to study in China. Later, this epitaph was exhibited in Fujiidera, which is said to be the homeland of I-no-Manari, and his soul's return to home was thus realized. Since then, I-no-Manari has become a new symbol of Fujiidera City, making a contribution to invigorate the city as a great forerunner from Fujiidera. Today, a replica of his epitaph presented to Fujiidera City by the Chinese government is exhibited at Aiseru Shura Hall.



Koyama Uchiwa

The origin of Koyama Uchiwa dates back to the Age of Civil Wars. When Yamamoto Kansuke, a warrior belonging to the Takeda clan, concealed himself in Koyama to scout out the Miyoshi clan, he engaged himself in the production and sale of Uchiwa (fans) as a living to disguise his true identity. Later, this Uchiwa production process was transmitted from father to son as a trade secret of the family and products were appreciated so highly that they were presented to the Shogun family and the Imperial family. However, the last inheritor of this process died in 1970 and renowned Koyama Uchiwa also died out. Today, an effort to revive Koyama Uchiwa, including the organization of Uchiwa classes, is being made by the Chamber of Commerce of Fujiidera.



Domyoji Hoshii

Hoshii is steamed rice dried for preservation and the following episode is known about its origin: when Sugawara Michizane was demoted and banished to Dazaifu, his aunt Kakujuni, who was then a resident priest of Domyoji temple (Hajidera temple), made an offering of Hoshii everyday towards Kyushu. When this Hoshii, which was normally withdrawn from the altar after a prayer and distributed to people, gained a reputation for its mythic power to cure diseases, many people began to ask for distributions, and this is why the production of Hoshii was started. It is produced by steaming glutinous rice after immersing it in water for two days, drying steamed rice for around ten days and further putting it under sunlight to dry for around twenty days. Rice thus dried is then powdered with a stone mill. It used to be presented to Toyotomi Hideyoshi every year, and "Hoshii" written on its Japanese paper bag is said to be the writing of Toyotomi Hideyoshi himself. During the Edo period, it was also presented to the Shogun family and distributed to other feudal lords in small quantities on request. Since the Meiji period, it began to be marketed to commoners. It used to be valued as a keepable food by climbers or military troops, and is now used as a base material to make Japanese confectionery.



List of national treasures / important cultural assets

National treasures

- Kanshitsu Senju-kannon zazo (Dry-lacquered seated Senju-kannon statue) --- Fujiidera temple
- Mokuzo juichimen Kannon ryuzo (Wooden standing 11-faced Kannon statue) --- Domyoji temple
- Den-Kanko ihin (Articles said to be left by Sugawara Michizane) --- Domyoji-tenmangu Shrine

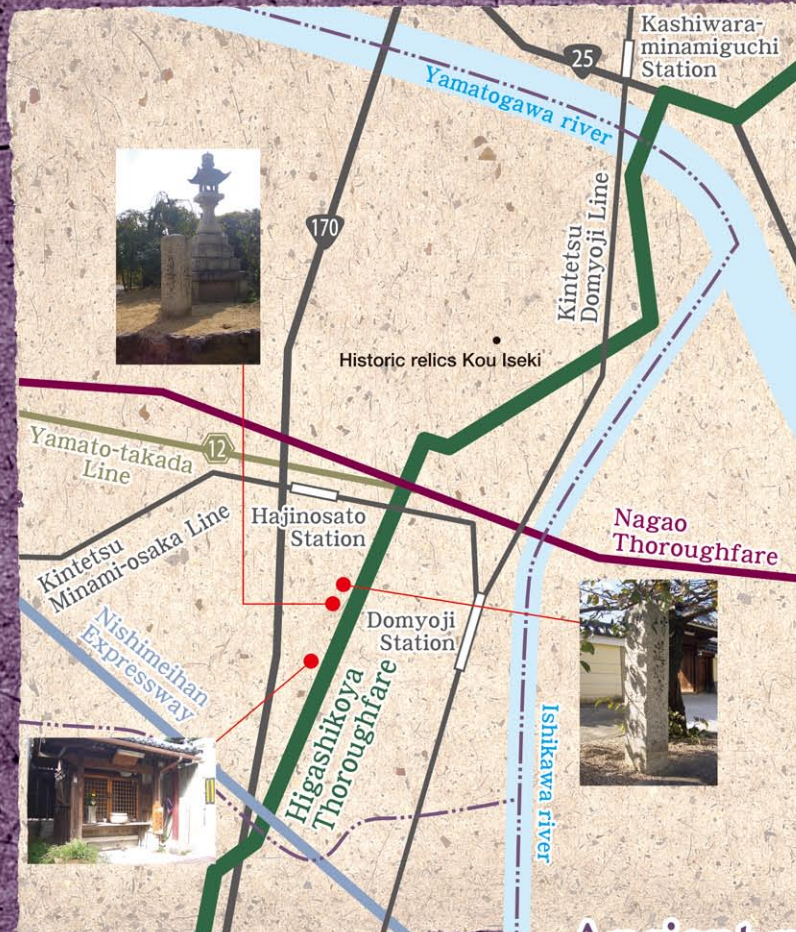
Important cultural assets

- Juichimen Kannon ryuzo --- Domyoji temple (Wooden standing 11-faced Kannon statue said to be produced by Sugawara Michizane)
- Mokuzo Shotokutaishi ryuzo (Wooden standing Shotokutaishi statue) --- Domyoji temple
- Sasachirashi Makie-kagamibako / Sasachirashi Soujakukyo --- Domyoji-tenmangu Shrine (Dwarf bamboo patterned, lacquered mirror box / Dwarf bamboo patterned, twin sparrow mirror)
- Fujiidera Shikyakumon gate --- Fujiidera temple
- Waterfowl burial clay figure excavated from Shiroyama Tumulus --- Aiseru Shura Hall

Higashikoya Thoroughfare ★

Higashikoya Thoroughfare, originating at the Iwashimizu-hachimangu shrine, goes over the Horagatoge pass and runs straight south along the western foot of Mt. Ikoma to Kawachi-nagano, where it joins Nishikoya Thoroughfare.

Its route is said to follow the ancient Nankaido thoroughfare and it is the longest thoroughfare in Osaka stretching about 50 km in total length. In Fujiidera city, the section of the thoroughfare around Domyoji preserves its former state well and is recommendable for leisurely stroll.



Ancient roads found in the city

Nagao Thoroughfare

Nagao Thoroughfare runs from Sakai City to Taima, Nara via Kashiwara City and was an important road connecting Izumi, Kawachi and Yamato in the Edo period. The landscape observed along its section around Koyama to Oka in Fujiidera City gives visitors some idea of its atmosphere in by-gone days.

It is gathered that the route of this thoroughfare coincides with "Ootsumichi" appearing in the article on the Jinshin Revolt described in Nihonshoki.

