

Special Exhibition

# Eyes on KANAGAWA

## The Observer and the Observed

### Beyond Place Beyond Time



**Closed**

Mondays (except August 12, September 16, September 23), September 10

**Hours**

9:30a.m. to 5:00p.m. (last admission at 4:30p.m.)

**Admission Fee**

Adults ¥900 (800)

Student & under 20yrs ¥600 (500)

Over 65yrs ¥200 (150)

High school students ¥100 (100)

Students of junior high school age and below: Free

Persons with disabilities are admitted free of charge along with two attendants.

Please show official ID or other documentation.

\* ( ) Fees are for group visitors (20 more).



神奈川県立歴史博物館

Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Cultural History

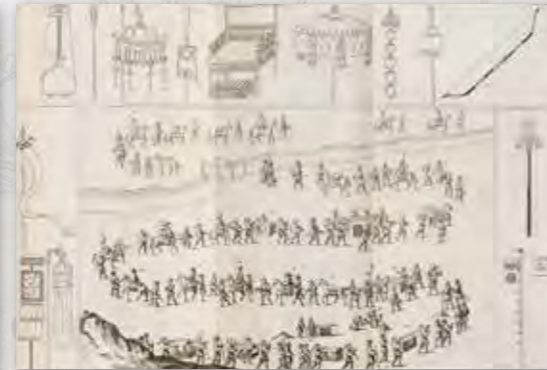
# Eyes on KANAGAWA: The Observer and the Observed

KANAGAWA is home to tourist destinations such as Kamakura and Hakone that still attract domestic and international visitors today, but what was it like 170 years ago?

Under the foreign policy of Sakoku initiated by the Tokugawa Shogunate in the mid-17th century with the aim of eliminating Christianity from Japan, trade was allowed only with the Dutch and Chinese, and the dispatch of envoys from Korea and Ryukyu were permitted, but officially no other foreign exchanges were allowed. As a result, the country was not affected by conflicts among Western nations until 1859, when it began free trade with the United States, the Netherlands, Russia, Great Britain, and France, and as a result, it developed its own culture under a stable society. Therefore, Westerners who came to Japan around the start of trade in 1859 were able to record the original landscape of KANAGAWA, which had not yet been transformed, in the



Namban-Byobu Folding Screen Color on gold leaf paper Pair of six-fold screens Edo period



The History of Japan Engelbert Kämpfer Print 1727 Visit to Edo by the Captain of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce

## I. Encounters with other cultures

The encounter between Japan with Spain and Portugal, which led the Age of Exploration that began in the 15th century and is regarded as the beginning of globalization, dates back to the 16th century. Both countries were active in a combination of trade and Christian missionary work, and tales of Japan were brought to the West by missionaries. However, since their base of operations in Japan was located mainly in western Japan, from Kyushu to Kyoto and Osaka, they could not accurately grasp even the shape of the Japanese archipelago, since their observations were also centered in western Japan. Maps of the world made in the West, for example, begin to depict Honshu in a small area to the east as seen from Europe. A map of Japan was also produced in the West, but since it was drawn directly from a map of Japan published in Japan, it did not clearly show KANAGAWA.

It was not until the Edo period that descriptions of KANAGAWA began to appear. During the period of Sakoku, the Dutch were the only Western nation allowed to trade in Nagasaki, and the shogunate allowed them to visit Edo periodically to express their gratitude to the Tokugawa Shogun. The Dutch doctors accompanying the Dutch merchant general who participated in the mission wrote accounts of their stay in Japan and compiled what they saw and heard on their way to Edo (now Tokyo). They published what might be called books on Japanese studies in Europe, and thus conveying the situation from Kyoto and Osaka to Edo to the West.

The image of Japan, dubbed the "Golden Land of Zipangu" by Marco Polo, became clearer than it had been in the 16th century, when missionaries first described the country.

## III. KANAGAWA and Japan as seen by globetrotters

In 1859, the Sakoku system was broken by the trade treaties signed the previous year with the United States, the Netherlands, Russia, Great Britain, and France. As one of the five trading ports, the present Port of Yokohama was opened as a port in Kanagawa, a post town at that time, close to Edo (Tokyo). As a result, many travelers from Europe and the United States, known as globetrotters, began to visit Japan for the purpose of traveling around the world, along with merchants. With the construction of transcontinental railroads in Canada and the United States and the launch of large intercontinental steam liners, round-the-world travel was no longer a dream. Today they still visit various parts of KANAGAWA, a popular tourist destination, and travel to other cities in Japan. They are also keenly interested in and purchase photo albums with lacquer-decorated covers, ceramics, and other handicrafts. Although the production itself is done by Japanese, the locations and designs depicted and photographed, such as Kamakura, Enoshima, and Hakone, reflect the tastes of foreigners. These are created with the foreigner's "eye" in mind. Photo albums and ceramics were widely distributed throughout the world as symbols of KANAGAWA, so to speak.



CHERRY BLOSSOMS NOHE HILL YOKOHAMA Albumen print, color on paper Middle of the Meiji period

# Beyond Place Beyond Time

form of paintings, photographs, and other images, as well as a variety of descriptions.

The exhibition, titled Eyes on KANAGAWA, is set in the mid-19th century, when round-the-world travel became feasible and globalization entered a new phase. This exhibition introduces the original landscape and people of KANAGAWA at that time, using paintings, photographs, travelogues, and notes of stays in Japan recorded through the eyes of foreign visitors to Japan.

The landscape of KANAGAWA was unusual to Westerners who visited Japan at the time, but what was it about it that interested them, and how did they communicate it to other Westerners? By comparing the KANAGAWA of today with the KANAGAWA of the 19th century as represented in the exhibition, visitors are encouraged to look at the transformation from various angles.

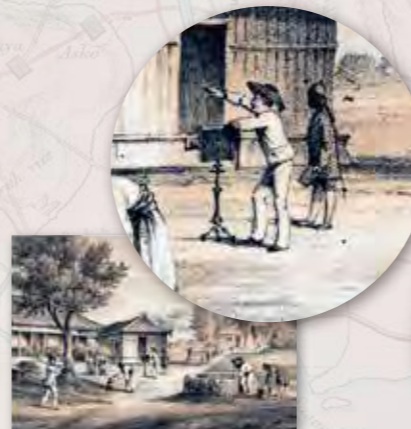
## II. The opening of the country as depicted

The first time KANAGAWA was painted in earnest by Westerners was in 1853 by Wilhelm Heine and Eliphalet Brown Jr. who accompanied Commodore Perry's Japanese expedition to Japan for the purpose of concluding a trade treaty. Many of the images were included as illustrations in the expedition's official report, *Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan* (hereinafter *Narrative*). Scenes of historical moments, such as the first landing at Kurihama and Yokohama, were produced separately as elephant lithographs. These images were later compiled by others who came to Japan and reused as illustrations for their own accounts of their stay in Japan and travelogues. The image of KANAGAWA in the West was to be spread in a stereotypical manner.

In order to show that it is possible to view materials from a variety of perspectives, this exhibition attempts to explain one or a group of materials from the viewpoints of multiple researchers. Visitors are invited to look at the materials from their own unique perspective and tell their own stories.



The Travels and Adventures of Celebrated Travelers in the Principal Countries of the Globe Henry Howe Print 1856



TEMPLE AT TUMAI, LEW-CHEW.



Narrative of the Expedition of an American Squadron to the China Seas and Japan Francis L. Hawks ed. Print 1856



ENCAMPMENT OF THE EXPLORING PARTY IN LEW CHEW.



BRIDGE OF CUT STONE & ENTRANCE TO A TEMPLE, SIMODA.



Collected Materials Commemorating Ms. Williams' Travel to Japan Louise M. Williams (Collect) 1897 Williams Sisters and Japanese Interpreter



Sagami-No-Kuni, Osumi-Gun, Oyama-Dera, Amefuri Shrine Gountei Sadahide O-Nishiki triptych 1858

\*Because this exhibition also covers the Edo period (1603-1867) before the establishment of Kanagawa Prefecture, the term KANAGAWA will be used to include the current Kanagawa Prefecture and its surrounding areas.

Collection Exhibition **Debut !**

Newly added to the museum's collection

July 20 – September 16, 2024

One of the major pillars of museum activities is the collection of materials. In this exhibition, we present some of new materials we have collected in recent years.



Ema(Votive picture)




Jōmon pottery



Portrait of ISHII Taisuke, the first mayor of Kawasaki City

**Kanagawa Prefectural Museum of Cultural History**

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**Next Exhibitions**

Special Exhibition  
**Splendid Masks: The World of Medieval Music and Performing Arts**  
October 26 - December 8, 2024

Collection Exhibition  
**Former Yokohama Specie Bank Head Office 120th Anniversary**  
November 9 - December 22, 2024

**Related Exhibition**

Special Exhibition  
**SAMURAI Meets PERRY With "KUROFUNES"**  
-Guardians of Japan's coast-  
July 13 - September 1, 2024



First Landing of Americans in Japan, Under Commodore M. C. Perry at Gore-Hama July 14th. 1853

Wilhelm Heine Lithograph, color on paper 1855



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**Access**

By train

A one-minute walk from exit 3 or 5 of Bashamichi Station on the Minatomirai Line

A five-minute walk from exit 9 of Kannai Station on the Yokohama municipal subway (Blue Line)

An eight-minute walk from Sakuragicho Station or Kannai Station on JR lines

By car

A five-minute drive from the Minatomirai exit ramp of the Metropolitan Expressway Yokohane Line

\*Parking lot use is restricted to visitors with disabilities and tour group buses.

