

Guide Tour of
Stone Buddha Statues
Made by Takato Masons
- Ina and Takato -

高遠
Welcome to
Hometown of
Takato Masons
巡礼

The Incorporated Association of Takato Masons Research Center
Ina City Office





Cherry blossoms of Takato and the Chuo-Alps



Stairs of approach to Kempuku-ji Temple

Welcome to Hometown of Takato Ishiku (Masons)

In rural districts in Japan, you can see many stone Buddha statues. In this area, Ina and Takato with preserved scenery of the Edo period, there are quite many statues and monuments, and they have been maintained in good conditions.

You can see many stone engraving works such as "Dosojin" monument, "Koshin-to" monument and "Bato Kannon" statue on various roadsides as well as stone Buddha statues with distinctive features by approaches, within premises and in backyards through visit of Buddhist temples scattered around the area.

According to the chronological table of "Stone cultural assets in Ina City", six Jizo statues (stone lantern type) in Kami-Kawate, Misuzu, made in 1623, are the oldest. In stone statues made by known mason, "Shoumen Kongo" statue in Kuroguchi, Hase, made by Dennojo in March, 1725, is the oldest. In the early stage, masons in Takato didn't engrave their names on stone statues, but many statues with engraved creator are left after this age.

In the approach, premises and backyard cemetery of the temple "Kempuku-ji" in Nishi-Takato, 33 Kannon statues made by Moriya Sadaji and other outstanding works made by various masons including Shibuya Tobei will welcome you. The Bussoku-seki (Buddha's footprint stone) and the poetry monument are uncommon in this area.

In "Keisen-in" of Higashi-Takato, it is good to walk in the backyard as well as seeing Jizo and Kannon statues by the approach.

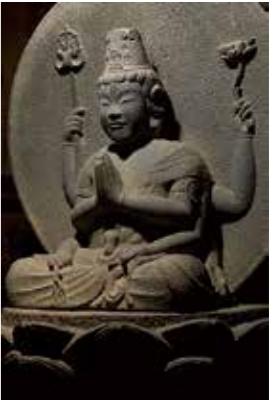
We will be very happy if this brochure is helpful to your tour of Takato, the hometown of Takato Masons.

Hiromoto Takeiri

Representative Director, The Incorporated Association of Takato Masons Research Center

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Photograph in cover :
Fuku Kensaku Kannon Statue
(One of 33 Kannon statues,
Kempuku-ji Temple)

Core in the
tour of stone statues
made by Takato Masons

Kempuku-ji Temple

A Buddhist temple in
Nishi-Takato, Takato

建福寺

Saigoku (western provinces) 33 Kanzeon Bosatsu (Kannon) statues, the essence of Sadaji's engraving

In Kempuku-ji Temple (see the index in P. 20), 40 stone statues are kept. They are made by Moriya Sadaji, a master of Takano Masons. This is the only point you can see so many stone statues in this area.

Stone statues in Kempuku-ji Temple are designated as tangible cultural assets in Ina City. The assets include Ganou Jizo-son (Jizo statue in front of the main hall), Emmei Jizo-son (Jizo statue in the backyard cemetery) and Kyarada-sen Jizo Bosatsu (Jizo statue by the stairs in the approach), all made by Sadaji, as well as Saigoku 33 Kanzeon Bosatsu. You can also see Bussoku-seki (Buddha's footprint stone) and Yoryu Kannon made by Shibuya Tobei, a pupil of Sadaji.

Start the tour of stone statues in
Takato at this temple.

Saigoku (western provinces) 33 Kanzeon Bosatsu (Kannon) statues, made by
Moriya Sadaji in 1800s
Front right: the 6th "Senju (thousand-hand) Kannon" (in the motif of the Buddha
statue of Tsubosaka-san Minami-hokke-ji in Yamato Province)



Stairs in the approach to Kempuku-ji Temple



The 30th Senju Kannon (in the motif of the Buddha statue of Chikubu-jima Hogon-ji, Gankon-zan, Ohmi)



The 29th Bato Kannon (in the motif of the Buddha statue of Matsunoo-dera, Aoba-san, Tango)



The 24th Juichi-men (11-face) Kannon (in the motif of the Buddha statue of Nakayama-dera, Shiun-zan, Settsu)

Base for prayers of common folks having 33 replicas of
main statues from the Saigoku 33 Temples at once

Highlights

- ① "Saigoku 33 Kanzeon Bosatsu" statues as one of the masterworks of Moriya Sadaji (see the index (2) in P. 20)
- ② Ganou Jizo-son (Jizo statue in front of the main hall, made by Moriya Sadaji)
- ③ Bussoku-seki (Buddha's footprint stone) (in front of the main hall, made by Shibuya Tobei)



Bussoku-seki (Buddha's footprint stone)
(in front of the main hall)



Ganou Jizo-son (Jizo statue in front of the main hall, made in Bunsei Period)

Famous temple
in a peaceful time flow

Keisen-in Temple

Higashi-Takato, Takato

Juntei Kannon known as
the mother of Buddha
It is transmitted that
she will fulfill women's wishes.

Juntei Kanzeon Bosatsu
(made by Moriya Sadaji in 1820)
(Joining her hands in prayer)



桂泉院

"Juntei Kannon", a masterwork of Sadaji staying
in a scene of light and shadow

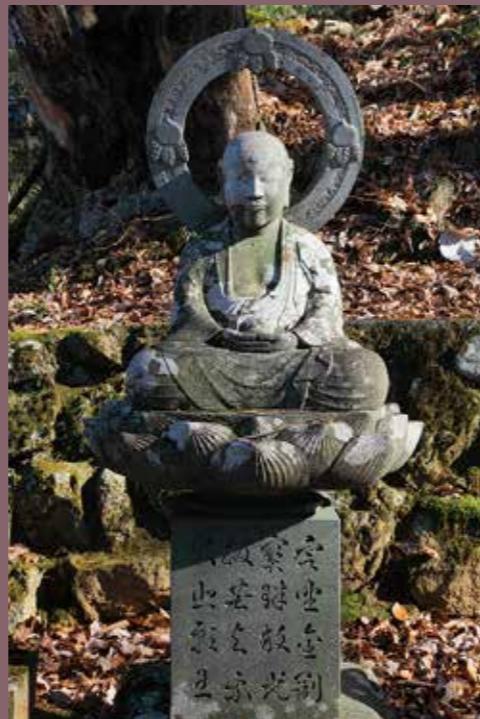
Keisen-in Temple (see the index (3) in P20) is located on a hill overlooking the ruins of Takato Castle, and has various stone statues made by Takato Masons in the premises. Passing under the main gate, two stone statues made by Sadaji on both sides of stone stairs will welcome you. You will enjoy peaceful visit at the temple. Juntei Kannon on the right side is one of the masterworks of Sadaji and it is transmitted to fulfill women's wishes. It is also recommended to visit the cemetery for successive chief priests. You can see Nyoirin Kannon statue made by Shibuya Tobei, a pupil of Sadaji, as well as the tower tomb of Yokai Osho (chief priest).



Nyoirin Kannon (made by Shibuya Tobei)



The main hall of Keisen-in Temple

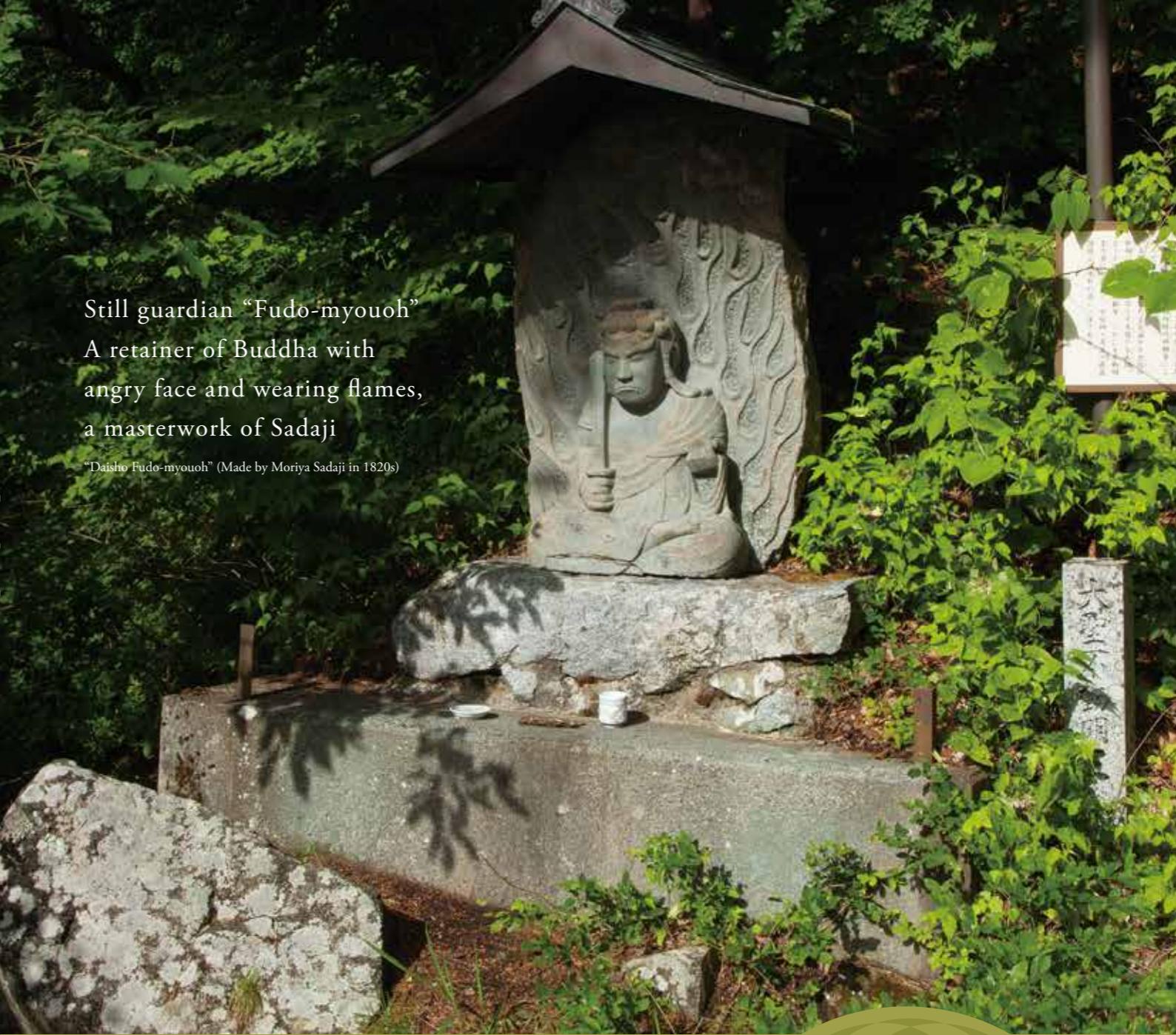


The tower tomb of Yokai Osho
(chief priest, made by Shibuya Tobei in 1849)

Highlights

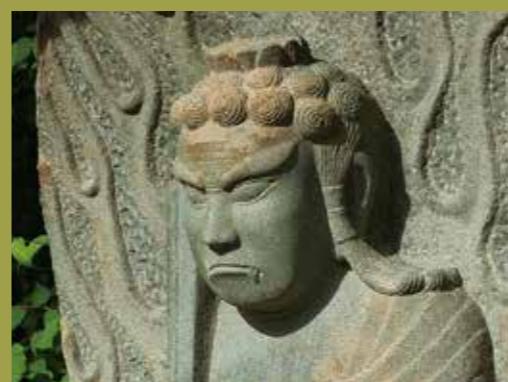
- ①Juntei Kanzeon Bosatsu (see the index (4) in P. 20) and 2 Emmei Jizo statues made by Moriya Sadaji
- ②Nyoirin Kannon and the tower tomb of Yokai Osho made by Shibuya Tobei
- ③Stone god images and stone Buddha statues made by unknown masons in the premises

大聖不動明王



Still guardian "Fudo-myouoh"
A retainer of Buddha with
angry face and wearing flames,
a masterwork of Sadaji

"Daisho Fudo-myouoh" (Made by Moriya Sadaji in 1820s)



The statue is placed on a sheer cliff by a bridge over the Mibu River.
Be sure to see the statue on the bridge, because the point is quite dangerous.
Do not park your car around the bridge, while there is no car parking. It is very dangerous.

One of masterworks of
Moriya Sadaji
**Daisho
Fudo-myouoh
in Katsuma**

Tokiwa Bridge,
Katsuma, Takato



高遠



Takato, Shinshu (Nagano)
The Hometown of Takato Masons
**Stone Statues in Center of Takato Town,
The town of Kohigan-zakura
(cherry blossoms)**

Why not take a tour of stone god images and stone Buddha statues together with cherry blossoms or autumn leaves?

Takato-wa Yamasuso-no Machi
Furuki Machi
Yukiau Kora-no Utsukushiki Machi
Tayama Katai

(Takato town with nostalgic streets on the skirts of the mountain, Filled with heartwarming meetings with children)

After visiting Kempuku-ji Temple, you can take a tour of stone statues in the center of Takato Town. In an ancient temple Kofuku-ji Temple (see the index (6) in P. 20), you will meet wonderful stone statues placed in "Jizo-do" , made by Mukaiyama Juzamon, and the stone tower "Hokyoin-to" . It is also good to walk the old street in front of Hokoji-jinja Shrine heading toward the ruins of Soton-ji Temple on the right-side hill. You can see a big Jizo statue there. In Nijuniya-sama (22nd night) Shrine by the bridge "Tennyo-bashi" , you can see Emmei-jizo statue made by Sadaji.

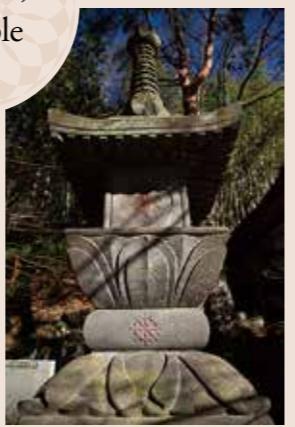


Approach to Kofuku-ji, welcoming with stone statues and autumn leaves

Kofuku-ji Temple



Stone statues made by Mukaiyama Juzamon, Jizo-do

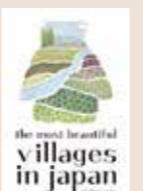


Hokyoin-to made in 1722



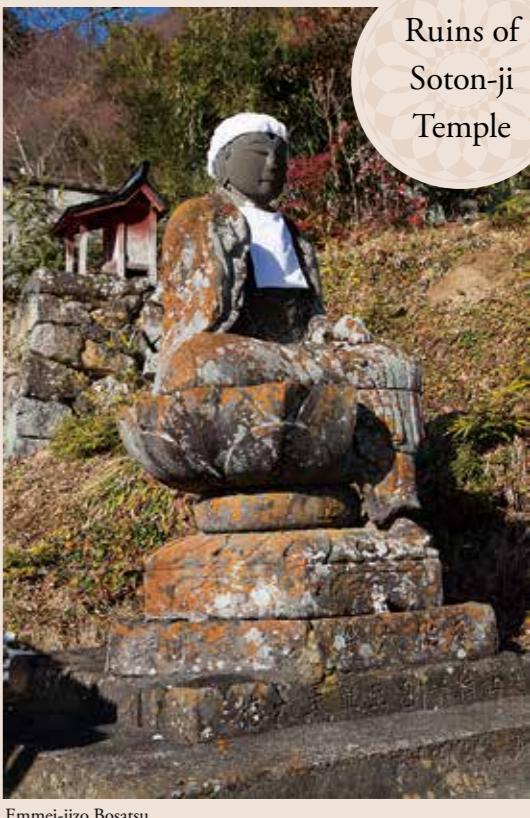
Emmei-jizo Bosatsu is also placed within the cottage.

Nijuniya-sama Shrine



Membership of "The most beautiful villages in Japan" Union

Takato was admitted to a membership of "The most beautiful villages in Japan" Union. The union valued two resources "Takato Kohigan-zakura (cherry blossoms)" and "Stone works by Takato Masons" in Takato as unique local resources.



Emmei-jizo Bosatsu

Ruins of Soton-ji Temple



Kibune Jinja Shrine with various stone works by Takato Masons such as Torii (gateway at the entrance) and stone walls



"Batoson" monument with old characters



Stone statues and monuments in front of Suwa Jinja Shrine in Midogaito



Koshin monument built in 1680
(Unique Shoumen Kongo naked to the waist is engraved.)

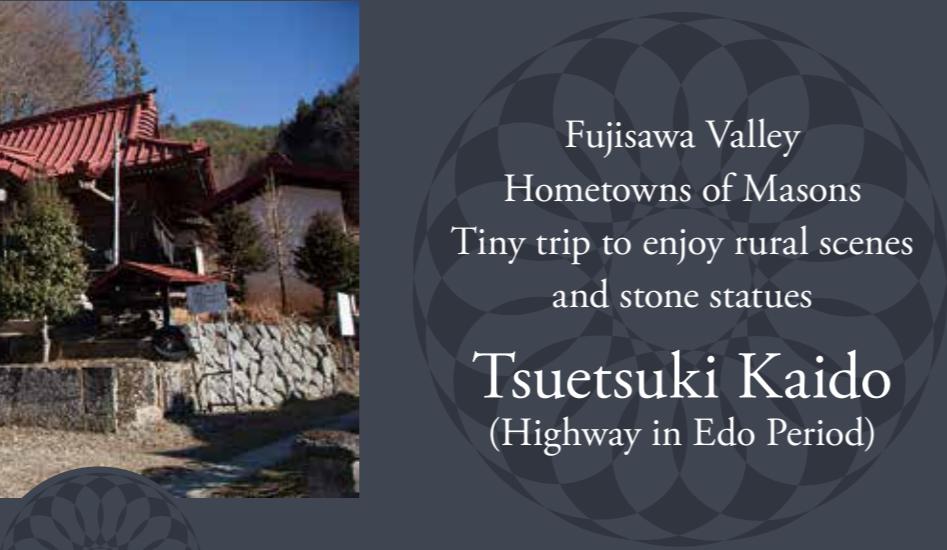
Tsuetsuki Kaido (Midogaito)



Ruins of Shioku Assembly House, "Dosojin" with ornate characters placed here

Fujisawa Valley Hometowns of Masons Tiny trip to enjoy rural scenes and stone statues

Tsuetsuki Kaido (Highway in Edo Period)



Tsuetsuki Kaido passing to Chino from Takato is called as "Ishiku Kaido" (masons highway), because masons appeared one after another in this area. Stone god images and Buddha statues engraved by Takato Masons are placed everywhere in Miroku, Aramachi, Midogaito and Katakura as well as in Shioku where there was the home of Moriya Sadaji.

杖
家
街
道

Names of places on
Tsuetsuki-kaido
(Japanese old highway)
Hometowns of Takato Masons



Dosojin (stone god monument)
decorated with ornate characters

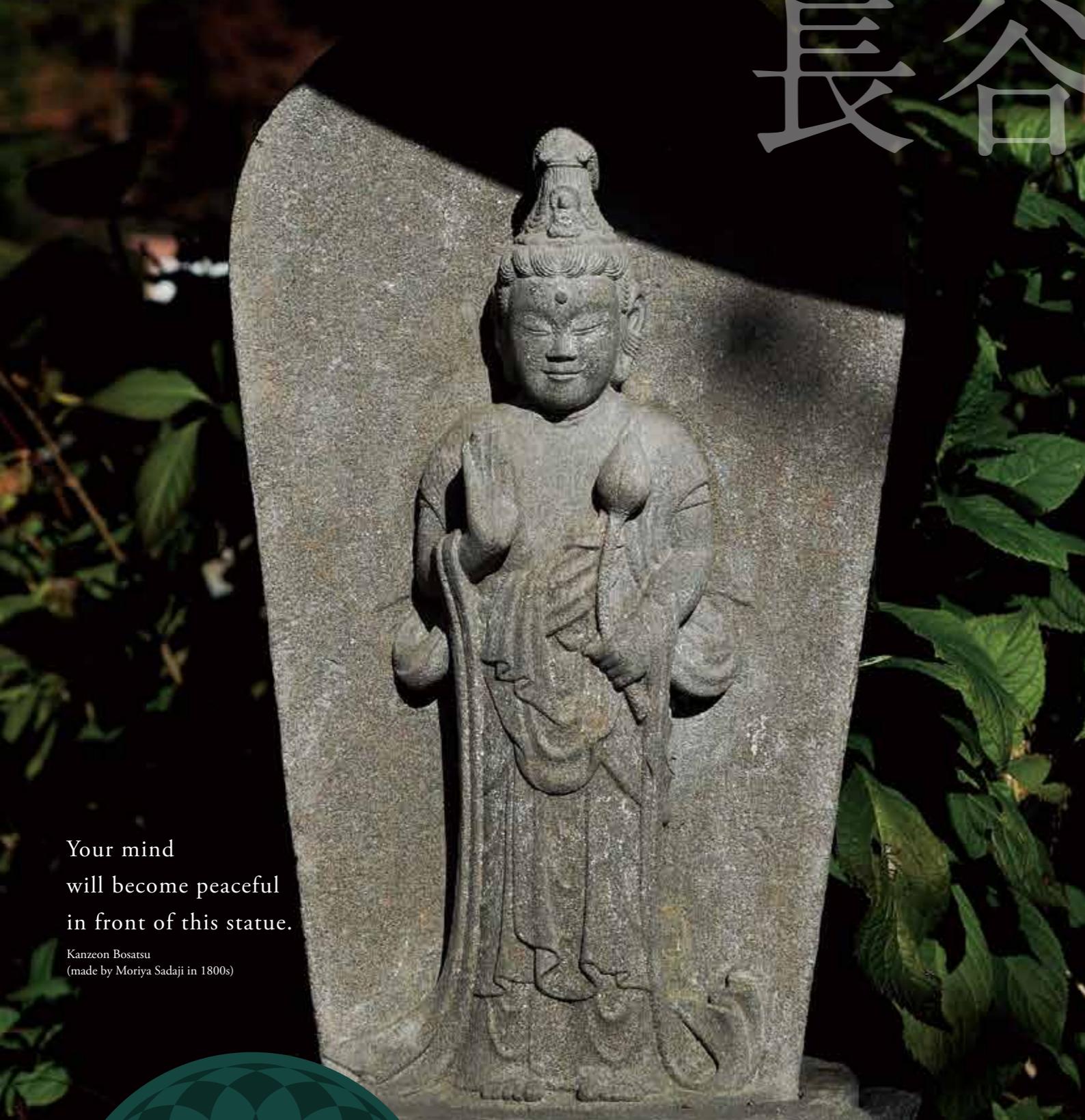
Dosojin monument decorated with ornate characters (see the index (7) in P. 20) is quite unique, and the characters consists of 3 characters "Do", "So" and "Jin" from top to bottom.
The characters look like 3 smiled faces or 3 monkeys in a Japanese old saying.

Attracted by Takato Masons

I'm very attracted by works of Takato Masons. Along with Tsuetsuki-kaido heading Tsuetsuki Pass from Takato Town, stone Buddha statues are scattered by village streets and the highway, as well as in the premises of shrines and temples. I hear that each of Takato Masons went around the country as a traveling mason and created a lot of minute stone statues with high honesty, deep faith and sophisticated techniques. Thinking that works of individual mason have been maintained around the country in the long history, I again want to learn the culture and history of individual folks having walked around the country as masons.

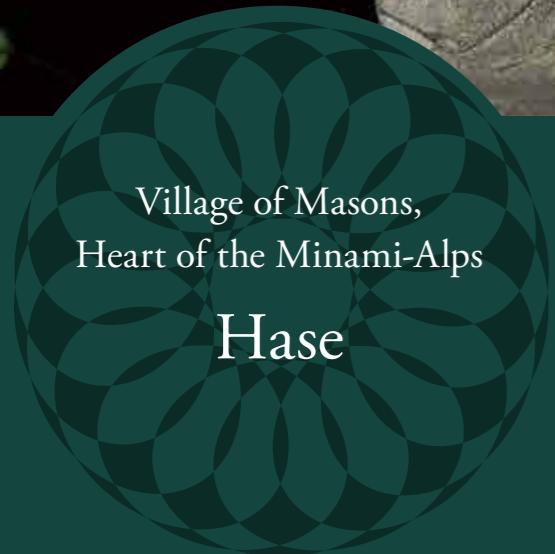
I like "Dosojin" monument with humorous ornate characters in Shioku Community, the deformed stone statue of cat in Kawabe Community and "Bato Kannon" monument with image of lovely horse in Hachiman-Jinja Shrine of Daitono.

Takashi Shirotori, Mayor, Ina City



Your mind
will become peaceful
in front of this statue.

Kanzeon Bosatsu
(made by Moriya Sadaji in 1800s)



Village of Masons,
Heart of the Minami-Alps
Hase

The area from Takato to the upstreams of the Mibu River and the Yamamuro River is called "Irinoya", and many masons appeared in this area as well as Takato. In Entsu-ji Temple of Ichinose, two stone statues made by Sadaji are placed.

In Utsugi Yakushi-do ahead of a narrow mountain path, Saigoku (western provinces) 33 Kannon statues (line drawing) made by Shibuya Tobei are placed. In Chokyu-ji Temple of Ura Community, where fleeing samurai soldiers of Heike strengths settled in the past, Saigoku 33 Kannon statues (twenty several statues made by Tobei) are also placed.

長谷



Entsu-ji
Temple
Ichinose



Two stone statues made by Sadaji are placed.



Emmei Jizo Dai-bosatsu
(made by Moriya Sadaji in 1820s)



Bato Kannon, one of 33 Kannon statues



Saigoku 33 Kannon statues (line drawing, made by Shibuya Tobei in 1845)



Chokyu-ji
Temple
Ura



Saigoku 33 Kannon statues



One of twenty several stone statues
made by Shibuya Tobei



Utsugi
Yakushi-do

Brand in Edo Period, Masons Popular across the Country

Takato Ishiku

Ishiku (mason) is called as Ishidaiku (stone carpenter), Ishikiri (stone cutter), Ishiya (stone seller), Sekisho (stone master) or Ishishi (stone worker) in the past. The works of mason include cutting stone from a mountain, building stone wall, and engraving Buddha statues, monuments and shrine gates. Expert mason with sophisticated techniques is artist, but masons in Edo-Period thought themselves as craftsmen.

Takato Masons were popular not only in Shinano (Nagano Prefecture) but also in neighboring provinces and Kanto and Tohoku areas. Takato Masons include masons born in the center town of Takato and ones born in surrounding villages and communities.

Most of Takato Masons were born in Fujisawa/Osafuji or Irinoya, and some were born in the downstream villages (downstream of the Mibu River).

Activities of Takato Masons were recorded in the Middle Ages, but became active near the end of the 17th century and reached a peak at around 1800.

Every mason was a highly paid worker, and his salary was determined as 1-bu by gold for 8 days and 1-ryo by gold for 32 days. Business tax as high as 1-kammon a year from a mason would be very helpful to poor Takato Domain.

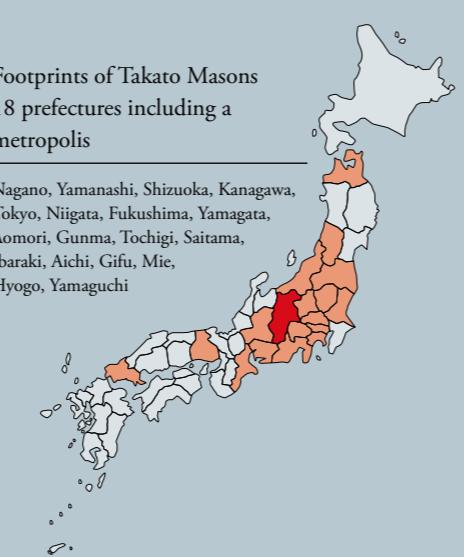
Most of the masons went work to Gumma Prefecture, and some went to Yamanashi, Gifu, Kanagawa Prefectures and other to Kanto and Tohoku areas. The farthest areas of Takato Masons' works are Aomori and Yamaguchi Prefectures.

By Hiromoto Takeiri

Traveling Masons

Takato Domain under severe fiscal conditions promoted people going work away, and Takato Masons went around the country as "Traveling Mason" to help finance of the domain by creating stone works.

At least 1300 masons worked around the country.



Edo-jo Castle

The stone wall work of Edo-jo Castle started in 1606 and completed through the generations of the Shoguns Ieyasu, Hidetada and Iemitsu. The actual work was made by Daimyo (feudal lords) in the western domains. In 1611, the work for Nishinomaru-bori (moat around the second citadel) was started by Daimyo in the eastern domains.

Description of participation of Takato Masons is found in the record.

The description in "Shinpen Musashino Fudokiko" (topography of Musashino Province, new version) says "In the past, many masons transferred to Ina Village (Akiruno City, Tokyo) from Ina Country, Shinano Province. ... They transferred in 1590 and worked for construction of stone wall for Edo-jo".

The description in "Chiyoda-ku History Volume 1" says "The lord Hoshina Masamitsu in Takato Domain took charge of the work for Nishimaru-bori".

Nishinomaru is corresponding to the current area of the center of the Imperial Palace.

Photo: Around Ote-mon Gate (the main gate) with the bridge Niju-bashi

"Shinagawa-ura Hodai (battery)" at Odaiba

Threatened by the arrival of Matthew Perry, Edo Bakufu (shogunate) built 6 batteries off Shinagawa. Two batteries, the third and the sixth, are remaining there today. (Photo: the third battery)

A historical document describes that 100 Takato Masons worked for the construction at Odaiba off Shinagawa Shore.

Takato Masons along with Folk Religion

Takato Mason is the generic name of masons associated with Takato, who made stone works such as god images and Buddha statues respected by people as familiar foundations of religion. Takato Masons succeeded in 18 prefectures including a metropolis. A historical document wrote that the masons worked for construction of stone walls for batteries at Odaiba.

Blue Stone under the Castle

Takato blue stone, the favorite of Moriya Sadaji, consists of fine green crystals and is hard to deteriorate with weather. It was produced under the main gate of Takato-jo Castle, around the confluence of the Mibu River and the Fujisawa River, and under the present Mibu-kawa Ohashi (bridge). This stone was generally called as "Shiroshita-no Aoishi" (blue stone under the castle). However the layer of the stone was narrow and laid under the bottom of the Mibu River so that production of the stone was restricted.

All of ruins of quarry for the stone in the Edo Period were lost now. Arrows of about 6cm wide (wedge to cut stone) were used for cutting stone in the Edo Period, but only a piece of arrow with a 3cm-wide Arrow Hole was found several years ago (missing now).

Other several quarries have been found recent years, but production of each quarry was restricted and not more than "Shiroshita-no Aoishi".

Takio Kitahara, Stonemason Kitahara



Blue stone cut with Arrow Hole (today)



Quarry of blue stone
(Takio Kitahara, under Mibu-kawa Ohashi)



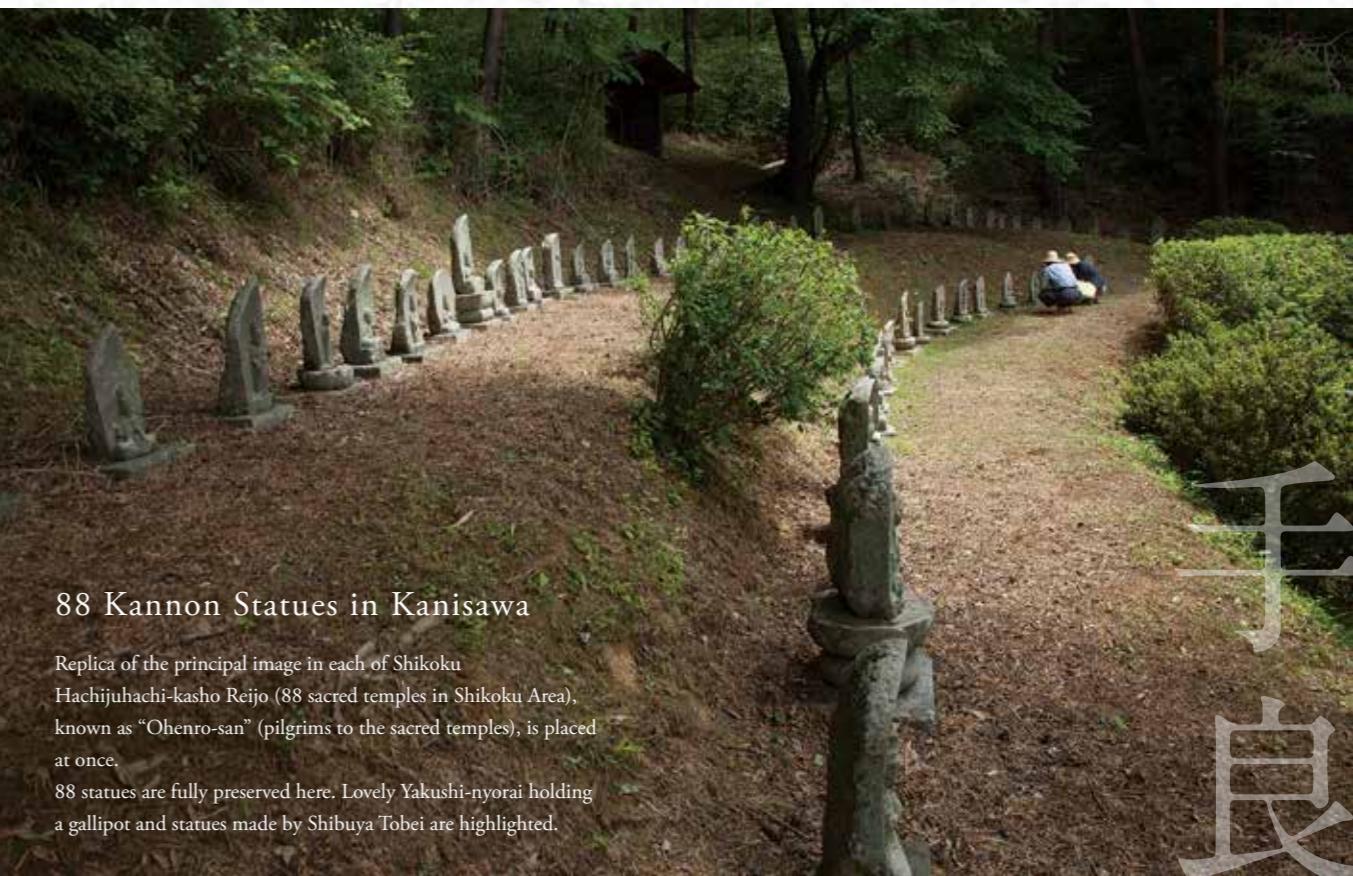
Tools for Takato Mason
(kept in the home of Koen Kiroku (mason) in Komagane City)

美 築



Rokudo-no Tsutsumi
(reservoir; Kasahara, Misuzu)

Takato Domain created this reservoir to reclaim Rokudo-hara (wasteland), having drawn water from the Fujisawa River. The canal of about 10km long from the river was called as "IchiBan-i" (the first canal). Scenery around the canal is known to be beautiful.



88 Kannon Statues in Kanisawa

Replica of the principal image in each of Shikoku Hachijuhachi-kasho Reijo (88 sacred temples in Shikoku Area), known as "Ohenro-san" (pilgrims to the sacred temples), is placed at once.

88 statues are fully preserved here. Lovely Yakushi-nyorai holding a gallipot and statues made by Shibuya Tobei are highlighted.

Other Hometowns of Takato Masons

Misuzu

In Tera and Misuzu areas with rural scenery, many Takato Masons appeared, too. In Shimokawate of Misuzu, Hokyoin-to (stone tower, Tosen-ji Temple) and a stone Buddha statue (Shimo-Kawate community center), both made of Takato blue stone by home-grown Shibuya Tobei are preserved. In Minamiwari, lovely Jizo statue made by Tobei will welcome you.

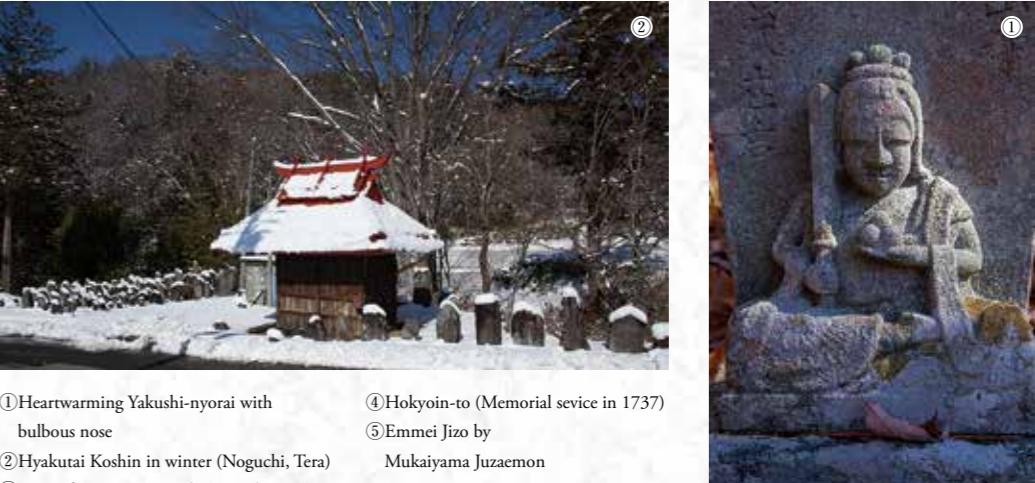


①Hokyoin-to made of Takato blue stone (made by Shibuya Tobei in 1827)
②Kyarada-san Jizo-son by Shibuya Tobei (in 1829, Shimokawate community center)
③Jizo-son by Shibuya Tobei ("Minamiwari-no Roku-jizo (6 Jizo statues)" , in 1817)
④Minamiwari-no Roku-jizo



Tera

In Tera area, many rural scenes are preserved and "scenery with stone Buddha statues" is respected even now. Walking around "88 Kannon in Kanisawa" statues (see the index (8) in P. 20) and "Hyakutai (hundred) Koshin" monuments is recommended. In the ruins of Somyo-ji Temple in Yatsude, Emmei Jizo statue made by Mukaiyama Juzaemon and beautiful Hokyoin-to (stone tower) decorated with flower relieves are preserved.



①Heartwarming Yakushi-nyorai with bulbous nose
②Hyakutai Koshin in winter (Noguchi, Tera)
③Ruin of Somyo-ji Temple (Yatsude, Tera)
④Hokyoin-to (Memorial service in 1737)
⑤Emmei Jizo by Mukaiyama Juzaemon





Main Hall, Gokoku-zenji Temple
(Naka-Tonojima)

In Gokoku-zenji Temple and Kokyu-ji Temple, many stone Buddha statues engraved by Ogasawara Masahei, Shimodaira Bunzaemon and Tazaemon are placed.



Kubota-no Dosojin

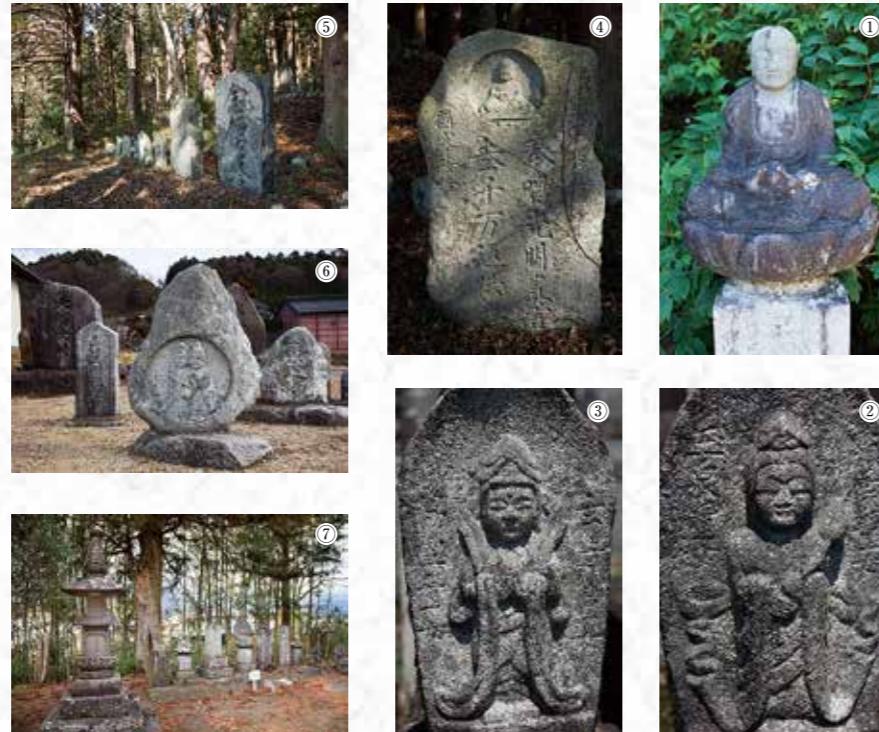
Twin Dosojin monument on the root of
“Neagari-no Matsu” (pine tree)

Stone Buddha Statues Scattered in Rural Scenery

Higashi-Haruchika

Higashi-Haruchika is the countryside extended over the right side of the Tenryu River, and scattered with stone statues made by Takato Masons in temples, huts and cemeteries. Particularly in Kokyu-ji Temple and Gokoku-zenji Temple in Naka-Tonojima, a lot of stone Buddha statues made by Ogasawara Masahei, Shimodaira Bunzaemon and Tazaemon are placed.

Stone statues are found in the backyard of an old temple in Shimo-Tonojima, Twin Dosojin monument (made by Masahei, tangible cultural asset of Ina City) is by Tsuchikura Community Center, and Juntei Kannon statue (made by Masahei, tangible cultural asset of Ina City) is in Yakushi-an of Tahara.



① Jizoson made by Ogasawara Masahei
(made in 1858, Gokoku-Zenji Temple)

②③ Kannon Statues with common features in face and clothes
(made by Shimodaira Bunzaemon, Kokyu-ji Temple)

④ Stone monument in the backyard of an old Temple (made by Masahei)

⑤ Stone statues in the backyard of an old temple

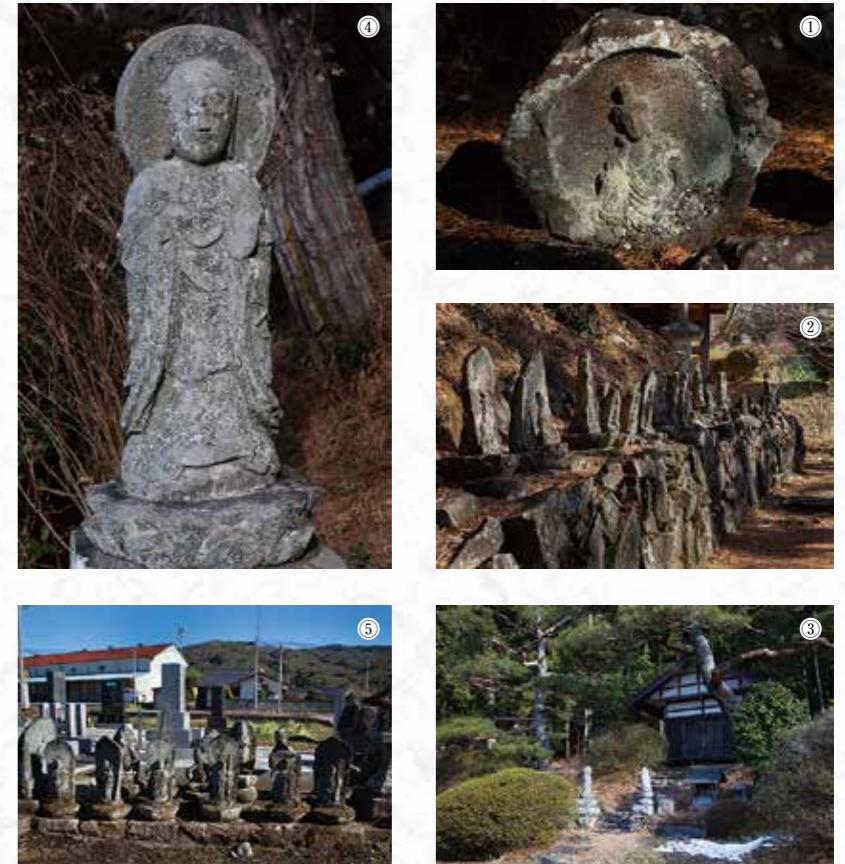
⑥ Twin Dosojin in Tennosha shrine
(made in 1838, by Tsuchikura Community Center)

⑦ Stone statues in Yakushi-an of Tahara

Tomigata

Tomigata is an old rural area neighboring to Takato and affluent with wonderful scenes. Jizoson statue made by Shibuya Tobei is placed in Kanjo-ji Temple of Sakurai, Saigoku 33 Kannon statues (made by Tobei) are in the entrance of Kimpo-ji Temple, and stone statues are in Yakushi-do of Hane.

On the root of “Neagari-no Matsu” (pine tree) by the golf course in Niiyama, you can see twin Dosojin monument (mason unknown) called “Kubota-no Dosojin” .



① Nyoirin Kannon made by Shibuya Tobei
(Saigoku 33 Kannon statues in the entrance of Kimpo-ji Temple)

② Saigoku 33 Kannon statues in the entrance of Kimpo-ji Temple

③ Stone Buddha statues in Kanjo-ji Temple
(on a hill in Sakurai, Tomigata)

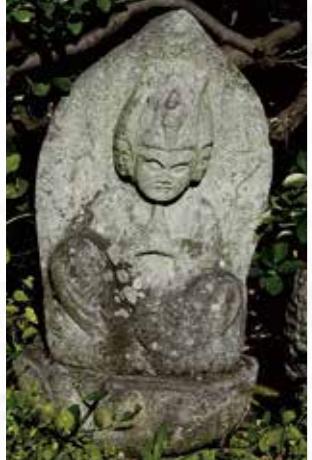
④ Jizoson in Kanjo-ji Temple

(made in 1805, work of Shibuya Tobei at the early stage)

⑤⑥ Jizo statues in front of Yakushi-do of Hane (made in around 1822)

Major Stone Statues in Ina City

In Ina City with rural scenes and mountain views, stone statues and monuments including Dosojin and Bato Kannon are found everywhere. Along with highways and roads in the Edo Period such as Ina Kaido, Kasuga Kaido, Akiha Kaido and Habiro-michi, you can see a lot of scenes of stone statues and monuments with the Minami-Alps or the Chuo-Alps in the background.



Sadaji-butsu
(Sadaji' s Buddha statue)
in Akagi (Bato Kanzeon)

Bato Kanzeon statue made by Moriya Sadaji is placed at the entrance of Sakai family's tomb by the Route 153 at the boundary with Miyada Village. It is one of Saigoku 33 Kannon statues scattered around the village.

Bato Kanzeon statue made by Moriya Sadaji
(at the entrance of Sakai family's tomb, 1803)



Stone statues by the approach to Hoon-ji
(Juichi-men (11-face) Kannon made by Moriya Sadaji in 1801 at far right side)

Stone Buddha Statues
in Hoon-ji Temple
(Nishi-Haruchika)

By the approach to Hoon-ji Temple, many stone statues are placed including Juichi-men (11-face) Kannon made by Moriya Sadaji and Senju (thousand-hand) Kannon made by Aruga Tsuruzo. You can also enjoy Saino-kawara Jizo and Kosodate Jizo made by Ogasawara Masahei around Sam-mon (the main gate).



Byakui (white clothes)
Kannon by Akiha Kaido
(highway in Edo Period)
(Nakao, Hase)

By Akiha Kaido in Nakao, Byakui Kannon statue is placed on a big natural stone. The Kaido, overlooking the Mibu River, is quite calm there. There are many stone works left in Nakao, including unique Dosojin monument made by a round stone in Shimo-nakao.

Byakui Kannon (small road sign of Akiha Kaido by the statue)



Sakashita-no Tsuji (intersection),
Starting Milestone for
Habiro-michi (road to Habiro)

Cho-seki (milestone) is placed every 1-cho (about 109m) on Habiro-michi (road to Habiro) connecting the starting point Sakashita and Chusen-ji Temple in Habiro. This the road to the temple known as a temple of horse for going to worship accompanying a horse.



Sakashita-no Tsuji (starting point of Habiro-michi with Cho Kannon)



Workbook of Moriya Sadaji (1831)

Moriya Sadaji is the best mason in Takato Masons, having engraved a lot of excellent stone Buddha statues. His workbook "Sekibutsu Bosatsu Zaiku" (workbook for stone Buddha statues) describes that he made 336 statues. Investigation of stone statues made by Sadaji around the country recently showed a progress based on this workbook, and his works have been respected as outstanding cultural assets.

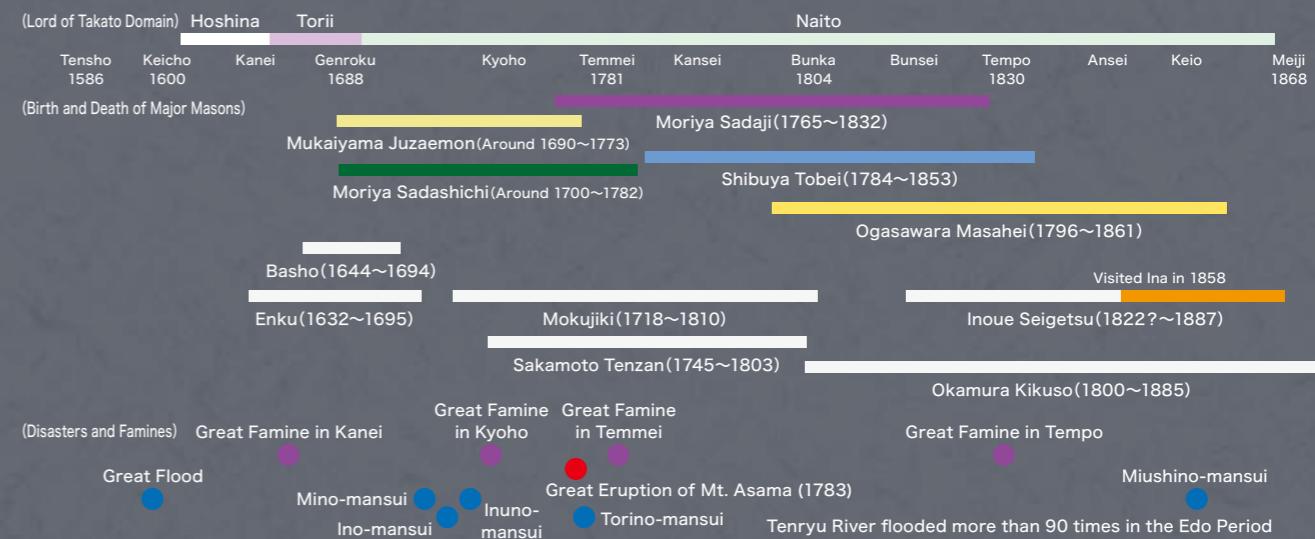
Sadaji respected the famous priest Ganou Osho as his teacher and made his works many in the temples belonging to his group "Myoshinji-ha, Rinzai Sect".

Workbook of Sadaji: "Sekibutsu Bosatsu Zaiku"
(workbook for stone Buddha statues)
Owned by Motohiro Moriya, stored in Takato Historical Museum

Chronological Table of Successful Takato Masons together with Famines and Disasters

In the Edo Period, people were suffering from natural disasters such as famines, floods and eruptions as well as diseases such as smallpox. The Tenryu River flooded more than 90 times in about 270 years of the Edo Period. Flood occurred almost every third year. At least 79 times of harvest failure due to natural disaster were recorded in Kami-ina area. Harvest failure was almost twice in 9 years. Many of stone Buddha statues and other stone monuments were built as symbols for faith so that they have been maintained carefully.

Chronological Table of Takato Masons in Edo Period



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◆①Kempuku-ji Temple

Temple belonging to Myoshin-ji Group in Rinzai Sect, founded in 1600s. Restored in 1579 as a terminal temple of Myoshin-ji Temple, Kyoto. Family temple for Takeda family and Hoshina family. There is a tomb believed as one for the mother of Takeda Katsuyori (Madam Suwa). There are also two tombs of Hoshina Masanao (the first lord) and Hoshina Masamitsu (the second lord). The temple has a lot of treasures including a painting (designated as an Important Cultural Asset) by Kano Koui and stone statues by Takato Masons.

◆②Saigoku 33 Kanzeon Bosatsu Statues (by Moriya Sadaji)

One of masterworks by Sadaji. These statues are the replicas of the principal image in each of 33 sacred temples in the western provinces. You will be overwhelmed by amazement of wonderful engraving techniques and noble spirits. These statues, made in Late Edo Period, are placed in 3 houses on the left side of the stairs on the approach.

Tour of Saigoku (western provinces) 33 Sacred Temples is the tour to 33 sacred temples in the Kinki Province and Gifu Prefecture. This tour, having a history of over a thousand years, is the pioneer of tours to sacred temples with Kannon statue in Japan. Saigoku 33 Kanzeon Bosatsu are the batch of replicas of the principal image in each temple to make the tour at one place as the belief in Kannon.

◆③Keisen-in Temple

The original temple was "Hodo-in" Temple placed within Takato Castle and memorial service was held at the time of fall of the castle by attack of Oda military strengths. The temple was later transferred to the foot of Mt. Gatsuzou and the name was changed into the current name.

The bell, stolen and drawn from Kaizen-ji Temple in Iida by Oda Nobutada at the time of the attack, is used as the bell of the temple. It is designated as a treasure of Nagano Prefecture. There is also a hall of memorial tablet for Nishina Goro Morinobu in the premises.

◆④Juntei Kannon Statue

Juntei Kannon is a type of Kanzeon Bosatsu and the symbol of motherhood. She is said to be the mother of Buddha. Many of Juntei Kannon Bosatsu Statues have 18 hands and 3 eyes. The main hands are formed into "Seppou-in" and "Semui-in". She has weapons, a rosary and a lotus flower. She preaches to atone for crimes, to accomplish all good acts and to obtain cleanliness of mind. People generally worship this Kannon for pregnancy and easy delivery.

◆⑤Fudo-myouoh Statue

Fudo-myouoh is called as Fudo-son, too. The meaning is a still guardian. He is Myouoh in ethoteric Buddhism, who is the incarnation of Dainichi Nyoirai, and has an angry look and waving hair. He is said to be living in the area of flames "Kasho Zammai" of heaven. Fudo-myouoh is the main Buddha statue in Shugen-do Buddhism. People generally worship this Fudo-myouoh for recovery from disease, family safety and success in business.

◆⑥Kofuku-ji Temple

This temple was founded in 745 and the oldest in Takato. When a priest Gyoki Osho visited Takato, the idea of gallipot flashed across his mind on the look of a stone of strange shape. Then he built a hall and engraved Yakushi Nyoirai statue as the main Buddha statue. He opened a school for "Hosso" and "Sanron" there. The temple was burned by military strengths of Oda Nobunaga in 1582. The present hall was rebuilt in 1823. The characters of the name of this temple were changed at the time.

◆⑦Dosojin Monument

Dosojin is a god by road and Dosojin monuments made by stone are placed on the boundaries of villages and intersections of roads. Many Dosojin monuments are found on intersections of roads around the country as the symbol for fortune and prosperity of descendants. Many of Dosojin monuments without characters consist of twin gods (male and female).

◆⑧88 Kannon Statues in Kanisawa

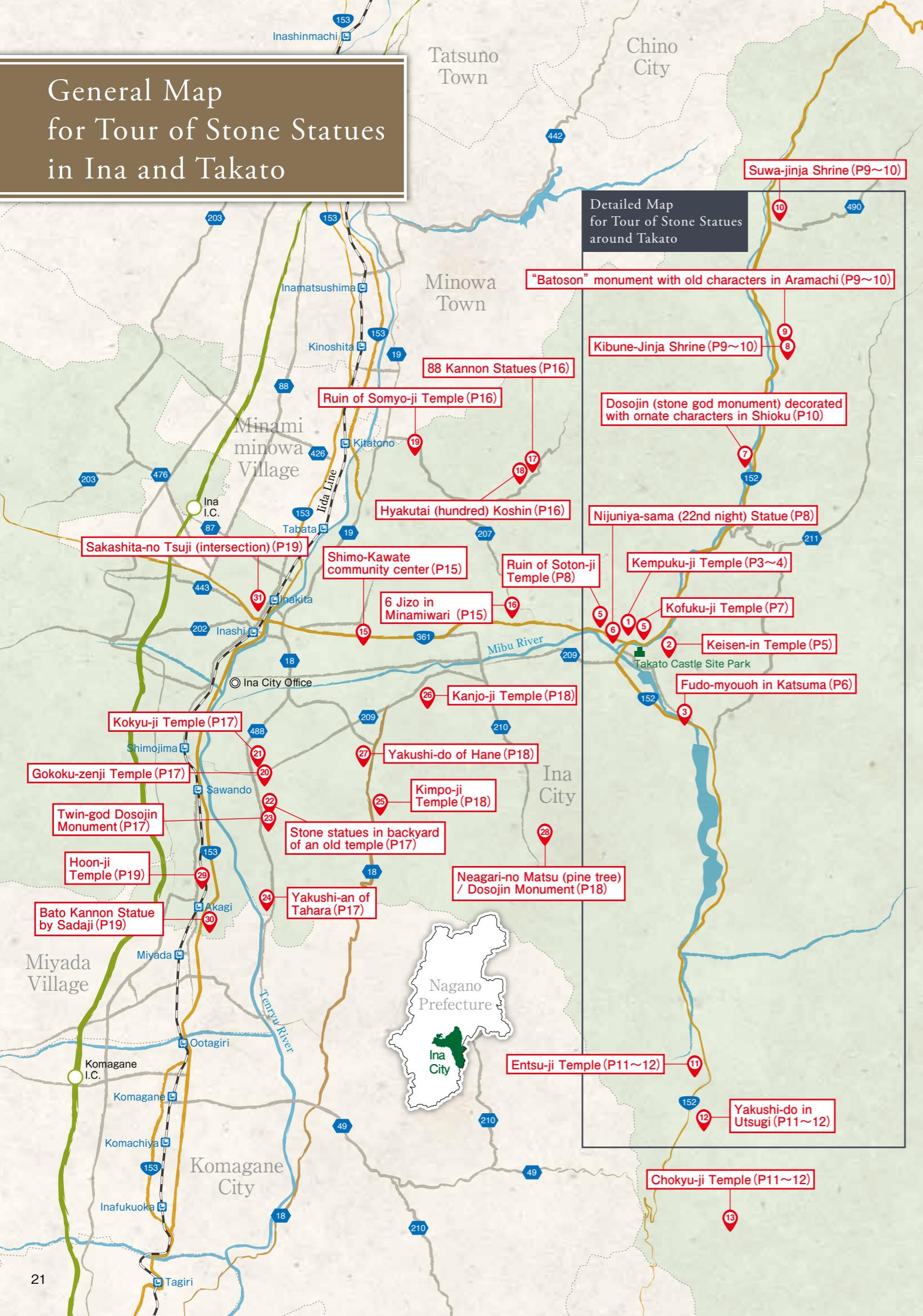
These statues are the replicas of the principal image in each of Shikoku Hachijuhachi-kasho Reijo (88 sacred temples in Shikoku Area), known as "Oheno-san" (pilgrims to the sacred temples). 88 statues are all at once there. They were made in the Edo Period, but the local residents restored in recent years. Missing 2 statues were found at the time. Many of the statues are Yakushi-nyorai who relieves us from diseases. Lovely Yakushi-nyorai holding a gallipot and Kannon are included in the statues.

Inquiry on tour of stone works in Takato:

The Incorporated Association of Takato Masons Research Center

Phone: 090-8683-9604 (Kumagai)

General Map for Tour of Stone Statues in Ina and Takato



Detailed Map for Tour of Stone Statues around Takato





88 Kannon statues in Kanisawa