Special Exhibition of

Ancient Sutras from the Heian Period:

Encountering the Legendary Kunōji Sutras

2015. 4.7 [Tue.] — 5.17 [Sun.]

Closed on Mondays (However, the museum will be open on the national holiday Monday May 4th and will be closed instead on Thursday May 7, 2015)
Hours: 9:30 am – 5:00 pm (From April 24th, the museum will remain open until 7:00 pm on Fridays) *Final entry 30 minutes prior to the closing of the museum

Organizer: Nara National Museum

With the support of: Agency for Cultural Affairs, NHK Nara Broadcasting Station, Nara Television Co.,Ltd.
In cooperation with: Nippon Kōdō Co.,Ltd., Bukkyō Bijutsu Kyōkai (Buddhist Art Foundation)
The copying of Buddhist sutras has a long history in Japan, going back to before the seventh century, and the practice developed in various ways during the following historical periods. Many of the sutras copied during the Heian period were ornamented using techniques such as the dyeing of the paper, the sprinkling of flakes of gold and silver foil, the painting of images, and the writing of characters in gold or silver ink; these kinds of ornamentation are representative of the period. On the other hand, the normal practice of copying sutras in black ink on plain paper was also popular during the Heian period, and it was also during the Heian period that there appeared sutras written on bronze panels and tiles. This was in addition to the period when a method of printing was first employed to produce sutras in Japan.

In this exhibition, we introduce not only various aspects of the Buddhist scripture copied during the Heian period, but also display the Sutras of Kunōji Temple (Kunōjikyō), sutras that demonstrate the essence of the various techniques of sutra production developed over the course of the Heian period. This is a set of the Lotus Sutra (Hokekyō) copied in the one-chapter-per-scroll format (ippōgyō) by Retired Emperor Toba and his close associates in order to form a spiritual bond. Four of the extant twenty-six scrolls of the set preserve their original frontispiece paintings, which have long been unavailable for public viewing due to the problems of preservation. As these paintings have recently undergone conservation, we now are able to display them.

This exhibition traces the history and diversity of the Heian-period Buddhist scriptures and serves as an unexcelled opportunity to experience the legendary Sutras of Kunōji Temple.

Exhibition Entrance Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Individual</th>
<th>Advance ticket / Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>¥ 1,200</td>
<td>¥ 1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College / High School Students</td>
<td>¥ 800</td>
<td>¥ 600</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior High / Elementary Students</td>
<td>¥ 500</td>
<td>¥ 300</td>
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</tbody>
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* Group sales apply to parties of 20 or more.
* Certified handicapped visitors (and one escort) admitted free of charge.
* Special Exhibition tickets provide admission to the Exhibition from the Permanent Collection.

Access

Located in Nara Park, 15 minutes’ walk east from KINTETSU-NARA Station. From JR Nara Station or KINTETSU-NARA Station, take the City Loop Bus to “Himuro jinja/Kokuritsu Hakubutsukan” bus stop.

40 Nobori-cho, Nara 630-8213 Japan
NTT Hello Dial: 050-5342-8600 (from within Japan)
http://www.narahaku.go.jp/english/index_e.html