

Summer 2025 Special Exhibition

Connecting with the Future: The Noto Peninsula Earthquake and Rescued Cultural Properties



We are proud to present this exhibition of cultural properties from the Noto Peninsula that were rescued following the catastrophic earthquake that occurred there in January 2024. Many of them were found in poor condition, such as items covered in dust under collapsed buildings, damaged Buddhist statues, and old documents in disarray; further efforts are still needed to unearth more. This, perhaps, raises the question of why to hold this exhibition a year and a half after this disaster. The answer, in short, is that there are still many cultural properties buried among the rubble. Even ordinary houses, or small temples or shrines, may still hold a wide variety of items that tell the story of the region's history, yet to be rescued. We hope that this exhibition raises greater awareness about these efforts to rescue cultural properties, leading to increased demand for continued work being done on this front.

【Overview and Main Exhibits】

Prologue: Encounters with Cultural Properties from a Disaster Area

The effort to rescue cultural properties began not long after the Noto Peninsula earthquake, with people just groping blindly in the wreckage for whatever they could find. At cultural property rescue sites, workers encounter all types of damaged items, across a wide range of fields.

This section focuses on cultural properties that were rescued not only in the Noto region of northern Ishikawa, which was most severely affected by the earthquake, but also in the Kaga region of southwestern Ishikawa.



- Everyday tools dating back to the Showa era (1926–1989) from a shed and storehouse in Shika that had been knocked over



- Suzu Ware jars excavated following the 1993 earthquake off the Noto Peninsula, originally from the 14th century

Section 1: Discoveries of Local History

The movement to rescue cultural properties is not limited to items that have been officially designated Cultural Properties by the national government or local governments. This means that some of the items that have been rescued to date may have yet-unknown historical value — in other words, they represent an opportunity to make new discoveries about local history.

This section features exhibits of collected items handed down from generation to generation among an old family from Noto, old writings found inside a sliding door, and more.



- Old documents from the late Edo period (ca. 1780–1850), used as backing paper for a sliding door in an old house in Suzu



- *Painting of Monkey* by Hayashi Keison, a painter from Notobe (in Nakanoto), dating back to the Showa era (1926–1989)

Section 2: The Livelihoods of Noto

One effect of the Noto Peninsula Earthquake was the major blow it dealt to many people's livelihoods; rebuilding and recovery remain major challenges.

This section focuses on the different industries that have been part of life in the Noto region, such as the fishing industry built on the peninsula's long coastline.

Additionally, the traditional craft industry of lacquerware has long been centered around the city of Wajima, and the coastal areas were also once home to hubs for a vibrant shipping industry and migrant workers.



- Documents handed down for generations in a fishing boat owner household in Suzu, dating back to the Edo period (1603–1868) through the Showa era (1926–1989)



- Wooden box and design document for shipping Wajima lacquerware samples, handed down for generations in a lacquerware artisan household, dating back to the Meiji era (1868–1912) through the Taisho era (1912–1926)

Section 3: Religious Culture in Noto

Many temples and shrines in the Noto Peninsula were damaged by the earthquake, and rescuing religious items, like their Buddhist statues and *ema* votive picture tablets, became a major focus of cultural property rescue efforts.

This section uses rescued cultural properties as a lens through which to explore the extent of the damage suffered, as well as the rescue work and “first aid” treatments that are ongoing parts of this effort to preserve the religious culture of the Noto region.



- A wooden seated Amida Nyorai Buddha statue being rescued from the collapsed main hall of Sogenji Temple, in Suzu (July 2024)



- A wooden seated Yakushi Nyorai Buddha statue discovered in the process of cultural property rescue, originally from 1528 (from the collection of Koshoji Temple in Suzu)

Section 4: The Noto Revealed by Everyday Tools

A large number of everyday tools have been rescued from ordinary homes in the disaster-stricken area, offering a closer look at the lifestyles and culture of the region.

In this section, these rescued tools shed light on the Noto Peninsula's natural environment and lifestyles. This section also focuses on some local folk artisans who were previously largely unknown.



- Bamboo crafts made in Sasanami, Shika, dating back to the Showa era (1926–1989)



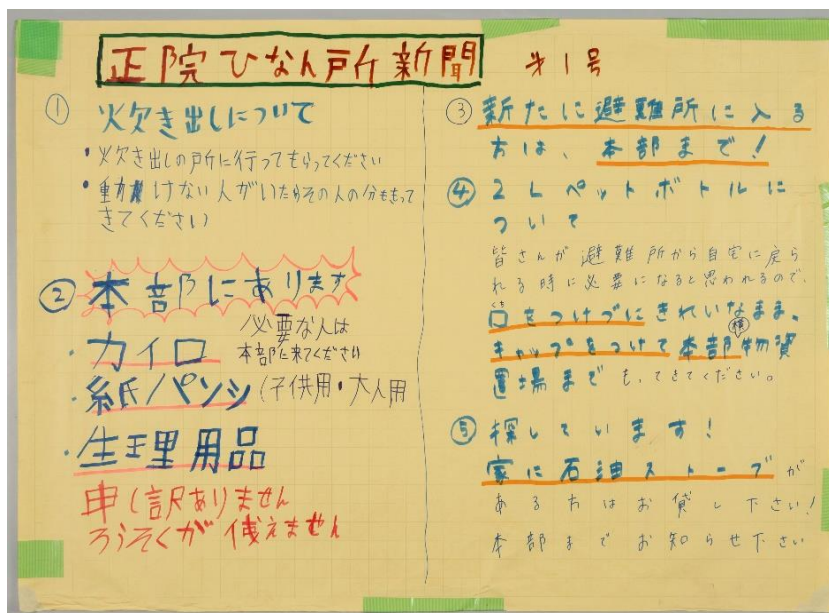
- Sake serving set used for wedding ceremonies, handed down for generations in a fishing boat owner household in Shika, dating back to the Showa era (1926–1989)

Epilogue: Passing on the Disaster to the Future

In addition to cultural properties that were rescued, the question of what materials and records should be preserved to convey this great disaster to future generations is a pressing issue. In this chapter, we will learn from past disaster records and consider disaster materials, such as evacuation shelter materials, that should be passed on to future generations.



- Picture postcard showing the 1922 flood of the Saigawa River



- Shoin Evacuation Site Newspaper, vol. 1 (2024)

Dates: Sat., Jul. 26 to Sun., Aug. 31, 2025

Hours: 9:00 to 17:00 (last admission at 16:30)

Open 7 days a week during the exhibition period

Venue: Special Exhibition Room and Project Exhibition Room

Admission: Adults ¥300 (¥240), university and professional school students ¥240 (¥190)

- Free admission for high school students and younger
 - Prices shown in parentheses above are price per person for groups of 20 or more, or prices for visitors 65 and older.
 - Free admission upon presentation of disability certification or Mirairo ID, for holder and one accompanying person.
- Additional fee required for admission to the Kaga-Honda Museum.
- Electronic tickets are also available (with no designated date/time).

Electronic Tickets :

- Admission: Adults ¥300, university and professional school students ¥240

Notes

- Discounts (such as for visitors 65 and older) are not available with electronic tickets. To take advantage of discounts, please purchase tickets at the counter on the day of your visit.
- Electronic tickets have no designated date or time, and there are no guarantees for admission time slots.

Organizer: Ishikawa Prefectural Museum of History

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