

2021 Autumn Special Exhibition

Lives and Treasures of the Owari Tokugawa Princesses

September 18 (Sat.) - November 7 (Sun.), 2021

INTRODUCTION

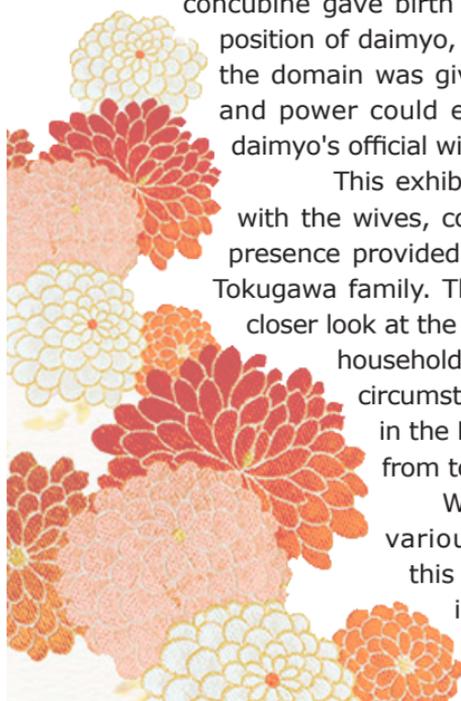
The women of the daimyo families of the Edo period do not often appear at the foreground of the historical stage. However, if we delve more deeply into the histories of these daimyo families, it becomes clear that the presence of women and the relationships formed through their marriages—the connections forged through daimyos' official wives and concubines as well as their birth mothers and daughters—did at times have considerable influence on politics and can provide an important perspective on the histories of these families.

As the senior lineage of the three main branches of the Tokugawa clan, the successive generations of heads of the Owari Tokugawa family took as their official wives the daughters of various branches of the Tokugawa clan, including the shogunal family, as well as ladies from famed noble families, such as the Konoë and Kujō households. These official wives functioned as bridges between the Owari Tokugawa and their birth families, playing a unique political role while also managing the various cultural and ritual aspects of their new marital lives.

At the same time, daimyo households of the Edo period included many other women, such as concubines, whose presence was critical for ensuring the continuity of the family line. If a concubine gave birth to a son who succeeded to the position of daimyo, her role as mother of the lord of the domain was given great weight and her status and power could even come to rival those of the daimyo's official wife.

This exhibition presents objects connected with the wives, concubines, and daughters whose presence provided the underpinnings of the Owari Tokugawa family. Through these objects, it offers a closer look at the lives of the women of the daimyo household while also giving attention to the circumstances of marriage and family life in the Edo period, which differed greatly from today.

We are deeply grateful to the various lenders who contributed to this exhibition and to all the people involved for their support and cooperation.



創 *Section 1: Inception*

LADIES OF TOKUGAWA YOSHINAO, FIRST LORD OF OWARI

The Owari Tokugawa family began with Tokugawa Yoshinao (1600–1650), who was the ninth son of Tokugawa Ieyasu by his concubine Okame. After Yoshinao became the daimyo of Owari at just eight years of age, his birth mother worked hard to build a political support system for him by forming an inner circle of advisors of her own blood relatives from early on. Without her, the Owari family may not have developed in its early years.

Yoshinao's marriage to his official wife Haruhime took place in the period between the winter and summer campaigns of the siege of Osaka and was a strategic arrangement in the midst of a still embattled political climate. The two did not have children, but Yoshinao had a son, Mitsutomo (later the second Lord of Owari) and a daughter Kyōhime, by his concubines Osai and Ojō.

華 *Section 2: Germination*

LADIES OF TOKUGAWA MITSUTOMO, SECOND LORD OF OWARI

In order to preserve his own bloodline and strengthen the power of the shogunate, the third shogun, Tokugawa Iemitsu, married his daughter Chiyohime to Tokugawa Mitsutomo (1625–1700) when she was just three years old. The luxurious wedding trousseau known as the "Hatsune Furnishings," which she brought with her when she married, exemplified the authority of her position as a princess of the shogunal family. She continued to serve as a bridge with the shogunal family for the next sixty years, even as her younger brothers Ietsuna and Tsunayoshi became the fourth and fifth shoguns, and her position brought many benefits to the Owari family. Her first son, Tsunanari, became the third Lord of Owari, and her second son, Yoshiyuki, became the first head of the Matsudaira family of Takasu.

In deference to Chiyohime, who lived in Edo, all of Mitsutomo's concubines were kept in his home domain of Owari. Kadenokōji, the birth mother of his third son, Yoshimasa, held the highest rank among them for a long time.

栄 *Section 3: Prosperity*

LADIES OF TOKUGAWA TSUNANARI, THIRD LORD OF OWARI

Tsunanari's (1652–1699) official wife was his cousin Niigimi, a daughter of the courtier Hirohata Tadayuki and Kyōhime, the daughter of Yoshinao, first Lord of Owari. The two had no children together. Of Tsunanari's thirteen concubines whose names are known, Umekōji bore him the most children and held the top position. With a total of 39 children, including adopted children, Tsunanari also had the most children of all the successive heads of the family. Although he ruled for only six years, Tsunanari followed the second Lord of Owari, Mitsutomo, in presiding over an era of grand fortune.

揺 *Section 4: Flux*

LADIES OF THE FOURTH TO SEVENTH LORDS OF
OWARI, YOSHIMICHI TO MUNEHARU

Over time, daimyo families gradually placed more and more importance on family rank when forming marital ties. Accordingly, in the Owari family, fourth-generation Yoshimichi's (1689–1713) wife, Sukegimi, came from the Kujō family, and sixth-generation Tsugutomo's (1692–1730) wife, Akogimi, came from the Konoe family, both distinguished aristocratic households. However, with the untimely deaths of one after the other head of family and the forced retirement of seventh-generation Muneharu (1696–1764) by the shogunate, this marked a period of instability during which the headship of the family changed hands four times in a span of 40 years. With the exception of fifth-generation Gorōta (1711–1713), the succession was passed between siblings and, so with each change in headship not only Yoshimichi's mother, Shimousa, but also Tsugutomo's mother, Izumi, and Muneharu's mother, Umezu, were all treated with the honor accorded to birth mothers of the successive daimyo.

安 *Section 5: Stability*

LADIES OF THE EIGHTH AND NINTH LORDS OF
OWARI, MUNEKATSU AND MUNECHIKA

Munekatsu (1705–1761) married Sanhime, the eldest daughter of Yoshimichi, fourth head of the Kawatakubo Matsudaira clan, but she died early and even after he became daimyo of Owari, he did not take another official wife. He did, however, have fifteen sons and ten daughters during his lifetime, sending five sons to head other families and marrying six daughters into other families.

Munehika (1732–1799) took Takagimi, a native of the Konoe family, as his official wife. After Takagimi's death, Yori-hime, originally of the Kii Tokugawa family and wife of his adopted son Haruyuki, took charge of the affairs of the inner household. Munehika carried on Munekatsu's reforms of domain management and conducted a stable administration for a long time, gaining respect as a great revivalist ruler of the domain. However, in his later years, his intended successors predeceased him one after another and the bloodline that had continued unbroken since first-generation daimyo Yoshinao ended with Munehika.

権 *Section 6: Power*

LADIES OF THE TENTH TO THIRTEENTH LORDS OF
OWARI, NARITOMO TO YOSHITSUGU

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激 Section 7: Upheaval

LADIES OF THE FOURTEENTH TO SIXTEENTH LORDS OF OWARI, YOSHIKATSU TO YOSHINORI

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Women born or marrying into a daimyo family were required to learn the etiquettes and rules of samurai women. Their education included the appreciation of calligraphy, painting, and poetry as well as proficiency in playing a musical instrument such as the zither (*koto*) or lute (*biwa*). Women of samurai family also trained in some form of martial art in which swords (*katana*) or halberds (*naginata*) were used. There were also strict regulations on the attire of daughters from high-ranking families. For special events, functions, or ceremonies throughout the year, the materials, colors, and designs of the small-sleeved kimono (*kosode*) or other garment that one wore on any of those days, depended on the season, family rank, the wearer's age.



Scene of Hairdressing, from *Chiyoda no Ō-Oku*
(Inner precincts of Edo Castle) (detail)
By Yōshū Chikanobu (1838–1912)
Meiji period, dated 1894

THE LORDS AND THE WIVES OF THE OWARI TOKUGAWA FAMILY

*In the Edo period, names of ladies were usually called courteously with "o" at the top of the name or "-nokata" at the end.

*Concubines include official and unofficial ones.

	NAME	YEARS OF BIRTH AND DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
1st Lord	Yoshinao	1600-1650	51
official wife	Haruhime	1602-1637	36
concubine	Jō	?-1634	?
concubine	Sai	1608-1684	77
2nd Lord	Mitsutomo	1625-1700	76
official wife	Chiyohime	1637-1698	62
concubine	Fuseya	?-1672	?
concubine	Kadenokōji	1627-1705	79
concubine	Daini	?-1692	?
concubine	Shinshikibu	?-1705	?
concubine	?	?	?
concubine	Tsuchi	?-1684	?
concubine	Umenoeda	?-1683	?
concubine	Itsu	?	?
3rd Lord	Tsunanari	1652-1699	48
official wife	Niigimi	1654-1692	39
concubine	Umekōji	?-1730	?
concubine	Dan	?	?
concubine	Reiyo	?	?
concubine	Shimousa	1665-1739	75
concubine	Shimousa	?	?
concubine	Nanba	?	?
concubine	Izumi	?-1738	?
concubine	Ako	?	?
concubine	Karahashi	?-1699	?
concubine	Umezu	1674-1743	70
concubine	Kikuyama	?-1746	?
concubine	Kurahashi	?-1743	?
concubine	Shin	?	?
4th Lord	Yoshimichi	1689-1713	25
official wife	Sukegimi	1690-1731	42
concubine	San	?-1712	?
concubine	Onoe	?	?
5th Lord	Gorōta	1711-1713	3
6th Lord	Tsugutomo	1692-1730	39
official wife	Akogimi	1704-1725	22
concubine	Ukyō	?-1760	?
7th Lord	Muneharu	1696-1764	69
concubine	Umezu	?-1769	?
concubine	Minbu	?-1757	?
concubine	Iyo	?	?
concubine	Izumi	?-1780	?

	NAME	YEARS OF BIRTH AND DEATH	AGE AT DEATH
8th Lord	Munekatsu	1705-1761	57
official wife	Sanhime	1710-1730	21
concubine	Kayo	?-1773	?
concubine	Sume	?	?
concubine	Tose	1719-1742	24
concubine	Tsuya	?-1742	?
concubine	Miho	?-1740	?
concubine	Tomeya	?	?
concubine	Soyo	?-1800	?
concubine	Miyo	?	?
concubine	Yon	?	?
9th Lord	Munechika	1733-1799	67
official wife	Takagimi	1730-1778	49
10th Lord	Naritomo	1793-1850	58
official wife	Hidehime	1789-1817	29
11th Lord	Nariharu	1819-1839	21
official wife	Aihime	1818-1832	15
second wife	Sachigimi	1820-1840	21
12th Lord	Naritaka	1810-1845	36
official wife	Yuhime	1807-1872	66
concubine	Tosa	?	?
concubine	Yao	?	?
concubine	Kume	?	?
13th Lord	Yoshitsugu	1836-1849	14
14th & 17th Lord	Yoshikatsu	1824-1883	60
official wife	Kanehime	1831-1902	72
concubine	Tama	?-1903	?
concubine	Yuki	?-1871	?
concubine	Take	?-1873	?
concubine	Kazu	?-1933	?
15th Lord	Mochinaga	1831-1884	54
official wife	Masahime	1838-1909	72
concubine	Chika	?	?
16th Lord	Yoshinori	1858-1875	18

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Organized by
The Tokugawa Art Museum, Hosa Library-City of Nagoya and
The Yomiuri Shimbun



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