

THEMATIC EXHIBITION
ANNUAL FESTIVALS AND CELEBRATIONS,
PAST AND PRESENT

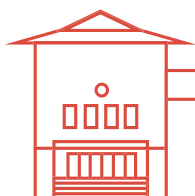


FEBRUARY 5 (SAT.) - APRIL 3 (SUN.) 2022
AT HOSA LIBRARY EXHIBITION ROOM

FOREWORD

Annual events that are repeated each year at the same time were passed down by a wide range of people, from court nobles and samurai families to townspeople. Some of these customs, such as the *Hina* Doll Festival, which is held on the seasonal division known as *jōshi*, are still alive today as part of modern culture, while others have been lost or are no longer part of our lives.

Focusing on printed books and paintings from the Edo period, this exhibition explores the differences between events that enriched the lives of people in the past and annual customs today.



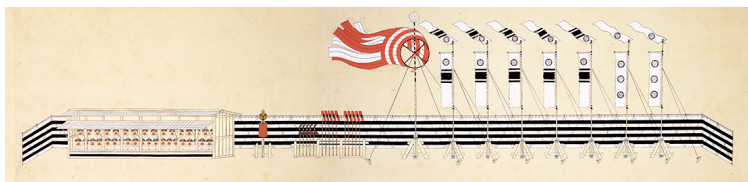
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PART 1

ANNUAL FESTIVALS THROUGH THE AGES

Throughout history, the Japanese people have held numerous annual rituals and celebrations. From the Heian period, many explanatory texts and procedural catalogs were compiled to ensure the smooth execution of these events and to record them for posterity. Paintings depicting these events were also widely produced and mention of them can be found in the *Tsurayuki-shū*, a collection of the poetry of the Heian courtier Ki no Tsurayuki, and in the classical narrative *The Tale of Genji*, indicating that the glamorous nature of these events was appreciated in paintings from early on.

In the Edo period, annual events celebrated not only by noble and warrior families but also by the common people were depicted repeatedly in Ukiyo-e and illustrated books. These books can serve as a guide to how such customs were conducted and what they looked like, even for events that have since fallen out of practice.



PART 2

THE FIVE SEASONAL FESTIVALS AND OTHER ANNUAL EVENTS

One custom that continues to be widely popular today is the celebration of the Five Seasonal Festivals. They are: Jinjitsu, which is the seventh day of the First Month; Jōshi, which is the third day of the Third Month; Tango, which is the fifth day of the Fifth Month; Shichiseki, which is the seventh day of the Seventh Month; and Chōyō, which is the ninth day of the Ninth Month.

Originally, Ganjitsu, the first day of the First Month, was considered one of the Five Festival days, instead of Jinjitsu, but in the early Edo period, Jinjitsu was included as one of the Five Festivals by the Shogunate, and they were declared official ceremonial days. Propelled by this designation, the Five Seasonal Festivals spread throughout the country, and became events that were looked forward to by all, from adults to children, regardless of social status.

In 1873, the Five Festivals ceased to be official national holidays, but the practices did not die out, and in fact, the Jōshi, Tango, and Shichiseki festivals have become even more popular, and continue to be celebrated to this day. This exhibition presents various annual customs, with a particular focus on the Five Seasonal Festivals.

