

Thematic Exhibition

The Kanazawa Bunko Manuscripts: The Story of Wandering Books

From: Saturday, 7 February 2026
To: Sunday, 5 April 2026

Organizer:

Hosa Bunko Library, Tokugawa Art Museum and
Kanazawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

Remarks:
*The exhibits may be changed due to various reasons without notice.
*The order of exhibits in this list do not necessarily correspond to the order of exhibition.
*Some works will be exhibited only during periods A or B:
<A>: 7 February - 8 March, 2026
: 10 March - 5 April, 2026

Foreword

Founded by the 13th-century samurai warrior Hojo Sanetoki, Kanazawa Bunko is the oldest “Buke-bunko” (samurai-family library), and is renowned as a treasure house of classical manuscripts. After the fall of the Kamakura Shogunate, Tokugawa Ieyasu actively worked to reassemble the library’s collections, which had been scattered. A portion of the collection, which became known as the “Suruga o-yuzuribon,” was passed down to his son, Yoshinao, and is now stored in the Hosa Bunko. This exhibition presents the rich history of the “Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts,” through the collaboration of two institutions dedicated to preserving those treasures.

Part 1

The Founding of the Kanazawa Bunko and Shomyoji Temple

Hojo Sanetoki (1224–1276) was a warrior-official who held key positions in the Kamakura Shogunate and effectively became the first head of what would become the Kanesawa Hojo clan. Around 1275, Sanetoki established the document repository known as the Kanazawa Bunko adjacent to his villa near Shomyoji temple (in present-day Kanazawa Ward, Yokohama City). Successive heads of the clan transcribed and collected important Japanese and Chinese texts, which were stored in the Kanazawa Bunko, resulting in the formation of the collection now known as the “Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts.” After the fall of the Kamakura Shogunate, many of the repository’s holdings were lost, but what remained was passed down and preserved as representing the “essence of medieval wisdom.” This section introduces the history of the Kanesawa Hojo clan and the state of the Kanazawa Bunko during the Kamakura period as seen through the Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts preserved today in the collections of Shomyoji temple and the Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum.

1 **National Treasure** <A>
Portrait of Hojo Sanetoki
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

1
Portrait of Hojo Sanetoki (Replica)
Kamakura period
Original: Shomyoji-Temple/Replica: Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

2 **National Treasure** <A>
Autograph Letter from Hojo Sanetoki on a prohibition on killing in the inlet of Mutsura-no-sho
Kamakura period, 1273
Shomyoji-Temple

3 **National Treasure** <A>
Saemonnojo Toshiuji Ukebumi (A document informing the master that Saemonnojo-toshiuji had carried out a certain task)
Kamakura period, 1273
Shomyoji-Temple

4 **National Treasure**
Copy of Hojo Sanetoki’s Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

5 **National Treasure**
A Sermon Script for Fundraising
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

6 **Important Cultural Property** <A>
Votive Text written by Ensai (Wife of Hojo Sanetoki)
Shomyoji-Temple

7 **National Treasure**
Letter from Shinkai (on his stay at shomyoji-Temple)
Kamakura period, 1267
Shomyoji-Temple

8 **National Treasure** <A>
Portrait of Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

8
Portrait of Hojo Akitoki (Replica)
Kamakura period
Original: Shomyoji-Temple/Replica: Modern times
Replica: Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

9 **National Treasure**
Denshin-Hoyo (A classic text of Zen)
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

10 **National Treasure**
Nanka Shinkei Chuso (Annotation of Nanhua Zhenjing, Song dynasty printed edition)
Southern Song dynasty
Shomyoji-Temple

11 **National Treasure** <A>
Draft of a forged donation document attributed to Hojo Akitoki
Nanbokucho period
Shomyoji-Temple

12 **National Treasure** <A>
Autograph letter from Hojo Akitoki reporting the gift of three fans to a senior monk of Shomyoji
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

13 **Important Cultural Property**
Engakukyo (Sutra of Perfect Enlightenment)
Kamakura period, 1333
Shomyoji-Temple

14 **National Treasure**
Letter by an unknown author on the death of Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

15 **National Treasure**
Draft of Buddhist liturgical text (*Fujumon*) for the 13th memorial service for Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period, 1313
Shomyoji-Temple

16 **National Treasure**
Portrait of Kanesawa Sadaaki
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

16 <A>
Portrait of Kanesawa Sadaaki (Replica)
Original: Kamakura period/Replica: Modern times
Original: Shomyoji-Temple/Replica: Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

17 **National Treasure** <A>
Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki on the management of the Kanazawa Bunko
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

18 **National Treasure**
Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki requesting copies of books for the Kanazawa Bunko
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

19 **National Treasure** <A>
Autograph Letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki reporting his appointment as *shikken*
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

20 **National Treasure**
Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki reporting Emperor Godaigo’s prayers for a safe delivery
Kamakura period, 1329
Shomyoji-Temple

21 **National Treasure** <A>
Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki concerning a female relative after childbirth
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

22 **National Treasure**
Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki, his last dated letter
Kamakura period, 1332
Shomyoji-Temple

23 **National Treasure**
Portrait of Kanesawa Sadayuki
Nanbokucho period
Shomyoji-Temple

23 <A>
Portrait of Kanesawa Sadayuki (Replica)
Nanbokucho period
Original: Shomyoji-Temple/Replica: Modern times
Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

24 **National Treasure**
Letter from Kanesawa Sadayuki reporting on the military situation
Kamakura period, 1331
Shomyoji-Temple

25 **National Treasure** <A>
Letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki reporting the gift of tea to the monk Enkyobo
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

26 **National Treasure** <A>
Letter from Kanesawa Sadayuki reporting his stay in Hakone for hot-spring treatment
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

27 **National Treasure** <A>
Letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki reporting on recent affairs
Kamakura period, 1317
Shomyoji-Temple

28 **National Treasure**
Letter from Kanesawa Sadayuki reporting on recent affairs
Kamakura period, 1326
Shomyoji-Temple

29 **National Treasure**
Monzen-shitchu (Collected Commentary on Wen Hsuan)
Heian period
Shomyoji-Temple

30 **National Treasure** <A>
A fragment of *Nanshi* (History of the Southern Dynasties, Song dynasty printed edition)
Southern Song dynasty
Shomyoji-Temple

31 **Important Cultural Property**
A fragment of *Nanshi* vol.38 of the Biography (Exemplary Lives from Southern Dynasties, Song dynasty printed edition)
Southern Song dynasty
Shomyoji-Temple

32 **Important Cultural Property**
Shohan-Issaikyo (Buddhist canon/SK.Tripitaka), Song dynasty printed edition
Southern Song dynasty
Shomyoji-Temple

33 <A>
Kanrei-sho (The Collection of proverbs quotes from some Chinese classics)
Kamakura period
Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

34 **Important Art Object**
The abstract of *Wakan Roeisho* vol.1 (The collection of Chinese and Japanese Poems for Singing)
Kamakura period
Private collection

35 **Important Cultural Property** <A>
Tamakiharu (Diary written by Kenshun-mon’in-Chunagon)
Kamakura period, 1303
Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

36 **Yokohama-City Designated Cultural Property**
A fragment of *Eiga Monogatari* (Historical essay about Emperors and nobility of the Heian period)
Kamakura period
Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

37 **National Treasure** <A>
A fragment of *Shin’yotsugi* (Historical essay of the Heian period)
Kamakura period, 1938
Shomyoji-Temple

39
Covered Casket with red corners
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

Part 2

From Kanazawa Bunko to Ieyasu, then Yoshinao

Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543–1616) was a patron of Shomyoji temple and actively acquired manuscripts from the Kanazawa Bunko collection that would likely have been lost if left where they were. After Ieyasu’s death, the majority of his collection was passed on to the shogunal family and three cadet branches of the Tokugawa family through a bequest that became known as the Suruga o-yuzuribon.

Tokugawa Yoshinao (1601–1650), the first head of the Owari Tokugawa family, established his own private library in a facility known as the O-Bunko to house items from the Suruga bequest—including six Kanazawa Bunko volumes—as well as documents from his own collection. Subsequent heads of the Owari Tokugawa family continued to refine the library’s management system, opened up its holdings to scholars both from inside and outside their domain, and promoted its use. The historical research that they conducted utilizing these Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts is highly regarded even today.

[Reference Work-1] <A>
Portrait of Toshō Daigongen (Tokugawa Ieyasu painted as God)
Edo period
Zenrinji-Temple

[Reference Work-2]
Portrait of Tokugawa Ieyasu
Late Edo period, 18th c.
Nagoya City Museum

[Reference Work-3]
Portrait of Tokugawa Yoshinao (Replica)
Copied by Sakurai Kiyoka
Showa period, 1937
The Tokugawa Art Museum

40
The Library of Owari Clan Catalogue (Genna period-Kan’ei period version)
Edo period, 1624-44
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

41 **Important Cultural Property**
The Tale of Genji (Kawachi-bon version)
Kamakura period-Muromachi period, 13th-14th c.
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

42 **National Treasure**
Genealogical chart of characters in *the Tale of Genji*
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

43 **National Treasure**
Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki concerning the loan of *The Tale of Genji*
Kamakura period, 1302
Shomyoji-Temple

44 **National Treasure** <A>
Letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki concerning the loan of *The Tale of Genji*
Kamakura period, 1302
Shomyoji-Temple

45 **Important Cultural Property**
Qimin Yaoshu Ancient Chinese agricultural texts
Edited by Jia Sixie
Kamakura period, 1274
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

46 **Important Cultural Property**
Zichu-gun’yo Court Secretary Manual
Said to have been copied by Tachibanano Hiromi
Kamakura period, 1306
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

47 **National Treasure** <A>
Letter from Mizutani Kiyōari
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

48 **Important Cultural Property**
The Shoku Nihongi (An imperially-commissioned Japanese history text)
Edited by Sugano Mamichi and others
Kamakura period 13th c.
(Vol.1-Vol.10: 1614 Supplementary Copy)
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

49 **National Treasure**
Shunjureki (Annals of the reigns of the Japanese Emperors)
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

50 **Important Cultural Property**
Taiping Shenghuifang (Medical book)
Edited by Wang Huaiyin and others
China, Southern Song dynasty, 1147
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

51
Commentary on the Spring and Autumn Annals of Gongyang
Muromachi period 14th c.
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

52
Zokochushakunben Tou-Ryu-Sensei shu (Liu Zong-yuan’s collection of works)
Written by Liu Zongyuan
Edited by Liu Yuxi Shong-sui’s annotations
Kamakura period, 1312
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

53
Owari-Tokugawa family library stamp “Gohon”
Early Edo period 17th c.
The Tokugawa Art Museum

54
Owari-Tokugawa family library stamp “Biyo-Bunko”
Early Edo period 17th c.
Private collection

55
The Library of Owari Clan Catalog (Record of book lending to the Imperial Court)
Edo period, 1624
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

56
Zichu-gun’yo Court Secretary Manual
Edo period, 1624
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

57
The Shoku Nihongi (An imperially-commissioned Japanese history text Suminokura version)
Commented by Suminokura Soan
Edo period, 1615-1624
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

58 <A>
Ruiji-Nihongi (Ancient history)
Edited by Tokugawa Yoshinao, Copied by Inaba Michikuni
Edo period, 1789-1801
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

59 <A>
The Shoku Nihongi (An imperially-commissioned Japanese history text Nomura version)
Commented by Uematsu Yasushi
Edo-Taisho period
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

60
Taiping Shenghuifang (Medical book)
Edited by Wang Huaiyin and others
Muromachi period, 1516-21
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

61 **Important Cultural Property**
Errata for *Taiping Shenghuifang* (Medical book)
Written by Yamasaki Katsusaki and Yamasaki Sosei
Edo period, 1799
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

Part 3

Preserving and Passing Down the Kanazawa Bunko Manuscript Treasures

With the fall of the Kamakura Shogunate, the Kanesawa Hojo clan was also eradicated, placing the Kanazawa Bunko in jeopardy. From the Nanbokucho period onward, the library was brought under the jurisdiction of Shomyoji temple, where its holdings were overseen together with the temple’s own Buddhist scriptural texts.

It is believed that it was during the Muromachi period that Zen monks from Kamakura stamped the library’s books with the Kanazawa Bunko seal. In the Edo period, Kondo Juzo, a shogunal Magistrate of Documents, authored a study on the Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts, pioneering research on the collection.

The Owari Tokugawa family compiled a catalogue of their library holdings, including the Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts, and worked diligently to manage and make use of them. After the Meiji Restoration, the 19th Head of Owari, Tokugawa Yoshichika (1886–1976), established a non-profit foundation and created the Hosa Library to prevent the dispersal of the collection, launching its operations as a public archive. In 1950, the Hosa Library was transferred to the City of Nagoya, under whose charge it currently remains. Today, all of the Kanazawa Bunko manuscripts held by the Hosa Bunko are designated Important Cultural Properties.

[Reference Work-4]
Illustrated Map of Shomyoji (Replica)
Original: Kamakura period, 1323 / Replica: Modern times
Original: Shomyoji-Temple/Replica: Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

62 **National Treasure** <A>
Letter from Tan’ei requesting repairs to the Kanazawa Bunko building
Nanbokucho period
Shomyoji-Temple

63 **National Treasure**
Senpi Shikukunichi Ekoman (A text of 49th day memorial buddhi festival service for late mother)
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

64
Ojokoshiki (Records of Births into the Pure Land)
Kamakura period
Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum

65 **National Treasure** <A>
A fragment of *Azuma-kagami*, a chronicle of the Kamakura shogunate
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

66 **National Treasure**
Letter from Nagai Sadahide concerning the loan of books
Kamakura period
Shomyoji-Temple

67 **National Treasure**
Catalog of Shomyoji Temple library
Edo period
Shomyoji-Temple

68
Petition for the reconstruction of a treasure house at Shomyoji-Temple
Edo period, 1649
Shomyoji-Temple

69
Karabitsu Teinai Juhoki (The treasure list stored inside of the Six-legged Chinese-style chest which is owned by Shomyoji Temple)
Muromachi period, 1439
Shomyoji-Temple

70 **National Treasure** <A>
Tozan Reihoki (This document was compiled in the Edo period which describes the origins of Shomyoji Temple and Kanazawa Bunko, as well as the treasures that have been passed down to Shomyoji Temple)
Edo period, 1730
Shomyoji-Temple

71
Study of the Kanazawa bunko and the Kanazawa Hojo clan
Edo period
Shomyoji-Temple

72 **National Treasure**
Shoryo-shu-sho (Excerpts from *Shoryo-shu* written by Kukai)
Edo period
Shomyoji-Temple

73 **Important Cultural Property** <A>
A fragment of the *Hosso Ruirin* (Classified works of legal scholars)
Kamakura period, 1304
Shomyoji-Temple

74 **Important Cultural Property**
Reprinted Section of the *Hosso Ruirin* (Classified works of legal scholars)
Kamakura period, 1304
Shomyoji-Temple

[Reference Work-5]
Diagram of the Ninomaru Garden of Nagoya Castle
Early Edo period 17th c.
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

75
Diagram of the Ninomaru of Nagoya Castle
Late Edo period 19th c.
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

76
Nagoya Castle survey record “Kinjo-Onkoroku”
Edited by Okumura Katsuyoshi and Okumura Sadame
Meiji period, 1902
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

77
The Library of Owari Clan Catalogue (Catalog of the Tozai Library Version)
Edo period, ca. 1800
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

78
The Library of Owari Clan Catalog (1782 version)
Edited by Kawamura Hidekai
Edo period, 1782
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

79
The Library of Owari Clan Catalog (Kansei period version)
1789-1801
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

80
The Library of Owari Clan Catalog (Kansei period version)
Edo period, 1789-1801
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

81
Overview of the Hosa Library
The Owari-Tokugawa Reimeikai Foundation
Showa period, 1938
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

82
Hosa Library Catalogue (1935 version)
The “Kanazawa Bunko Reimeikai” Foundation
Showa period, 1935
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

83
Newspaper article on the designation of manuscripts formerly held at the Kanazawa Bunko, now in the Hosa Bunko collection, as Important Cultural Properties
Showa period, 1954
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

[Reference Work-6]
Imagined view of Kanazawa Bunko and members of the Kanazawa Hojo clan
By Yamada Akie
Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

[Reference Work-7]
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Showa period, 1953
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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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By Yamada Akie
Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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By Yamada Akie
Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

[Reference Work-24]
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By Yamada Akie
Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

[Reference Work-25]
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By Yamada Akie
Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

[Reference Work-26]
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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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Showa period, 1953
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Hosa Library, City of Nagoya

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[Reference Work-35]
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By Yamada Akie
Showa period, 1953
Hosa Library, City of Nagoya