

The Kanazawa Bunko Manuscripts: The Story of Wandering Books

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

Organizer:
Hosaka 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 Hosaka 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 Shomyo-ji 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 Shomyo-ji 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 Shomyo-ji Temple and the Kanagawa Prefectural Kanazawa Bunko Museum.

1 National Treasure <A>

Portrait of Hojo Sanetoki
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

1

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

2 National Treasure <A>

Autograph Letter from Hojo Sanetoki on a prohibition on killing the nest of Matsura-ho-sho
Kamakura period, 1273
Shomyo-ji-Temple

3 National Treasure <A>

Saemonnojo Toshijuji Ukebuni (A document informing the master that Saemonnojo-toshijuji had carried out a certain task)
Kamakura period, 1273
Shomyo-ji-Temple

4 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Sanetoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

5 National Treasure

A Sermon Script for Fundraising
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

6 Important Cultural Property <A>

Votive Text written by Ensei (Wife of Hojo Sanetoki)
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

7 National Treasure

Letter from Shinkai (On his stay at Shomyo-ji Temple)
Kamakura period, 1267
Shomyo-ji-Temple

8 National Treasure <A>

Portrait of Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

8

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

9 National Treasure

Denshin-Hojo (A classic text of Zen)
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

10 National Treasure

Nanka Shinkei Chuso (Annotation of Nanhua Zhenjing, Song dynasty printed edition)
Southern Song dynasty
Shomyo-ji-Temple

11 National Treasure <A>

Draft of a forged donation document attributed to Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

12 National Treasure <A>

Autograph letter from Hojo Akitoki reporting the gift of three fans to a senior monk of Shomyo-ji
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

13 Important Cultural Property

Engaku-kyo (Sutra of Perfect Enlightenment)
Kamakura period, 1333
Shomyo-ji-Temple

14 National Treasure

Letter by an unknown author on the death of Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

15 National Treasure

Draft of Buddhist liturgical text (Fujunon) for the 13th memorial service for Hojo Akitoki
Kamakura period, 1313
Shomyo-ji-Temple

16 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

17 National Treasure <A>

Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki on the management of the Kanazawa Bunko
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

18 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

19 National Treasure <A>

Autograph Letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki reporting his appointment as shikken
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

20 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

21 National Treasure <A>

Autograph letter from Kanesawa Sadaaki concerning a donation of tea to the Hojo family
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

22 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

23 National Treasure <A>

Portrait of Kanesawa Sadaaki
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

24 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

25 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

26 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

27 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

28 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

29 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

30 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

31 Important Cultural Property <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

32 Important Cultural Property

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

33 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

34 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

35 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

36 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

37 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

38 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

39 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

40 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

41 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

42 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

43 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

44 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

45 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

46 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

47 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

48 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

49 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

50 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

51 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

52 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

53 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

54 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

55 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

56 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

57 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

58 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

59 National Treasure <A>

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple

60 National Treasure

Copy of Hojo Akitoki's Letter
Kamakura period
Shomyo-ji-Temple