

Tosa Yamauchi Family —Lord of Tosa Domain



Portrait of Yamauchi Katsutoyo

Sixteen generations of the Yamauchi Family ruled over Tosa Domain during the Edo Period – from the early 17th until the mid 19th Century.

The first lord, Katsutoyo Yamauchi (1545-1605) was born into a powerful military family in Owari no Kuni (present day Aichi prefecture).

While still young, his father was defeated in battle and he was left to wander Japan.

He later served Toyotomi Hideyoshi, rising through the ranks until he fought on the side of Tokugawa Ieyasu in the Battle of Sekigahara. For his efforts, he was awarded the Tosa Domain, and became lord of Kochi Castle.



Photograph of Yamauchi Toyonori
(16th lord of Tosa Domain)

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Tosa Yamauchi Family

土佐山内家宝物資料館

Treasury and Archives

Tosa Yamauchi Family Treasury and Archives

The Tosa Yamauchi Family Treasury and Archives houses materials related to the Yamauchi family—the rulers of the Tosa Domain throughout the Edo Period.

These materials date from the Edo Period (17th-19th Century), and were once found in Kochi Castle and its surroundings. Since the Meiji period, they were held by the Yamauchi family in Tokyo and Kochi, but due to damage caused by earthquakes, upheavals associated with political change, and bombings in 1945, a portion of the collection has sadly been lost. However, the current collection amounts to some 67,000 pieces. These artifacts were gradually donated to Kochi Prefecture, and by 2004 all family-related materials became property of its citizens.

The Collection

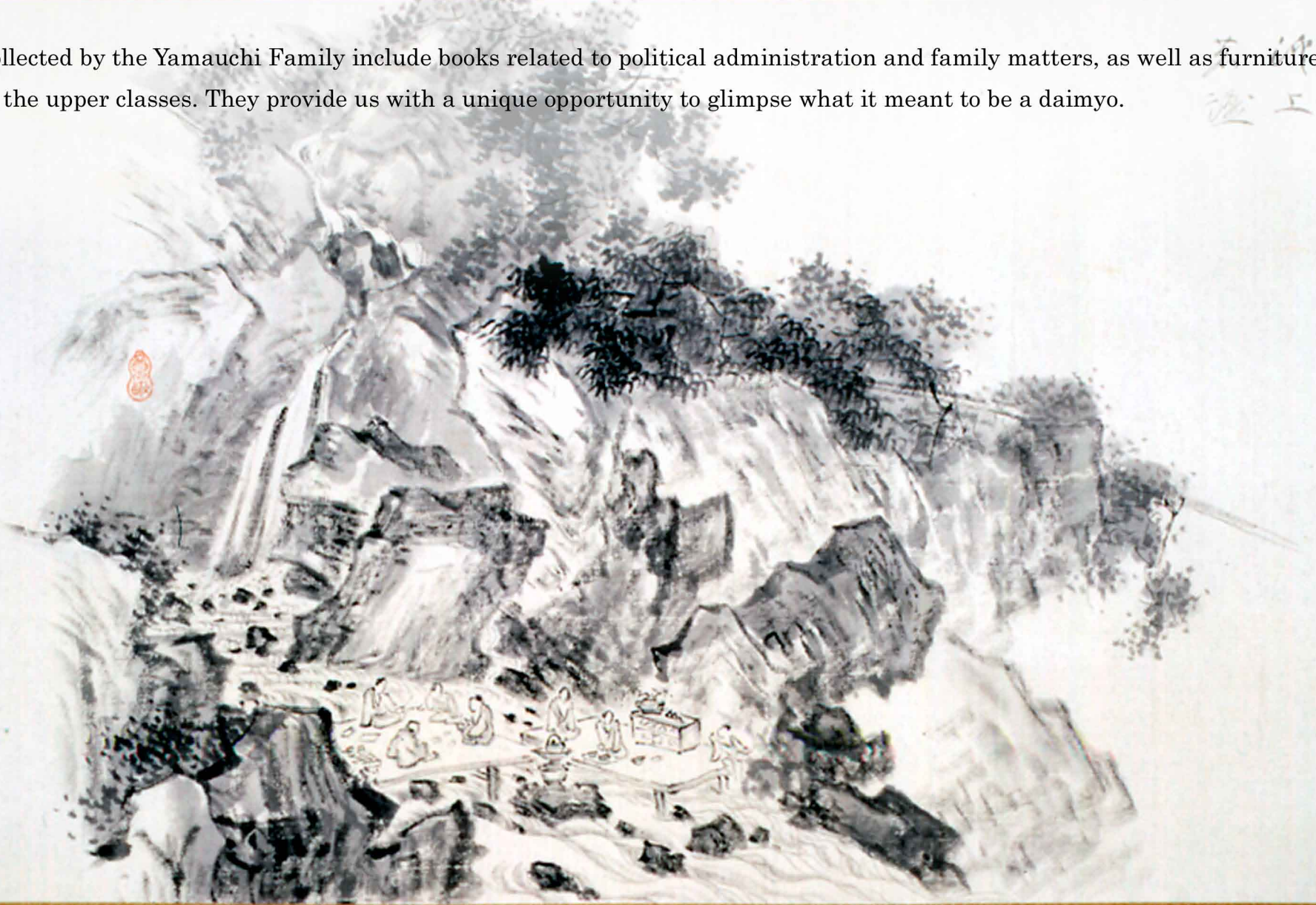
Antique Documents: 30,000
(Late 16th ~ Early 20th Century)
Art and Crafts: 5,000
(documents, pictures, weapons, furniture,
Noh theatre materials, tea-ceremony materials)
Japanese and Chinese Books: 20,000
Modern Books: 2,000
Antique Photographs: 10,000

Daimyo — Feudal Families in the Edo Period

In the Edo Period, lords of each domain (*han*) were granted the title of *daimyo*. This title gave them a superior position amongst samurai, subordinate only to the *Shogun*, and allowed them to control many retainers. Lords exercised political control over the lands granted by the *Shogun*, while also serving in the *Shogun's* army in Edo (present-day Tokyo). As a result, lords often moved between Edo and their home seat, periodically meeting with the *Shogun* in Edo, or engaging in negotiations with external parties. In their home territories lords saw to internal affairs, including collecting taxes from the local inhabitants, fostering the development of agriculture and forestry, and overseeing their many retainers.

The materials collected by the Yamauchi Family include books related to political administration and family matters, as well as furniture and clothing used by the upper classes. They provide us with a unique opportunity to glimpse what it meant to be a daimyo.

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Photographs

1. 'Screen of Yodo Ko' s Travels to Hakone'
(Yodo Ko – the 15th Lord – traveled to Hakone) 19th Century
2. Lotus-design China Bowl
(A Chinese-made bowl with lotus design presented to the Yamauchi Family by the local inhabitants) 14-16th Century
3. Early Seto Lobed Tea Container
(A container for *Matcha* presented by the *Shogun*) circa 15th Century
4. *Ko-omote* Noh Mask (Young Woman) 17-18th Century
5. Hirotochi Sword (Presented by the Emperor) 17th Century
6. Deeds to the Domain (Territorial deeds presented by the *Shogun*) 17th Century
7. Girls' Festival Materials (Miniature girls' festival goods from when the *Shogun's* daughter married into the Yamauchi Family)
8. Commemorative Photograph of the Fujinami Shrine Festival
(Depicting a warrior precession at the time of the festival) Early 20th Century