

The specially created exhibition

The 50th anniversary after the death of Keigetsu Matsubayashi

**Keigetsu Matsubayashi, the authority of the southern
school of Chinese painting world in Japan.**



(Saturday), Sept. 21 ~ (Sunday), Dec. 8, 2013

The first term---Sept. 21 ~(Tuesday). Oct. 29

The latter term---(Thursday), Oct. 31~Dec. 8, 2013



The Hagi Museum
355 Horiuchi, Hagi City, Yamaguchi 758-0057

Keigetsu Matsubayashi (1876~1963) was actively engaged in the field of Japanese painting, especially in the field of Chinese painting in the Taisho and the first half of the Showa period and gained an indisputable position in the Japanese artists' world. Moreover, he expended his own money upon various kinds of public undertakings of Hagi city, and he was recommended as an honorary citizen of Hagi city. Here we are to exhibit his painting works and autographs, articles left behind and photos, which have been handed down from generation to generation in his birth place of Hagi. We'd like you to appreciate the painting world of Keigetsu's. We also introduce the close connection between Keigetsu and the city of Hagi.

Keigetsu Matsubayashi Aug.18, 1876 ~ May 22, 1963

He was born as the second son of Tokuichi Ito at Nakawatashi, in Yamada village, Abu county(Yamada, Hagi city). His real name was Atsushi. After graduating from Hokusui elementary school(Hagi municipal Hokusui elementary school), he entered the service of the village office in Akiragi village, Abu county(Akiragi, Hagi city). At the age of 19, he went up to Tokyo with the help of Yoshinaga Takiguchi, a member of the Upper House, who was from the same village, and he became a pupil of Yukoku Noguchi, a Japanese painting artist. In 1901, he married Takako Matsubayashi and bore the name of Matsubayashi.

He was actively engaged in the field of Japanese painting, especially in the field of the southern school of Chinese painting and he became a judge of the Imperial Academy's art exhibition(Teiten) in 1919. He became a member of the Imperial Academy Art in 1932, an Imperial academician in 1937. Moreover, he became a court artist in 1944 and gained an indisputable position in the Japanese painting world.

After the war, he not only became an authority of the southern school of Chinese painting, but also played an important role as a representative artist in the Japanese painting world. He became a judge of the art exhibition sponsored by the Juridical Corporate Association, which was newly organized, and he was awarded an Order of Cultural Merits in 1958. In 1959, he organized the Japanese southern school of Chinese painting academy. Besides donating much money to various public undertakings of Hagi city, he contributed the construction expenses of the lecture hall and his works to his alma mater of Hokusui elementary school.

Fukushima prefecture and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

In 1901, Keigetsu married Takako Matsubayashi (the second name Setsutei) and assumed the family name of Matsubayashi. The wife of Keigetsu was from Shirakawa and her father was of a chief retainer birth of the former Shirakawa domain. Soon after Keigetsu's real elder brother graduated from a sericulture school, he entered the service of Fukushima prefecture office and Keigetsu's real mother died under his brother's roof. Besides, it is believed that his uncle, Yusuke Kodama, who belonged to the second platoon, the second company, the first battalion of the Choshu domain, went into the Boshin war and died in battle at Shirakawa. His tomb is in Shirakawa. That's why he said, "I originally came from Hagi in Choshu, but I was adopted into the family of Matsubayashi, so I've been treated as a person from Fukushima prefecture."



[Mr. and Mrs. Matsubayashi who visited the residence of Takiguchi, around 1938, private possessions]



[Keigetsu's uncle, Yusuke Kodama, in the possession of the Hagi museum]

Yoshinaga Takiguchi and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

Yoshinaga Takiguchi was a representative of the Takiguchi family, who served the village office of Akiragi as a village headman. He was a statesman who was successively a chairman of Yamaguchi prefectural assembly, a member of the Lower House. Keigetsu graduated from an elementary school, he entered the service of the village office in Akiragi village and joined in “the young men’s organization called “the Chikusuikai” under the presidency of Takiguchi. Recognized by Takiguchi as a man of promise, he was offered to pay 5 yen every month (The starting salary of the elementary school teacher was 8 yen.) for his education and went up to Tokyo. Keigetsu, who wanted to be a painter, was indebted him. After Takiguchi died, Keigetsu composed an epitaph for the monument in honor of Takiguchi. Moreover, when he returned to Hagi, he never failed to drop in at his house and paid a visit to his tomb.



[Yoshinaga Takiguchi and Keigetsu in Hagi in 1913, private possessions]



[Yoshinaga Takiguchi (the third from the left) and Keigetsu (the second from the right) at “the Kotoku dou” in the residence of Takiguchi around 1926, private possessions]

Masatsugu Yamane and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

Masatsugu Yamane was a doctor of the Hagi domain and served successively as a chief police medical officer and became a member of the Lower House. Keigetsu got acquainted with Yamane through Yoshinaga Takiguchi. In 1897, when he sent his works called “Dotokenchozu” to the Japan Art Association and won the third prize of a copper medal, he borrowed 5 yen as the cost of silk. Keigetsu, who was suffering from a lung trouble, returned to Hagi in 1898 and went up to Tokyo again in 1901 to work for the medical affairs bureau of the Metropolitan Police Office together with Yamane. Later, he recollected those days, saying in the manuscript titled “Mr. Yamane’s favor” that the doctor was really in my mind and helped me with my works of painting on display. He was a benefactor when I restarted painting and he was a healer of an incurable disease.



[Masatsugu Yamane in the middle of the Meiji period, in the possession of the Hagi museum]



[“Dr. Yamane’s favor” manuscript, in the possession of the Hagi museum]

Kaoru Inoue and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

Kaoru Inoue was a clansman of the old Hagi domain and appointed the first Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was known not only as a statesman but also as a collector of old art. The works painted by Keigetsu were shown to Hirobumi Ito, Inoue was there too. Knowing that Keigetsu was from Yamaguchi prefecture, he recommended Keigetsu to study old painting. For more than ten years around 1904, he made frequent visits to the residence of Inoue to study old art possessed by Inoue. He mentioned Inoue, Yoshinaga Takiguchi and Yukoku Noguchi, his teacher of art, as his benefactors.



[Kaoru Inoue around 1907]



[Mr. and Mrs. Matsubayashi at the studio in front of the Hase temple in Azabu in 1909, private possessions]

Giichi Tanaka and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

Giichi Tanaka was from Hagi and was the Minister of War. He was appointed the Prime Minister in 1927. The house of Kosuke Takamura, a childhood friend of Keigetsu's was in front of the residence of Tanaka in Hagi. It is said that the two boys, Keigetsu and Kosuke, were always in the residence of Tanaka when Tanaka returned to Hagi. Keigetsu got acquainted with Tanaka when he was an infant and every New Year's Day Tanaka called on Keigetsu at Sakurasinmachi, Tokyo(Setagaya ward, Tokyo). In 1929, Tanaka died suddenly, Keigetsu recollected the days with Tanaka and sketched the residence of Tanaka called "Gosho Kaku". In 1963, the bronze statue of Tanaka was reconstructed, Keigetsu wrote his epitaph of the monument and attended the unveiling ceremony of the statue. This was his last homecoming to Hagi.



[Giichi Tanaka at his garden in Sakurasinmachi(the fourth from the right in the front row), Fusanosuke Kuhara(the second from the right in the front row), Keigetsu(the third from the right in the front row) around 1927, private possessions]



[The sketch of "Gosho kaku" (Volume 1, the biography of Giichi Tanaka)]

Shoin Yoshida and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

In 1938, Kokushikan(the present university of Kokushikan) transported timbers and building stones to its campus from Hagi and built “the Keishojuku academy” using the same construction method by which the Shokasonjuku academy was built. Keigetsu contributed the construction expenses and returned to Hagi to have the picture plan drawn by Tsunekichi Koto, who was successively a member of the Lower House and a chairman of the Yamaguchi prefectural assembly. The year of 1959 fell on the 100th anniversary of the death of Shoin. In March, 1959, he returned to Hagi to make arrangements for the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Shoin shrine and in October, he attended the anniversary, accompanying His Imperial Highness Prince Takamatsu. And then Keigetsu contributed the guardian dogs at the front of the hall of worship of the newly built Shoin shrine.



[The Keishojuku academy(the Shokasonjuku academy) in 1938, furnished by the Kokushikan historical materials room]



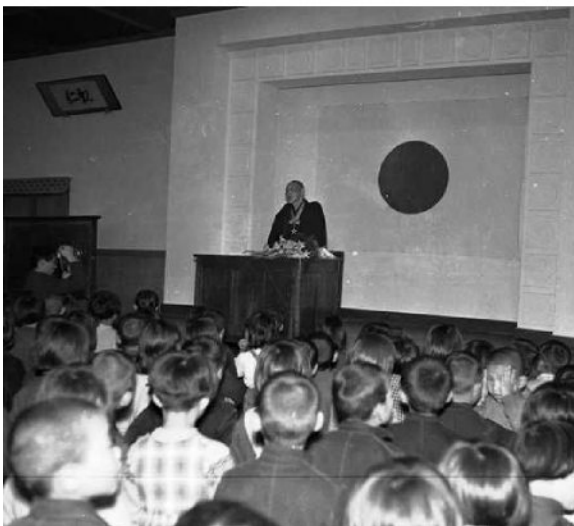
[Keigetsu at the newly built Keishojuku academy(the third from the right), Tsunekichi Koto(the next seat on his left side) private possessions]

Hakusui elementary school and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

Hagi municipal Hakusui elementary school is an alma mater of Keigetsu. He contributed 10,000 yen to the school in 1936. The next year, in 1937, on the occasion of the construction of the school lecture hall, he painted “the sketch of an old pine” and donated it to the school, and also contributed 1,000 yen. In 1960, he contributed 1,000,000 yen and the school installed stoves and radio sets. Moreover, he contributed 5,000,000 yen in 1962. When he was awarded an Order of Cultural Merits and returned to Hagi to report it in 1958 and when he was recommended as an honorary citizen in 1961, he visited the school to make a speech. Now at the entrance hall of the school a large flamed painting of “An old pine tree” was hung and his bronze bust was set up.



[Keigetsu receiving a bouquet from a pupil of Hakusui elementary school in 1962. photographed by Masaji Kadokawa]



[Keigetsu making a speech at Hakusui elementary school in 1961. photographed by Masaji Kadokawa]

The Keigetsu hermitage and Keigetsu Matsubayashi

Having the chance to be recommended an honorary citizen in 1961, Keigetsu founded the Keigetsu hermitage at his birth place. When the inauguration ceremony of the Keigetsu hermitage was held, in addition to Mr. and Mrs. Matsubayashi, the Governor of Yamaguchi prefecture, the Mayor of Hagi city and so on attended the ceremony, and the commemorative tree planting ceremony was also held. In November, 1964, the unveiling ceremony of the Keigetsu painting-brush mound was built. Not only the commemorative stone monument of Keigetsu was erected in Hagi city but also the monuments on which the poems composed by him were inscribed were erected in such places as the Akakura hot-spring(Myoko city) in Niigata prefecture, where his cottage was built, the ruins of the Taira castle in Iwaki city, Fukushima prefecture, where he composed poems, the Aone hot-spring in Zao(Kawasaki town, Shibata county, Miyagi prefecture), which he praised very much as a really odd place.



[Keigetsu who was present at the inauguration ceremony of the Keigetsu hermitage(the third from the right in the front row) Yoshijiyuro Kikuya, mayor of Hagi city(the right end in the front row), photographed by Masaji Kadokawa in 1961]



[The unveiling ceremony of the Keigetsu printing-brush mound in May,1964, photographed by Masaji Kadokawa]



His thoughts for his birth place of Hagi