

## ひな祭り Hina Matsuri (Doll Festival)

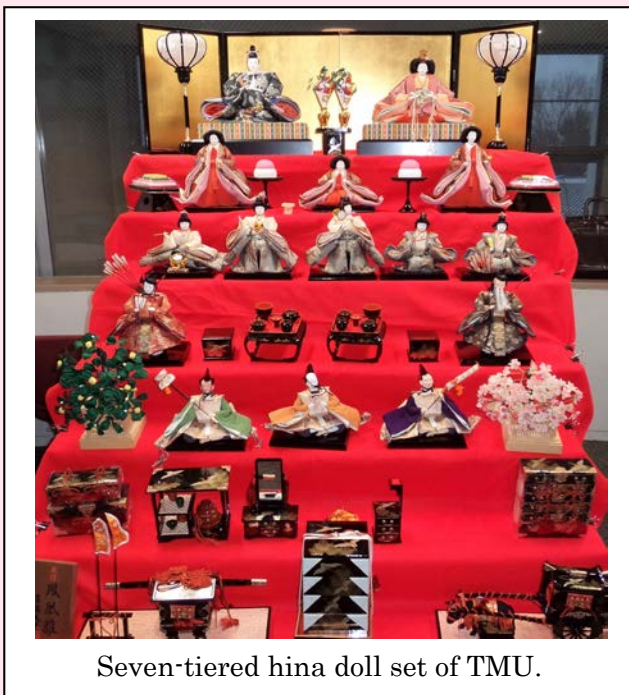
Every year on March 3rd, Japan celebrates the Doll Festival (Japanese, *Hina Matsuri*) to pray for young girls' growth and happiness. The third day of the third month of the year has been a seasonal festival called "Jōshi" (上巳), one of the five seasonal festival days (五節句), or "Momo-no-sekku" featuring peach blossoms.

On this day every year, families with girls set up a special step-altar on which to display dolls, called "*hina*" in Japanese, who are wearing traditional court dress of the Heian period (A.D. 794-1185). The *Dairi-bina* (Emperor and Empress dolls) are displayed on the uppermost shelf. We decorate this altar with boughs of peach blossoms and make offerings to the hina dolls of freshly made rice cakes (*mochi*), either flavored with a wild herb or colored and cut into festive diamond shapes. In addition to dolls, we display many beautiful and luxurious decorative accessories.

In the old days, there was a difference in style between doll sets made in Tokyo and those made in Kyoto. Today, however, these differences have almost disappeared. You might think that the Doll Festival is a very old holiday or tradition because of the dress that dolls are wearing is from the Heian period. It is said that, however, the festival did not begin till the Edo period, in the 17th Century.

Nowadays, various events and exhibitions of *hina* dolls take place across the country in February and March to celebrate the Doll Festival. Search 「ひなまつり イベント 東京」 for information.

Tokyo Metropolitan University possesses a seven-tiered hina doll set.



## Placement orders of dolls:

### First platform, the top

The top tier holds two dolls, known as imperial dolls (*Dairi-bina*). These are the Emperor (*O-bina*) holding a ritual baton and Empress (*Me-bina*) holding a fan. The dolls are usually placed in front of a gold folding screen and placed beside green Japanese garden trees. The traditional Kansai (Kyoto) style arrangement had the male on the right, while modern Kanto (Tokyo) style arrangements had him on the left (from the viewer's perspective).

### Second platform

The second tier holds three court ladies *san-nin kanjo*. Each holds sake equipment.

### Third platform

The third tier holds five male musicians *gonin bayashi*. Each holds a musical instrument except the singer, who holds a fan.

### Fourth platform

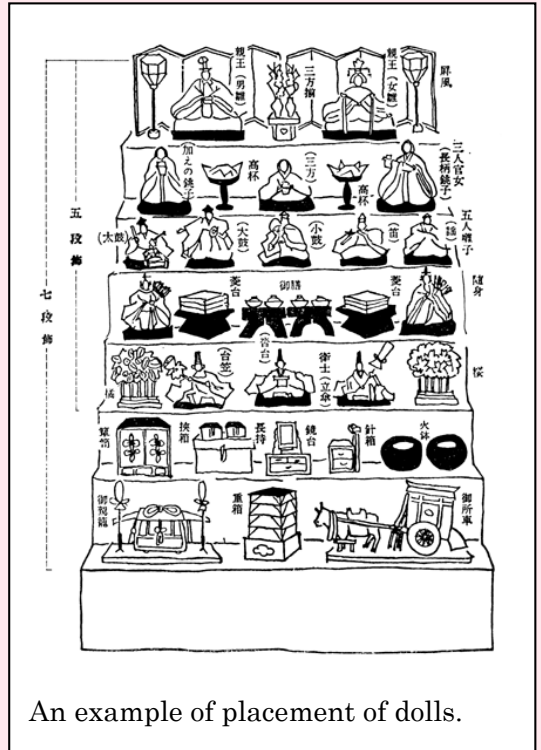
Two ministers (*daijin*) may be displayed on the fourth tier: the Minister of the Right (*Udaijin*) and the Minister of the Left (*Sadaijin*). Both are sometimes equipped with bows and arrows.

### Fifth platform

The fifth tier, between the plants, holds three helpers or samurai as the protectors of the Emperor and Empress.

### Other platforms

On the sixth and seventh tiers, a variety of miniature furniture, tools, carriages, etc., are displayed.



An example of placement of dolls.

## Tea Ceremony House "Jo-an" (恕庵)

There is a tea ceremony house, called "Jo-an" (恕庵), in the garden of the International House in the Minami-Osawa campus of Tokyo Metropolitan University. The emeritus professor of architecture in TMU, Prof. Sei-ichi Fukao, told us the episode of the tea ceremony house of TMU.

The model of this tea ceremony house is the "Jo-an" (如庵) tea ceremony house in the Japanese traditional garden "Urakuen" located on the grounds of Meitetsu Inuyama Hotel, east of Inuyama castle, Aichi prefecture. There are only three tea ceremony houses of national treasure in Japan, and the "Jo-an" (如庵) tea

ceremony house in "Urakuen" is one of them. The "Jo-an" (如庵) was built by Urakusai Oda

(1548 - 1622), the younger brother of the very famous Japanese Samurai Nobunaga Oda (1534 - 1582). It was originally built in Kennin-ji temple in Kyoto, and, after several places, moved to the present place in 1972. Those who live in Tokyo area may visit Mitsui Memorial Museum in Nihonbashi. The exhibition galleries include a detailed reconstruction of the Jo-an tea ceremony room.

When Tokyo Metropolitan University moved to Minami-Osawa from downtown in Tokyo in 1991, the International House was planned. A

renowned architect, Prof. Tei-ichi Takahashi, designed the building of International House together with the tea ceremony house "Jo-an" (恕庵). In the Chinese character of "Jo", he added "心" (heart) in the bottom of character. The meaning of "恕" is to allow. There are several characteristics in the Jo-an tea ceremony house, from the viewpoint of architecture. The center pole, made of camellia tree, is one of them.



The "Jo-an" (恕庵) tea ceremony house of TMU.

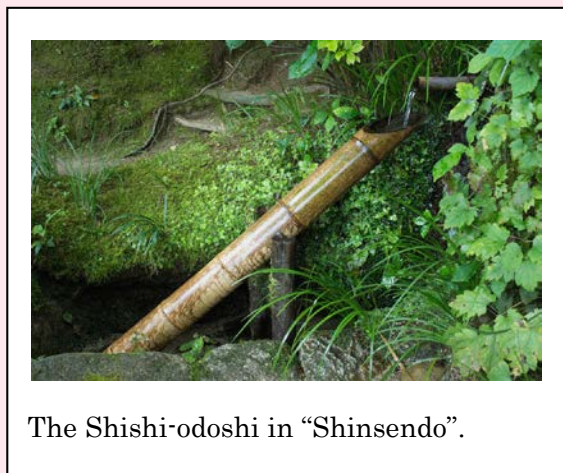
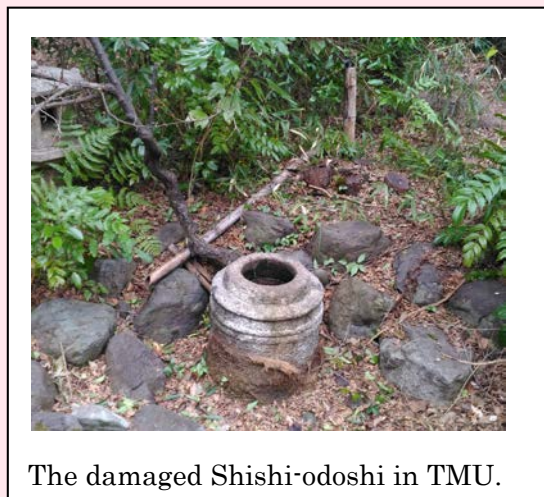


The "Jo-an" (如庵) tea ceremony house of national treasure in "Urakuen".

## Shishi-odoshi

In the garden of the International House, we find a “shishi-odoshi”. Actually, the state of preservation is not good.

Shishi-odoshi is a compound of *shishi* (deer) and *odoshi* (threat), and it is a device used to scare away animals in a wide sense. It usually refers to a special type of water fountain used in Japanese gardens. It is like a seesaw of bamboo. Trickling water flows into the bamboo cylinder. After it has been filled with enough water, it leans under the weight of water. Then all water spill out. The empty bamboo cylinder returns again to the original position naturally. With its rebound, the bottom of the bamboo hits the stone on the ground. The sound sometimes echoes in quiet garden.



Shishi-odoshi in “Shisendo”, hermitage in eastern Kyoto established by Jozan Ishikawa (1583-1672), a Confucian scholar and soldier and landscape architect, is famous. It is said that shishi-odoshi was invented by Jozan Ishikawa.

In electric circuits, the principle of relaxation oscillator is sometimes explained in connection with shishi-odoshi. Engineering students may show interest in this subject.

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### References:

- <http://www.kyohaku.go.jp/eng/dictio/senshoku/hina.html>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hinamatsuri>
- [http://www.m-inuyama-h.co.jp/en/#lnk\\_urakuen](http://www.m-inuyama-h.co.jp/en/#lnk_urakuen)
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International Center,  
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