



沼名前神社

1225 Ushiroji, Tomo-cho, Fukuyama-shi, Hiroshima-ken, Japan 720-0202

Tel:084-982-2050 Fax:084-982-2065

Shrine under Engi Enforcement Regulations (Engi Era: 901-923)

Summary of the History of Nunakuma Jinja(Shrine)



Dedicated to: Ohwatatsumi-no-mikoto

Susanoo-no-mikoto

《Origin》

The origin of Nunakuma Jinja dates back approximately 1,700 years and more, to the second year of the era of Chuai, the 14th Emperor. When Empress Jingu made a call at this creek during her journey to the western provinces by sea, she dedicated this shrine to Ohwatathumi-no-mikoto to wish for safety along the sea route.

Susanoo-no-mikoto is enshrined in many places in Japan and is often referred to affectionately by local peoples as “ Gion-san ” or “ Tennoh-san ”. Although the age when this god was enshrined in our shrine and other details are unknown, it is certain from the Ancient Topography of Bingo, folklore, legend and many other materials that the history of enshrinement goes back to times immemorial.

On the 14th of May, 1871, this shrine was designated as one of the nine honorable national shrines in Hiroshima Prefecture. In conjunction with the reformation of government organization in 1946, when all the shrines were placed under the control of Jinja-Honcho (the Association of Shinto Shrines) under the Religious Corporation Law, this shrine was given a special rank as a former honorable national shrine.

《Virtues of the two gods》

Ohwatatsumi-no-mikoto is a god who governs maritime affairs and is widely worshipped, in particular by people who travel by sea and who operate fisheries.

Susanoo-no-mikoto is a god who prevents and dispels diseases and is also a guardian of industry. This god is also deified as the progenitor god of literature and academic studies, who composed the first 31-syllable ode (tanka) in this country.

《Relationship of Nunakuma Shrine with the name of town “ Tomo ”》

On her way back to the capital from the western provinces, Empress Jingu ordered the Royal Ship to stop at this creek again. Revisiting the shrine which she dedicated to Ohwatatsumi-no-mikoto in the previous year, the empress offered the “ Tomo, ” an archer’s wrist protector, which she always wore, as a token of her gratitude to the god for protecting the party. The empress had her younger sister, Soraakitsuhime-no-mikoto, stay in this place to serve as the presiding priest. Since then, this creek has been called “ Tomo-no-ura ” (creek of tomo). Soraakitsuhime-no-mikoto is also called “ Yodohime-no-mikoto ” and has been enshrined in Yodohime Shrine, which has stood on the hill at the entrance of Tomo Port since times unknown.

Izu-no-Takatomo (a kind of ceremony article)

《Major Festivals》

Gantan-sai(Festival of New Year's Day)

the 1st of January

Kinen-sai (Spring Festival)

the 17th of February

Rei-sai(Annual Festival)

the 2nd of May

Ohharae(Great Festival of Purification)

the 30th of June

Natsu-matsuri(Summer Festival)

Otebi-sai(Torch Festival)



Eve of Jinko-sai

Jinko-sai(Festival of God's Outing)

2nd Sunday of June

Kanko-sai(Festival of God's Return)

One week later

Aki-matsuri(Autumn Festival)

Friday~Sunday just before the 3rd Monday of August

Meiji-sai(Festival of Culture)

the 3rd of November

Niiname-sai(Festival of Labor Thanksgiving)

the 23rd of November

Oyumi-sai(Festival of Archers)

the 2nd Saturday Sunday of February



Tsukihajime-no-mimatsuri(Festival of Beginning of Month)

the 1st every month

Tsukinami-sai(Monthly Festival)

the 14th every month

《Information on Cultural Assets》

【Noh Stage】 National important cultural property

The Noh Stage, a bequest of Hideyoshi Toyotomi(1536-98), was once stored within the Fushimi Castle in Kyoto. When the castle was pulled down in the sixth year of Genwa(1620), the stage was bestowed by Hidetada Tokugawa, the second shogun, on



Hyuganokami Katsunari Mizuno, the lord of Fukuyama Castle. It was later contributed to this shrine during the era of Banji(approx. 310 years ago) and has been possessed by the shrine ever since. This is the only collapsible Noh stage existing in Japan. In 1953, it was designated as a national important property and was repaired by dismantling in 1959.

【Second Torii (Shinto shrine archway)】 Prefectural important cultural property

This kind of torii is called a toribusuma-shape torii. It was contributed by Katsushige, praying for the health and longevity of his first son who had just been born.



【Stone Lanterns】 Municipal important cultural property

Located on the left and right sides of the Front Shrine, these lanterns were contributed by Katsusada Mizuno in 1651, soon after the news that his grandfather Katsunari was very sick reached him, to pray for his recovery.



【Others】

There are Noh masks, drum cylinders, guardian dogs, votive pictures, paleography and more, but these are not open to public.

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