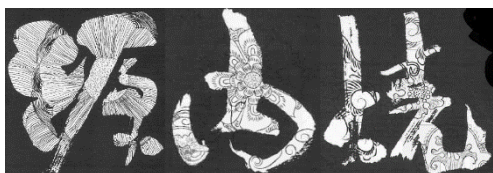


三彩西湖名勝図皿(展示資料10) 所蔵：江崎博之氏

A circular ceramic plate with a wide, green, scalloped border. The border is decorated with an embossed floral or foliate pattern. The central area of the plate features a traditional Chinese landscape painting. The painting is executed in shades of green and yellow on a light-colored background. It depicts a mountainous landscape with stylized green peaks, winding paths, and small figures or structures. The overall style is characteristic of traditional Chinese decorative arts.





This week's item!

A plate with a three-colored glaze depicting the scenery of Xihu Lake in China

The mysterious designer, Akagi Sanjin

This week, we have the scoop! I noticed some tiny letters in the upper left corner of the colorful landscape painting with a green border. This is a new discovery! It says:

A beautiful landscape of Xihu Lake (Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province) in China

February 1777, Bunsei 6

A little sketch

Pen name: Akagi Sanjin



The designer and date of creation of the "Gennai ware" designs have been newly revealed. Research into the creator, "Akagi Sanjin," reveals that he was a novelist from the Kyowa to Bunka eras (1801-1818), who is said to have lived near the Kohinata Suidobashi Bridge in Edo (Japan Ukiyo-e

Association, 1982, Genshoku Ukiyo-e Encyclopedia, Vol. 2, Taishukan Shoten). As a person who was both a novelist and a painter, Santo Kyoden, who lived in a slightly later generation, is famous, and Akagi Sanjin is assumed to have had a similar career. From the characters inscribed on the pottery, we know that Akagi Sanjin's activities go back more than 20 years earlier than previously known.

By the way, in the "Kohinata" section of "Names of Various Families in Edo" (1818, Bunsei 1), compiled by Segawa Tomisaburo, the name of a deceased person appears as "Akagi II Sayama tamiya." At the same address, you can also see the name of "Sayama Fugensai" (Shuugyo), the founder of Sayama style calligraphy. It is impossible to say for sure whether "Akagi Sanjin" and "Akagi II" are the same person, but it is possible that he may have had a background similar to that of a calligrapher.

Akagi Sanjin's residence is not far from the Kanda area where Gennai lived. The design was created in 1777, which also coincides with the period when Gennai was active as a novelist. "Yamabito" also overlaps with Gennai's playful pen name, "Furai Sanjin." Is it possible for us to imagine Gennai connecting the potters of Shido with Akagi Sanjin in Edo?

To consider this, it is helpful to note that Gennai owned a copy of Jonston's "Illustrated Book of Animals," which was copied by the Edo-based painter Song Shiseki into a "Lion Picture," and that this "Lion Picture" was then copied by the Shido-based potter Wakita Shunmin to become a picture for "Gennai Ware." Another plate made using the same mold as the "Gennai ware" introduced above is stamped with "Shunmin," so it is possible that the design drawn by Akagi Sanjin was brought to Shunmin's workshop at the request of Gennai. What do you think?

(Ryuma Sato)



I was thinking too much and couldn't concentrate on other work.

I became obsessed with the charm of "Gennai ware".....