

Tomioka Hachimangu—Fukagawa Hachiman—A Long and Illustrious History

Tomioka Hachimangu was founded in 1627 by High Priest Chosei-hoin, and was initially called “Eitaijima Hachimangu.”

Chosei-hoin regularly worshipped the kami Hachiman passed down from his ancestors, but one day in 1624, the god appeared to him in a dream and said, “There is a place called Eitaijima in Musashi Province. At the place where I am enshrined stands a white-feathered arrow.”

Following this divine vision, Hoin went to Eitaijima, found the white-feathered arrow, and founded the Hachimangu, which was later renamed “Tomioka Hachimangu” by Prince Shotoku in 1685.

The shrine later became familiar as “Fukagawa’s Hachiman-sama,” fervently devoted to by Tokugawa Shoguns and the masses alike, and the area around Hachimangu thrived as the busiest shrine town in Edo.

That devotion has not changed today, as shown by the great bustle on the days of the monthly festivals held on the 1st, 15th and 28th of every month.

Celebrated Gods

Enshrining the 15th Emperor Ojin and eight other deities

Kami of Virtue: bringing good, protection from misfortune, business prosperity, family safety, air and sea travel safety, safe and easy birth, academic success, etc.

The Tomioka Hachimangu Festival centers on August 15th and is counted among the Three Great Festivals of Edo.

To the traditional call of “Wasshoi, wasshoi,” and as its alternative name of “Water Splashing Festival” suggests, bearers of the portable Jinja are doused with purifying water by the spectators lining the roads, and bearers and spectators come together to celebrate.

The event every three years is called the Main Festival, when there is an array of some 50 large portable shrines representing patrons from each town, and a combined procession takes place.

On August 12, 2012, the Emperor and Empress visited the shrine, and after speaking with survivors of the Bombing of Tokyo, observed the combined procession.

Portable Shrines of the Main Shrine.



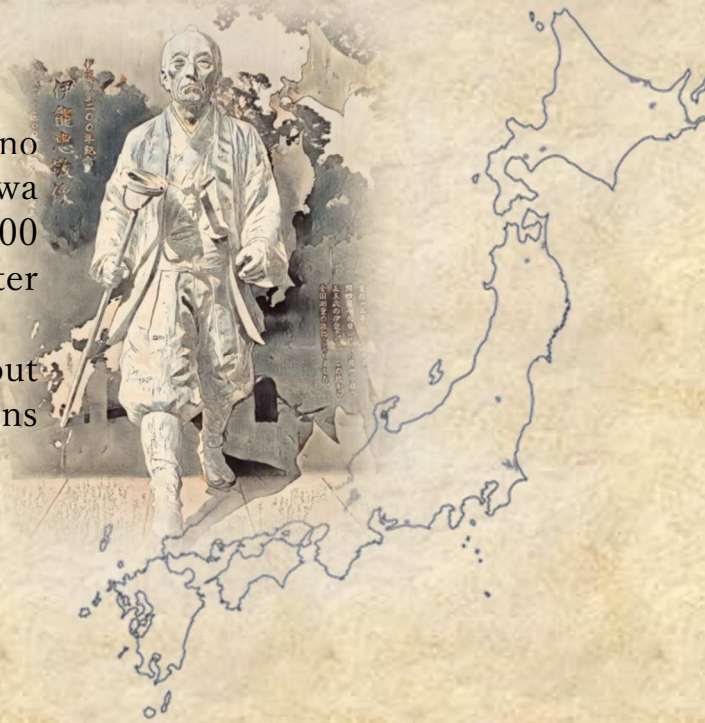
Tomioka Hachimangu was the original setting of Edo Kanjin-sumo, where it was performed for the first time in 1684 after gaining permission from the Shogun's Magistrate for Temples and Shrines. (Kanjin-sumo is the forerunner of Grand Sumo, and the system known today was established here.)

In the precincts is the Yokozuna Stone erected in 1900 by the 12th Yokozuna, Jinmaku Kyugoro, and upon accession to the rank of Yokozuna, services take place for name-carving and entering the Sumo ring.

Numerous other stones are connected to Sumo Wrestling, including the Ozeki Stone, Stone to Sumo Wrestlers with Over Fifty Consecutive Victories and Stone of Heights of Huge Sumo Wrestlers.

The father of measuring surveys in Japan, Ino Tadataka lived in the town of Kuroe, Fukagawa (present-day Monzen-nakacho), and in the year 1800 departed on his countrywide survey travels after worshipping at his patron shrine.

In the precincts is a bronze statue of him setting out on his journey, and the museum holds reproductions of the Ino Maps.



Address

1-20-3 Tomioka, Koto Ward, Tokyo 135-0047

Access

Tokyo Metro Tozai Line, Toei Subway Oedo Line
"Monzen-nakacho Station," Toei Bus: alight at
"Tomioka 1-Chome" and walk for about 3 minutes.
JR Keiyo Line: alight at "Etchujima Station" and
walk for about 15 minutes.
Tokyo Expressway No. 9 Fukagawa Route:
Kiba/Edagawa Exit, 3-min. walk



From right to left.

- ※ 1 Kurumazakisha, Kyakujinja/Nomi no Sukunesha/Sumiyoshisha/Shotoku Taishisha/Tenman Ten jinja/Soreisha, Hananomotosha/Eishogosha Inarisha
- ※ 2 Kashimasha · Otorisha/Okuninushisha · Ebisusha/Fujisengensha · Konpirasha