

Column 3: Cultural Figures of Minamisoma

Haniya Yutaka (埴谷雄高) is the author of *Death Spirits (Shirei, 死霊)*, the highest peak of postwar literature. His real name is Hanya Yutaka (般若豊), and his ancestors were among the vassals who followed the Soma clan in their move north from Shimousa in the 14th century. The tombs of his ancestors remain in Odaka and are often visited by spectators who have come to see Nomaioi.

Shimao Toshio (島尾敏雄) is known as the author of *The Sting of Death (Shi no Toge, 死の棘)*, which covers the essence of couples and families. Although he was born in Yokohama, his parents were from Odaka, and when he was a child he often visited Odaka and called it his hometown.

Suzuki Yasuzo (鈴木安蔵), a constitutional scholar, is considered to be an indirect drafter of the Constitution of Japan. The house where he was born was built in the Taisho period and still exists, with various fixtures installed that make heavy use of glass.

Ara Masahito (荒正人), a well-known researcher of Natsume Soseki (夏目漱石), is from Kashima. Alongside Haniya Yutaka and the others, he is recognized as a modern literature researcher who helped launch the magazine "Modern Literature."

Non-academic celebrities include amateur astronomer Haneda Toshio (羽根田利夫). In 1978, he discovered a periodic comet

while observing the sky with his dog Koro at the observatory built in Baba, Haramachi Ward. This comet was named "Comet Haneda-Campos." Other cultural figures include Hangai Seiju (半谷清壽), who was active as a businessman and wrote *The Future Tohoku (将来之東北)* about agriculture and industry in the Tohoku region, along with Sugiyama Motojiro (杉山元治郎), who lived in Odaka as a pastor of the Odaka Church and was committed to agricultural and missionary work.

Haniya and Shimao Commemorative Literature Museum

Introducing the cultural figures of Minamisoma, centered on Haniya Yutaka and Shimao Toshio.

Inquiries

Address: 〒979-2124 Fukushima-ken, Minamisoma-shi, Odaka-ku, Motomachi 2 Chome 89-1 (Ukifune Culture Hall)
TEL: 0244-66-1011

Business Hours

9:00am to 5:00pm

Fixed Holidays

Every Monday
December 29 to January 3



Minamisoma Museum

The Minamisoma Museum is within Azumagaoka Park. This comprehensive museum exhibits, surveys, and collects artifacts from various fields such as nature, archeology, history, folklore, and Nomaioi. In total, it has a collection of about 40,000 items.



Inquiries

Address: 〒975-0051
Fukushima-ken, Minamisoma-shi, Haramachi-ku, Gorai, Deguchi 194
TEL: 0244-23-6421
FAX: 0244-24-6933

Business Hours

9:00am to 4:45pm (last entry at 4:00pm)

Fixed Holidays

-Every Monday (If the Monday is already a holiday, the museum will be closed the following weekday.)

-December 29th to January 3rd

On the last day of Soma Nomaioi (Monday), the museum will be open (and closed the following day).

Town Histories of Odaka, Kashima, and Haramachi

If you would like to learn more about Minamisoma's history, please check out the histories compiled for Odaka Town, Kashima Town, and Haramachi City before the merger.

Inquiries

Minamisoma City Board of Education,
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The Cultural Heritage of Minamisoma

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