

2022/9/28

Invitation to Tomonokai Forum

"Fragments of Stars Delivered from a Distant Mountain"

by OTAKE Sachie, Curator, Obsidian Museum



The "Obsidian Culture" will be introduced in this forum. It is "Japan's oldest brand" in Yatsugatake, which was registered as a *Japan Heritage* site in 2018 by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan.

The obsidian was a precious material for arrowheads in Paleolithic period and Jomon period. The obsidians from Shinshu were particularly so because of good quality. They were used not only in Nagano, but also in Kanto and Chubu. Furthermore, they were brought to Aomori in the north of Japan and Nara in the west. This theme will be great interest to you. Please come and join us for the forum.

Speaker: OTAKE Sachie, Curator, Obsidian Museum

Date & Time: November 13, 2022, 13:00 - 14:40 (registration starts at 12:45)

Venue: Chiba Municipal Lifelong Learning Center (B1, Small Hall)

Seating Capacity: 80

Fee: Free

Sponsorship: NPO Kasorikaizuka Hakubutsukan Tomonokai

Supported by: KASORI SHELL MOUNDS MUSEUM

Cooperation: Takashina Housing Co., Ltd., Sakuragi-tobu-jichikai,
Chiba-bunka-yochien, Seizankai Sakuragaoka Seizanen

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"Fragments of Stars Delivered from a Distant Mountain"

OTAKE Sachie, Curator
Obsidian Museum, Nagawa Town, Nagano Prefecture

I think that many people picked up earthenware and/or stoneware while growing up. Obsidian glints in a ray of sunlight and is easy to catch eyes. For those children who started learning about the history of obsidian, which is still an enigma, it is a popular material in archaeology. Production area of obsidian is limited. "In ancient days, when transportation did not exist, how obsidian got to this place from a distant mountain?" There are many children who visit Obsidian Museum trying to find out the answer to that question.

Behind the Obsidian Museum is "Hoshikuso Pass," the place of production of obsidian. So the word Hoshikuso Pass also known as the alias of obsidian. It was in 1991 when the whole area was discovered to be the old mine of obsidian. Since then, for 30 years, excavation has been undertaken continuously. In the surrounds of obsidian mine are concentrated remains of stoneware production, which played the role for distribution of stone tools using obsidian since Paleolithic.

What was the system and reason for spreading of these specific stone material? Let us follow the history embedded in the remain for 30,000 years, from the stone tool production in Paleolithic to obsidian mine in Jomon period.

SPEAKER PROFILE - OTAKE Sachie

Graduated from Meiji University. Finished 1st half of doctoral course.

Group leader of cultural assets engagement, Nagawa-cho Education Division.

Curator, Obsidian Museum.

Born in Ibaraki Prefecture.

Picked up obsidian stone while a child, influenced by a book written by FUJIMORI Eiichi: *The Story of Earthenware and Stoneware*.

Participated in research activities in Nagawa Town, as she had admiration and aspiration on getting involved in the research of obsidian.

Continued research in progress at the national historic site: "Place of Origin for Hoshikuso Obsidian."

