

The Muromachi Period (1333–1568) (Part 2)



Haku temmoku -
Mino - Muromachi



The sixth Ashikaga shōgun, Yoshinori, was succeeded by his sickly ten year old son, Yoshikatsu, who died a few months later.



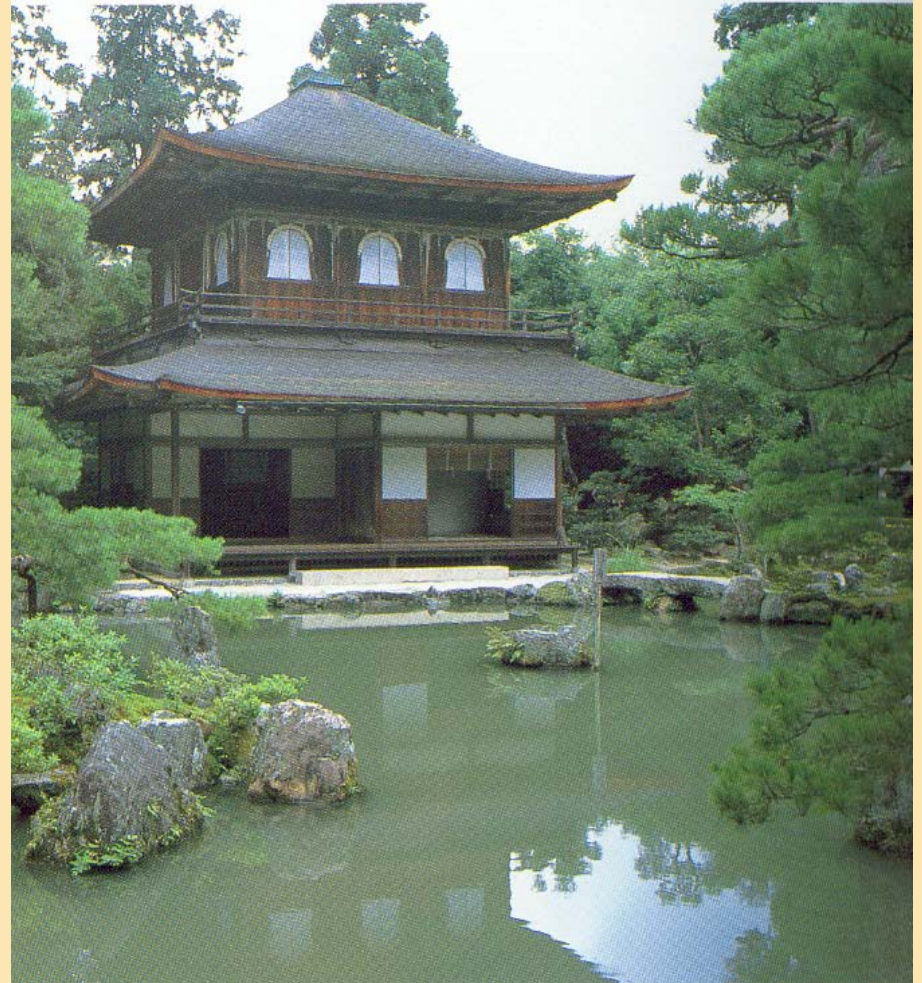
Ashikaga Yoshimasa
1436–1490

Ashikaga Shōguns

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Yoshimasa had little interest in civil affairs.



Ginkakuji- The Silver Pavilion



Kōgetsu-dai – Moon-Viewing Platform



Key Cultural Concept #13–



Mu – Nothingness, Nil, Negation

The Buddhist concept of *mu* is very important to Japanese art and philosophy. *Mu* is nothing—but it is also everything. That is, the absence of some things emphasizes the presence of others. Like the Taoist concept of *in* and *yo* (positive and negative, dark and light, passive and active), nothingness (*mu*) is the inseparable, flip side of reality. What we don't see is as important as what we do.

For the elite, life
in the capital
could be
beautiful.







Unfortunately, between 1457 and 1467, devastating typhoons ruined the rice crops repeatedly. Eighty thousand people died from sickness and starvation.



Kamogawa



Key Cultural Concept #14

我慢

Gaman – Patience, endurance

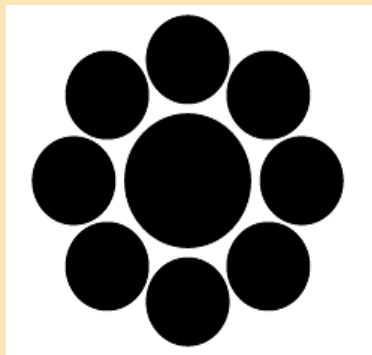
Gaman literally means “to neglect the self.” Life was not easy in Japan. Rich and poor both had to endure extremes of temperature, plagues, high infant mortality, and constant warfare.

Socialization in Japan stresses putting the group’s interests ahead of the individual. Buddhist philosophy also emphasized annihilating personal desires.

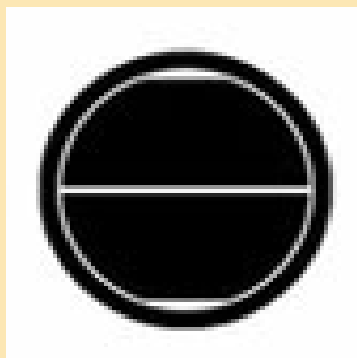
By 1464,
Yoshimasa
was ready
to resign.
He was
thirty years
old.



Ashikaga Yoshimasa by Tosa Mitsunobu
(1434 - 1525)



Hosokawa



Yamana



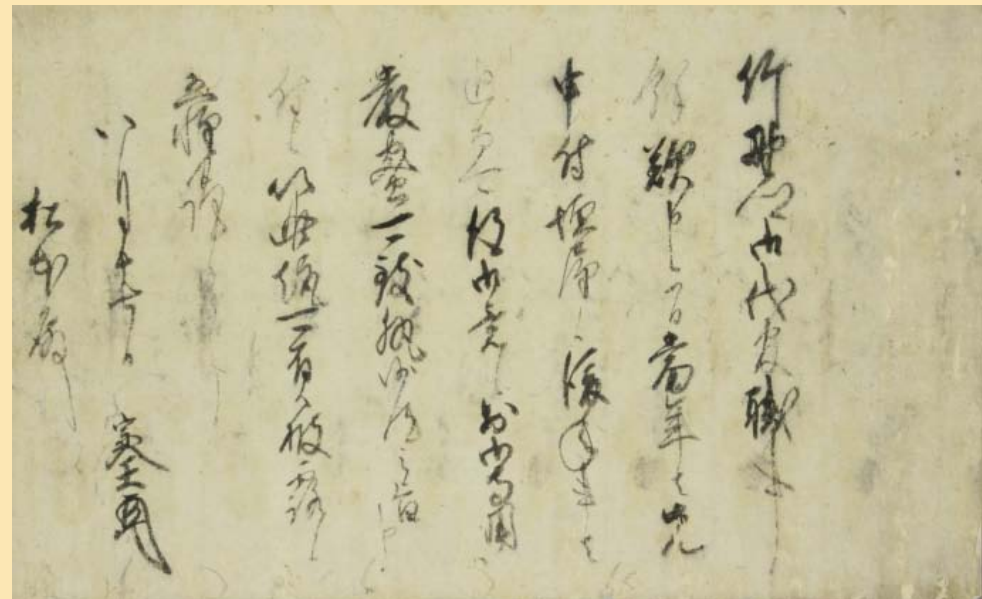
Muromachi helmet

Yamana was Hosokawa's father-in-law. He had a volatile personality and was prone to jealousy.

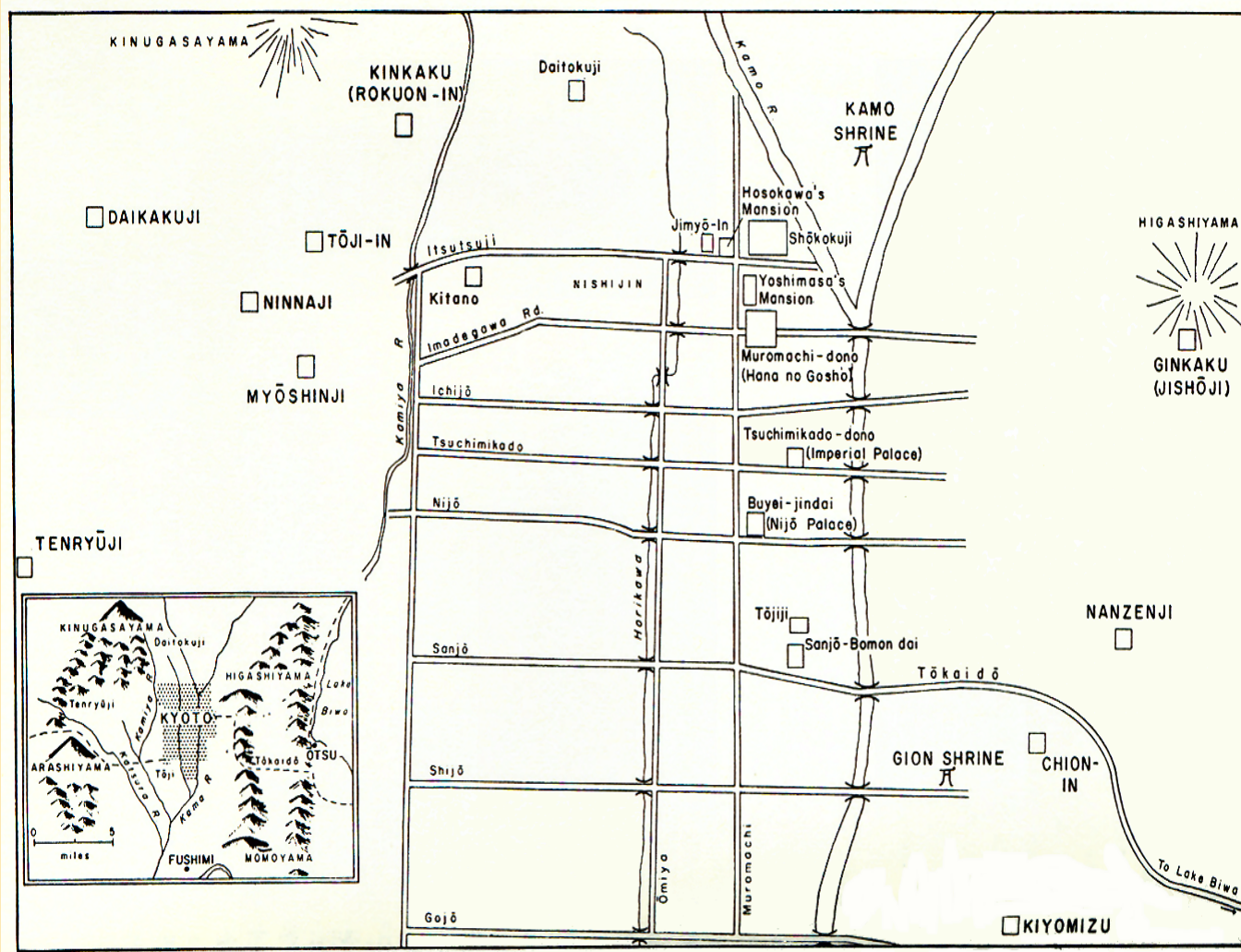


Hosokawa Katsumoto

By 1466, both men had enlisted forces of approximately eighty thousand men.



Calligraphy by Yamana Sōzen



Kyōto During the Onin War



Scene from the Ōnin War from 16th Century Handscroll
Legends of the Shinnyodō Temple

The conflict was called the Ōnin War for the era in which it began.



Shōkokuji from Momoyama period screen



Muromachi Cypress Fan



Samurai around 1467



15th Century Lamphoon of Warriors



Ashikaga Yoshimasa

In 1473,
Yoshimasa retired
to study Zen and
pursue his artistic
interests.
Yoshihisa
succeeded him.

One of Yoshimasa's contemporaries, Ikkyū Sōjun, is remembered as one of the most remarkable characters in Japanese history.



Ikkyū Sōjun (1394–1481)



After his father's death, Ikkyū took to marching around Sakai with a wooden sword, mocking the Zen establishment. He wrote a poem saying:

*Today's Zen priests may be compared to wooden swords,
If seen inside a room, (they) seem to be real.
But, outdoors, unsheathed in the sunlight—
nothing but split bamboo.
Such (priests and wooden swords) are no good for fighting or for anything else.*

Shichi Butsu Tsukaige (o zen o)
by Ikkyū



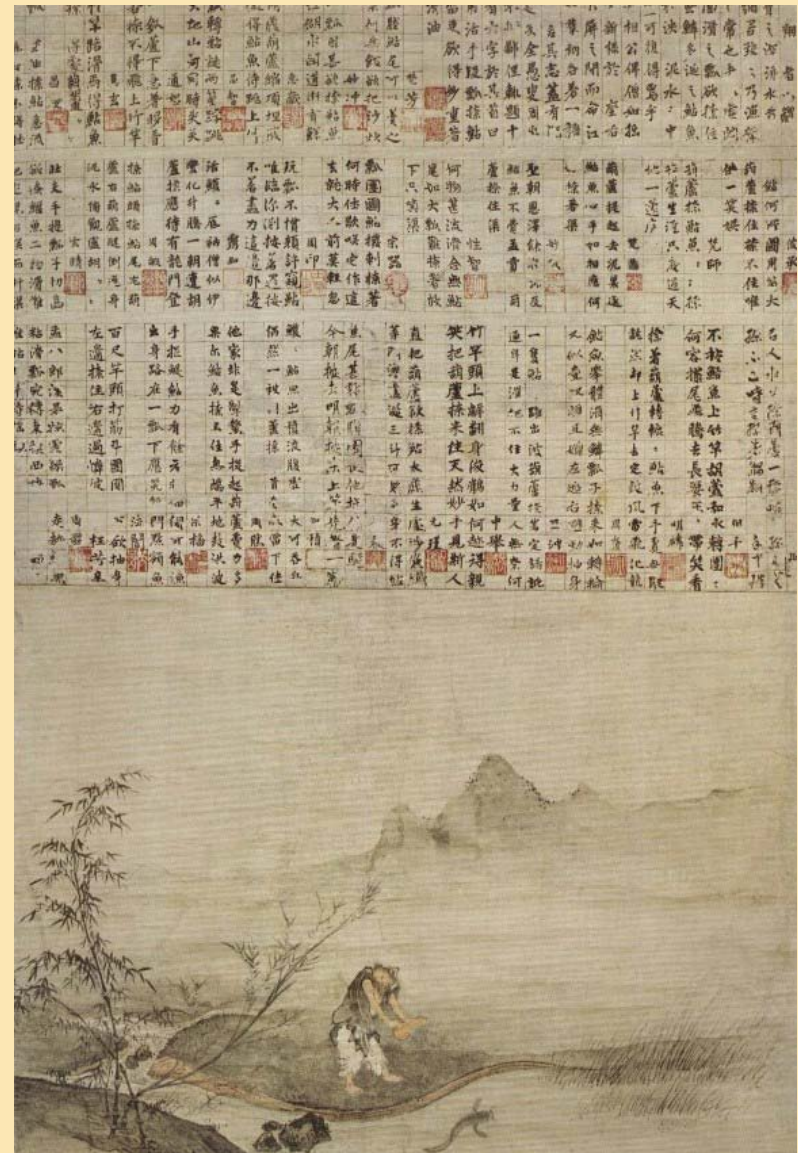
The wealth of temples with good administrators like Ikkyū and the cultural exchanges that resulted from the missions to China significantly impacted Japanese painting.

Bodhidharma by Minchō
1352-1431





Hyōnenzu (Catching a Catfish in a Gourd) by Josetsu, c. 1413





Kanō Masanobu (1434–1530)



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Sword of Ashikaga Yoshiteru (1536–1565)



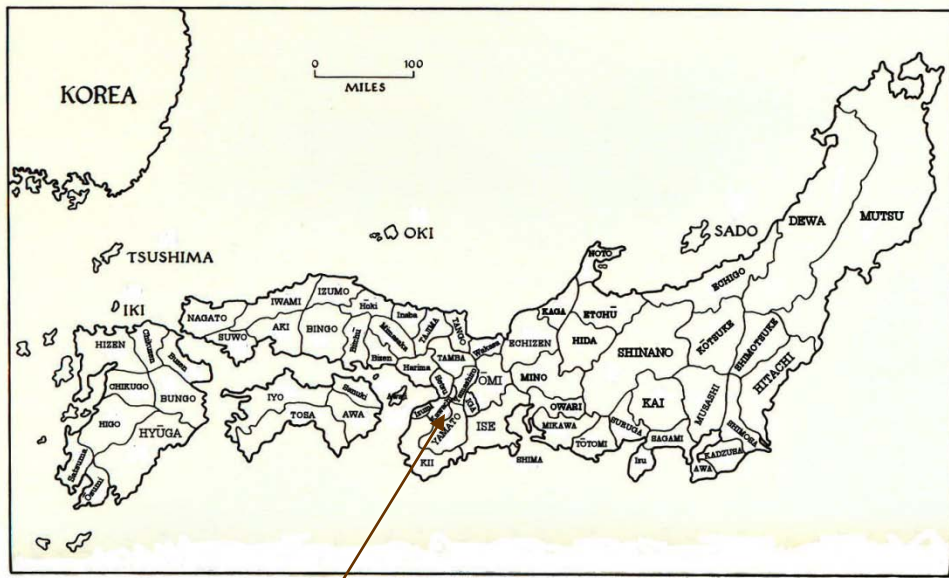
Ashikaga Yoshiteru
(1536–1565)

The thirteenth Ashikaga *shōgun*, Yoshiteru, was known as the “sword drawing *shōgun*” because he kept several swords stuck in the *tatami* so he would be prepared to fight his enemies with a succession of weapons

One of the most remarkable incidents of this unsettled era was the rising of the Yamashiro *ikki* in 1485.



Phoenix – Byōdō-In





Hokke Ikki - Lotus Uprising



Inuyama castle built in
1537

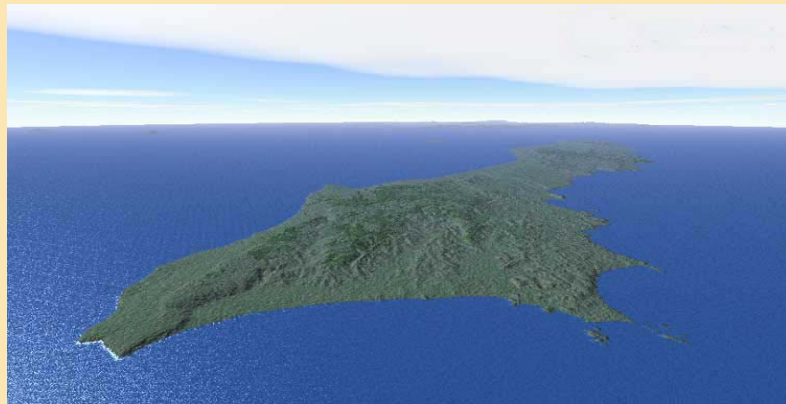
While the war in the capital was virtually over, the provinces experienced continued warfare between competing factions of local *samurai*.



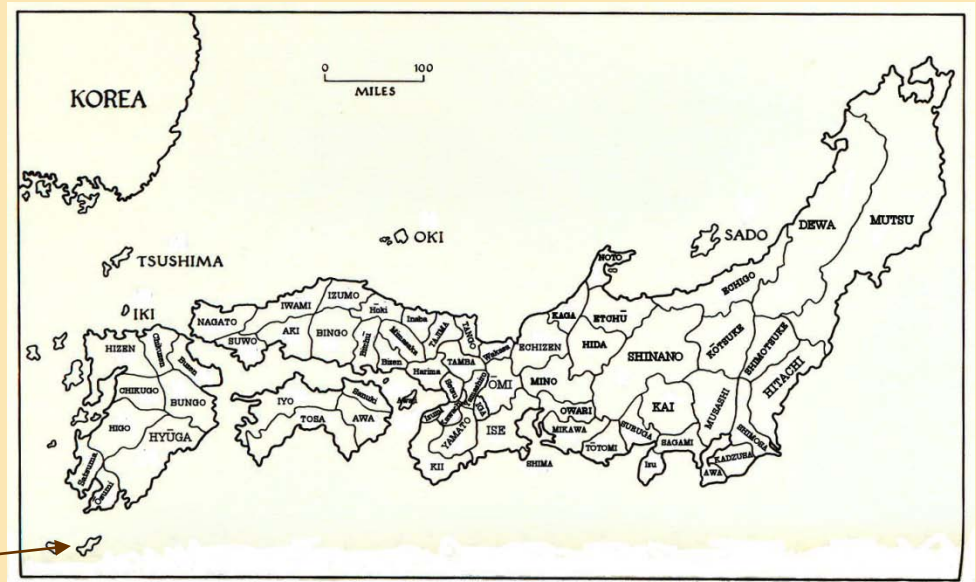
Kinko and Other Hermits by Sesson Shūkei



In 1542, something which took place far from the capital changed the course of Japanese history dramatically.



Tanegashima





The stranded Portuguese returned to China. Portuguese trading ships started entered Kyūshū harbors within a few years.



Francis Xavier
(1506–1552)
landed in
Kagoshima in
1549 and was well
received by the
lord of Satsuma.

Seeing that he would be unable to make converts without official sanction, he traveled back to Yamaguchi and from there to visit Ōtomo Sōrin, the powerful lord of Bungo.



Ōtomo Sōrin (1530–1587)

Japan in the middle of the 16th century was a land torn apart by the rivalries of the warlords.



Oda Nobunaga 1534–1582



Nobunaga's next great opportunity came when Imagawa Yoshimoto (1519–1560) passed through his domain on his way to the capital with 25,000 soldiers.



Oda

Nobunaga's next move was to forge an alliance with Tokugawa Ieyasu who controlled the province of Mikawa and Takeda Shingen of Kai.



Takeda Shingen
(1521-1573)



Takeda's
Generals



Nobunaga was in control of Owari and only two provinces, Mino and Ōmi stood between him and the capital in Yamashiro.





In 1558, Nobunaga sent for Ashikaga Yoshiaki who had been hiding out in Echizen after the assassination of his brother.



Ashikaga Yoshiaki 15th
Ashikaga *shōgun*
(r. 1568–1573)

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Letter written by Emperor Ōgimachi giving instructions for soliciting donations for the repair of Shōbōji in Ōmi

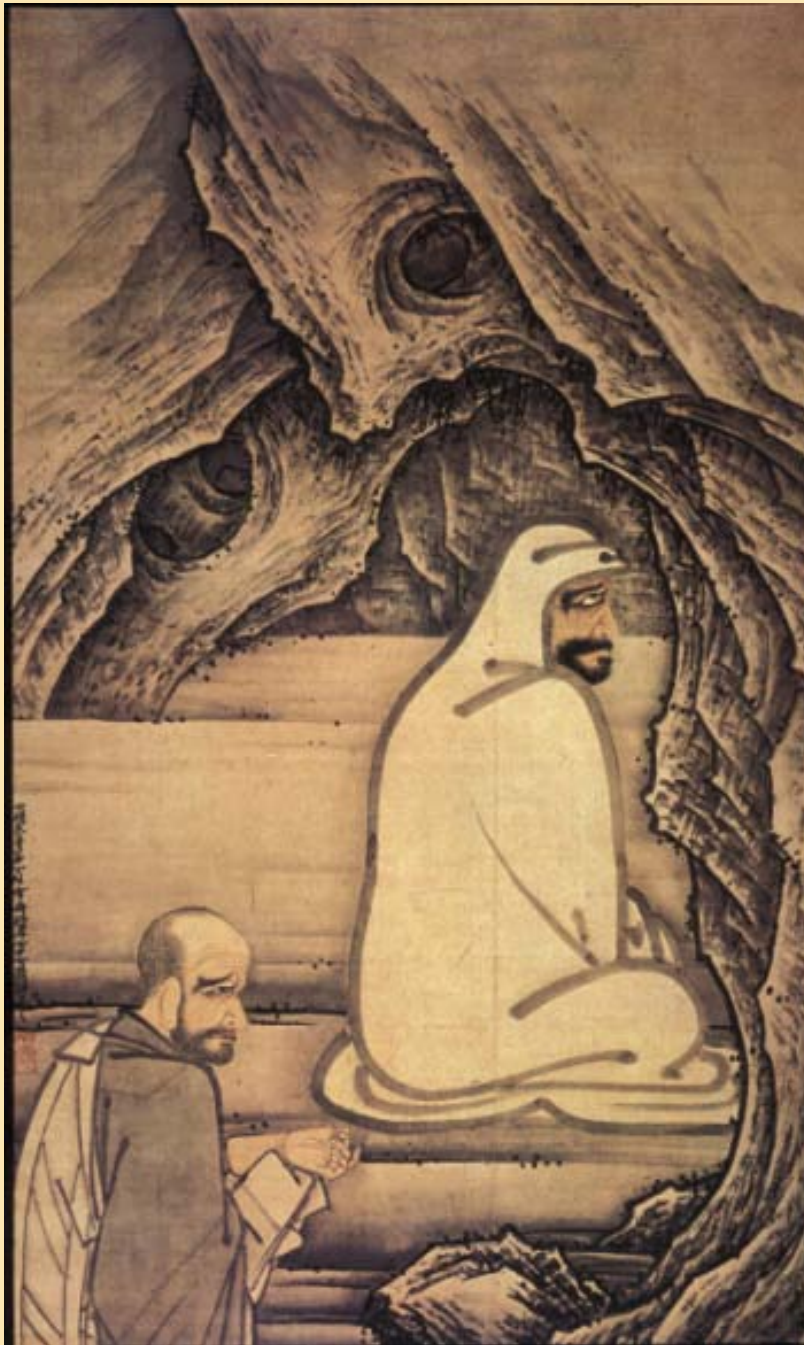


By this time, Nobunaga had moved into Inabayama castle and renamed it “Gifu.”

The Muromachi was a fabulous period for Japanese culture.

Japanese wood
Shishi (Lion)
Mount for the
diety *Monju*
(*Manjushri*)
Muromachi
period, 16th
century





We have seen that painting flourished and architecture flourished.

Daruma and Eka by Sesshū, ca. 1479

The size and wealth of the religious institutions provided a secure source of patronage for a variety of skilled artists.



Buddhist Altar Pendant
(dated 1535)

Continued warfare gave craftsmen plenty of incentive to develop fine armor.



Dō-maru armor 15th
Century



The growing popularity of tea ritual also inspired another kind of metalwork.



15th Century Ashiya Kettle



Muromachi Temmyō Kettle



Incense Container 15th
Century



Cosmetic box with fan
design

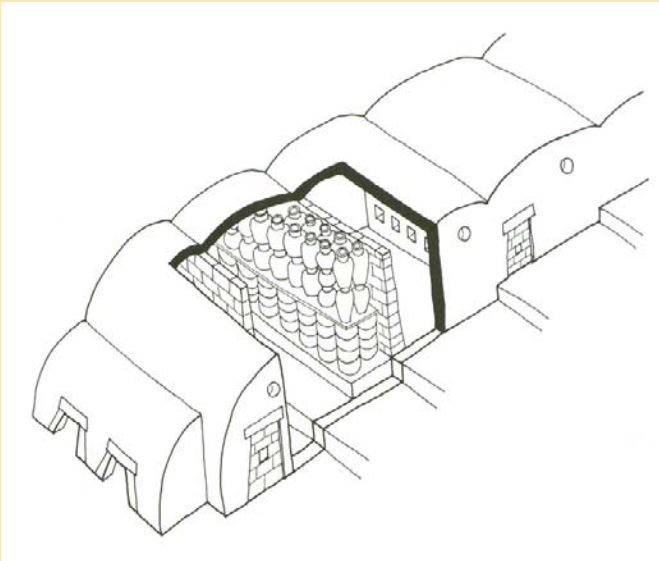


Muromachi shoes

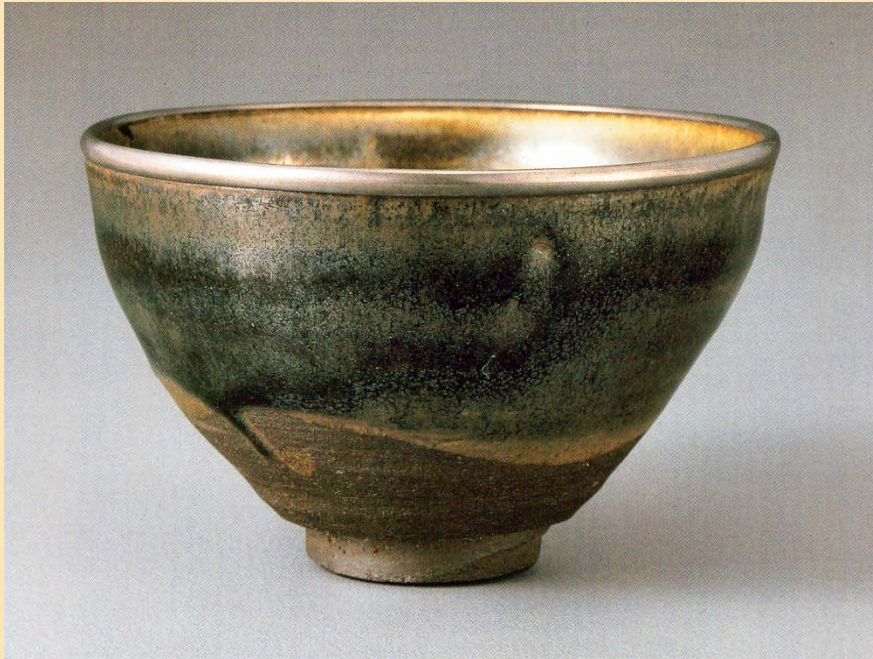
Kosode with design of paulownia and bamboo in twill



Significant technological advances were also made in ceramics.



Seto



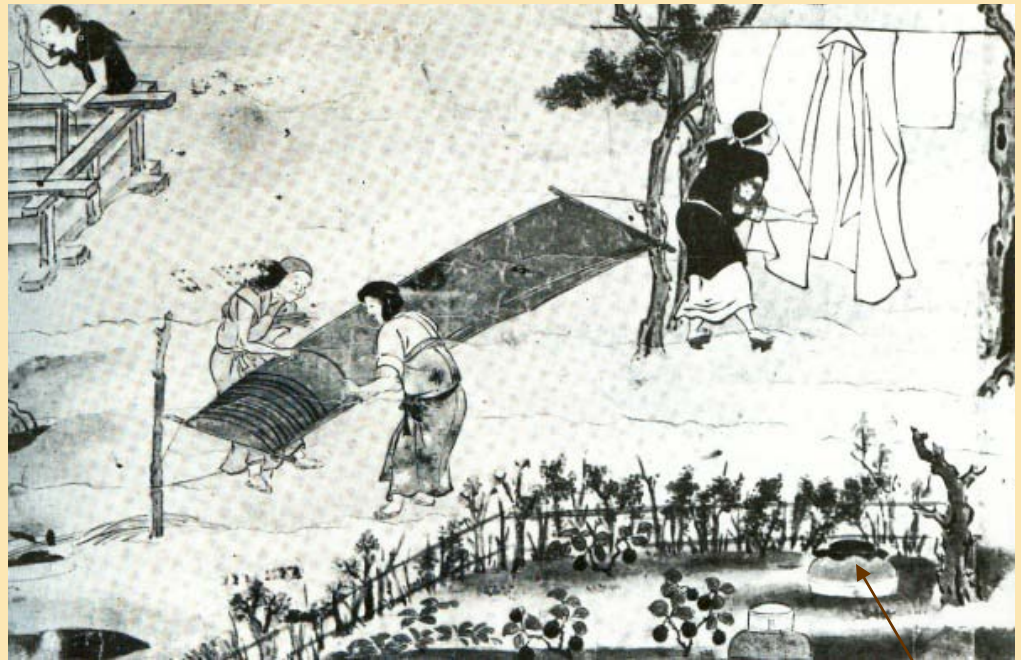
Southern Sung *temmoku* tea bowl called "Shukō Temmoku"

Seto tea bowl named *Gyokujun*
"Moist Jewel" Muromachi

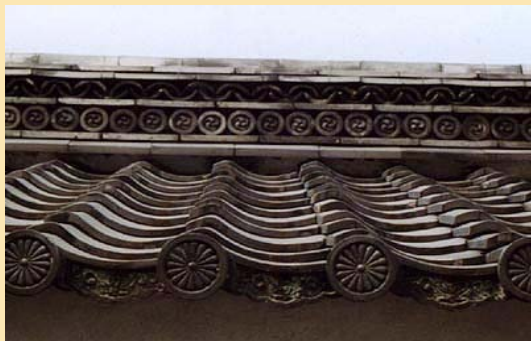




15th Century
Shigaraki Seed Jar



Most Japanese ceramics
of the Muromachi period
were made for purely
utilitarian functions.



Roof tiles

Summary of the Muromachi Period (1333–1568)

1. In 1338, Ashikaga Takauji received the title of *shōgun* founding the Ashikaga *bakufu*.
2. From 1337 to 1392, two rival imperial courts contested the Throne.
3. Ashikaga Yoshimitsu started trade with China in 1401 resulting in a rich injection of cash into the Japanese economy.
4. Serious peasant rebellions began in 1428.
5. Rival warlords devastated Kyōto during the The Ōnin War (1467–1477). Japan was left with no powerful central government.
6. Oda Nobunaga entered the capital in 1568 and installed the last Ashikaga *shōgun*.