As the first memorial exhibition of our 80th anniversary, we hold an exhibition of crafts of the Joseon Dynasty and about 400 pieces of works from the museum collection including historical documents are on display. Soetsu Yanagi (1889-1961), founder of the museum, found out that most abundant national characteristics of Korean people were appeared in daily utensils of Joseon Dynasty. Please enjoy the ethnic beauty of crafts such as ceramics, wood works, stone works, metal works, and painting which have colored people’s daily life.

**Soetsu Yanagi and Korean Crafts**

The collection of Joseon Dynasty crafts in our museum, which is best in quantity and quality in Japan, were mostly collected by Yanagi through his eyes in Korean Peninsula from 1910’s to 1930’s. It was Noritaka (1884-1964) and Takumi (1890-1931) Asakawa brothers who supported Yanagi’s movement. Noritaka, an elder brother, connected Yanagi with Korean ceramics and porcelains. Takumi, a younger brother, tried hard to strengthen the relationship between Yanagi and Korean people. Yanagi looked back in his late years and said, ‘I encountered with Korean ceramics and porcelains, and had come to like them very much, which let me decide which way to go in my life. It was deeply moving.’ (Vinnyun no Kaiso [Recollections of my forty years], 1959). As his words indicate, Yanagi found remarkable beauty in people’s daily wares after he met Asakawa brothers. Then, Yanagi developed his philosophy on aesthetics of mingei later on.

It was not only products that Yanagi paid attention to. In Korea, the right to people’s self-determination was forfeited at that time, and moreover the assimilation policy was forced by Japanese government. Yanagi, going against the times, highly estimated the culture of Korean people, and appealed for preservation and protection of this culture. It was very natural for Yanagi to admire people who have produced splendid products he loved.

It is just one hundred years since Yanagi first visited Korea, and it is very meaningful that conservation treatment has been undergone in association with a research project by the Overseas Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation on the Korean collection. In commemoration of this event, some wood works were conserved by Korean specialists as part of the project. In this room, selected works of various Korean crafts in Joseon Dynasty from the museum collection are on display. The beauty of Korean crafts which have been nurtured with deep spirits and unique senses of the people.

**Ceramics of Joseon Dynasty**

Fascinated with ceramics of Joseon Dynasty, Yanagi traveled the Korean Peninsula twenty-one times in total. He collected many Korean crafts there, which led to the Mingei Movement later. This room introduces the attractiveness of ceramics of Joseon Dynasty represented by white porcelains.

**Introduction to Korean Crafts**

During Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910), the craft culture unique to the peoples had flourished. Here, ceramics, porcelains, wood/metal/stone works, and folk paintings are selected and exhibited as an entrance to the world of Korean crafts.

**Old Ceramics of Early Modern Japan and Otsu-e**

Ceramics without paintings were popular in Medieval Japan. In Early Modern Japan, on the other hand, a technique of tetsu-e, motifs painted in iron pigments, was established, and more various decorative expressions had become possible. In this room are exhibited old ceramics of early modern Japan decorated with various decorative techniques. In addition, Otsu-e paintings which were drawn in approximately same period in Otsu, Shiga prefecture are introduced.

**Paintings of Joseon Dynasty**

Folk paintings which were drawn by unknown painters in a free and informal composition and technique usually have unique styles of their own. In this room, paintings Yanagi admired besides folk paintings such as court paintings and calligraphy are exhibited.

**Dyeing and Weaving of Japan**

Kimono of hemp, paper textile – these dyeing and weaving are selected and exhibited as an entrance to the world of Japanese crafts.

**The Beauty of Korean Crafts**

On the occasion of the 80th anniversary of the foundation, a research project by Overseas Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation was conducted, and some wood works were conserved by Korean specialists as part of the project. In this room, selected works of various Korean crafts in Joseon Dynasty from the museum collection are on display. The beauty of Korean crafts which have been nurtured with deep spirits and unique senses of the people.

**Second Floor**

- from the museum collection commemorating the 80th anniversary of the foundation

**Ceramics of Joseon Dynasty**

- When Yanagi and his followers visited various places of the Korean Peninsula in 1936 and 1937, they actively collected crafts of the time. The results were published in the book Ima mo Tsuzuku Chosen no Kogei [Joseon crafts inherited today] issued in 1947. In this room various Joseon crafts in those days are on display together with related materials.

**Beauty of Korean Crafts**

- Soetsu Yanagi and Korea

**Soetsu Yanagi and Korea**

- Moving. (said, ‘I encountered with Korean ceramics and porcelain, and had come to like porcelains. Takumi, a younger brother, tried hard to strengthen the relationship between Yanagi and Korean people. Yanagi looked back in his late years and said, ‘I encountered with Korean ceramics and porcelains, and had come to like them very much, which let me decide which way to go in my life. It was deeply moving.’ (Vinnyun no Kaiso [Recollections of my forty years], 1959). As his words indicate, Yanagi found remarkable beauty in people’s daily wares after he met Asakawa brothers. Then, Yanagi developed his philosophy on aesthetics of mingei later on.

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**Various Crafts of Joseon Dynasty**

- Stone works which have unique figures like ink stone, brazier, and pot. Wood works which show us familiarity like box, table, and table-wares. Metal works which have various forms like key, lighting device, and spouting vessel.

**Introduction to Korean Crafts**

- During Joseon Dynasty (1392-1910), the craft culture unique to the peoples had flourished. Here, ceramics, porcelains, wood/metal/stone works, and folk paintings are selected and exhibited as an entrance to the world of Korean crafts.

**Dyeing and Weaving of Japan**

- Katsugi, hood garment, which was used by women in Shonai area of Tohoku, tie-dyed summer kimono of Arimatsu-Narumi, bedding with arabesque pattern, ikat kimono of hemp, paper textile – these dyeing and weaving of Japan are on display in this room. Most of them were used by ordinary people during Meiji period.