

# PRODUCTS



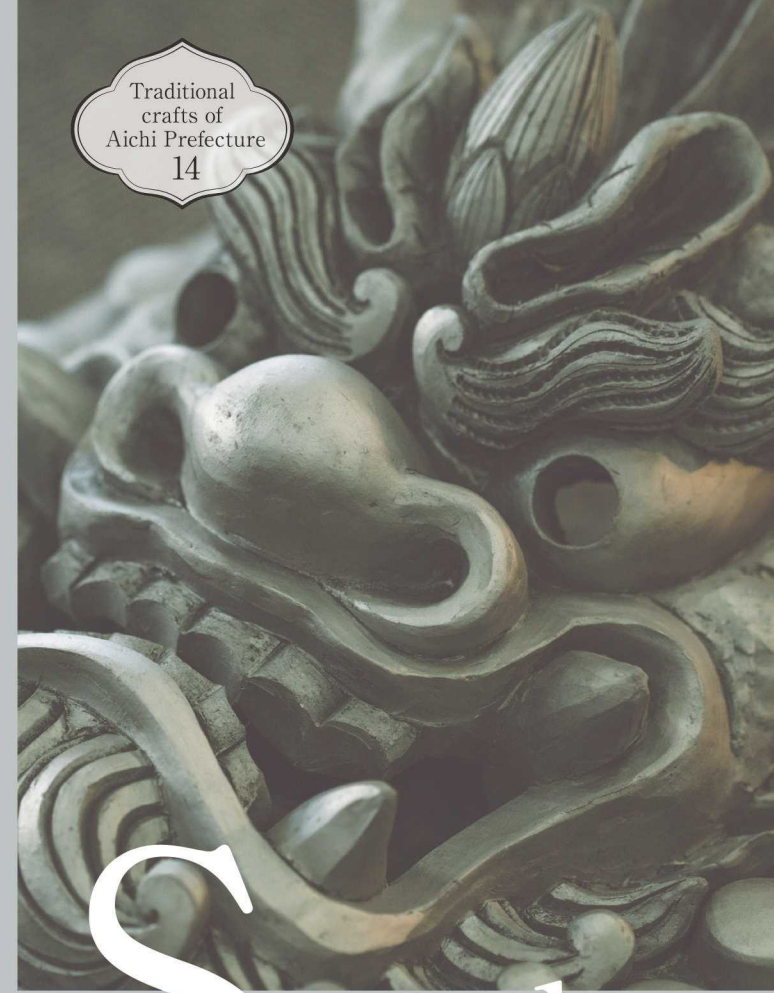
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## Sanshū Onigawara (decorative ridge-end tiles) Crafts - display objects and ornaments

Numerous masterpiece showing various expressions, which have been produced by durable Sanshūgawara manufacturing techniques. One-of-a-kind items created by skilled technicians called Oniita-shi (ridge-end ornament masters) that really are works of art.



Traditional  
crafts of  
Aichi Prefecture  
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**Traditional Crafts Mark of Japan**  
Approval number R4-154

Products with a "Gold Certificate" accompanying this mark are designated as manufactured according to conditions specified by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and have also passed special inspection by local craftsmanship associations.

### Traditional crafts are:

- i. mainly used in everyday life
- ii. produced mostly by hand
- iii. produced using traditional technology or techniques
- iv. made of traditionally raw materials
- v. created by producers that are concentrated in certain regions

**AICHI Local Industry**

<https://www.pref.aichi.jp/sangyoshinko/jibasangyo/index.html>



**Aichi Prefectural Bureau of Economy and Industry, Industry Department, Industry Promotion Division**

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# Sanshū Onigawara Crafts



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Designation as traditional crafts: November 30, 2017

Main products: onigawara, display objects, exteriors, etc.

## Traditional crafts produced in the land of Nishimikawa

Sanshū Onigawara Crafts are traditional crafts that are mainly produced in Hekinan-shi, Anjō-shi and Takahama-shi in Aichi Prefecture. “Sanshū” is another name for Mikawa, an old province in the Nishimikawa region in the central part of Aichi. In this region, the tile industry prospered thanks to the Yahagi River, which carries clay from Mt. Sanage to the lower reaches. The large volume of good-quality clay is suitable for tiles. In addition, this region already had a concentration of related industries, such as blended clay, glaze and ceramic machinery, which is another reason for the prosperity of tile industry. It is also said that being close to the sea, this region was conveniently located for the shipment of heavy tile products to the city of Edo (what is now Tokyo).

Originally, tiled roofs were only used by the upper class due to the high price of tiles. In 1720, however, Tokugawa Yoshimune promoted fire-resistant tile roofing in a bid to reduce residential fires. Since then, it has spread throughout the country, and tile production has developed further, with the region becoming a production center.

Onigawara have long been used to decorate roofs as amulets, or charms against evils, and as symbols of prosperity and wealth. With the times, however, their purpose has changed. They are currently more popular as decorations or good-luck talisman for everyday use, such as ornaments for alcoves or entrance halls. In recent years, restoration work is also under way of onigawara designated as national treasures or important cultural assets.

## The beauty of oxidized silver, which develops a distinctive color

Ceramic tile production is a three-dimensional figurative art done by hand. While piling up clay on a base made of a set of clay tablets cut by a sickle, designed parts like a kimen (an ogre’s face) or arabesque patterns are attached with a tool such as a metal trowel. The raw materials used for pottery clay include Mikawa clay, mountain soil and levigated clay.

Without being glazed, products are burned at a high temperature of approximately 1,150°C, which leads to these durable finished products developing a distinctive color called “ibushi-gin” (oxidized silver).

Since the Edo period, Sanshū has been known as one of the three producing regions of Japanese tiles (Sanshū, Sekishū and Awaji). And today it has become the largest, making up about 70% of the national production of clay tiles. While maintaining the culture of traditional Japanese tiles, Sanshūgawara have been evolving continually in terms of colors, shapes, functions, etc.

## PRODUCTION PROCESS

### 01 Design Pattern Drawing

Draw a design pattern by taking into account the sintering shrinkage. Using the pattern, draw the design on the clay tablet (marking). Then, cut it with a sickle to form the front part.



### 02 Shaping a Base (Attaching It)

Attach the side parts to the front side. Do the same for the back side.



### 03 Shaping of Designed Parts

Attach designed parts such as the clouds on the surface, shaping the product as a whole.



### 04 Finishing

When the clay hardens to just the right hardness, put the last finish on it with a spatula.

### 05 Drying

In an airless room, dry the product over time - a month or so - while checking for an even dryness and turning it over as needed.



### 06 Heating

Heat the product at a high temperature of approximately 1,150°C over a day or two.

Filming in cooperation with MARUICHI Co.

## PRODUCING REGIONS

### Kawara Museum of Takahama City, a Hometown of Ceramics

This is a unique museum themed on “kawara” (tiles). On display are not only Japanese tiles from ancient to modern times but also tiles from other countries.

There is also a hands-on course where you can make bowls or flower vases by kneading clay.

9- 6-18, Aoki-chō, Takahama-shi, Aichi Prefecture TEL 0566-52-3366

10:00-17:00 Closed: Mondays, Tuesdays (next day in case of a national holiday), and New Year’s holidays

<http://www.takahama-kawara-museum.com/index.html>



### Onimichi

This is a walking course connecting Meitetsu (Nagoya Railroad) Takahama-minato Station and Mikawa Takahama Station. Walking along it, you can enjoy various kinds of onigawara or kazarigawara (ornamental tiles) that add charm to the roofs of temples, shrines and private houses as well as to roads and walls.