



ARIMATSU
SHIBORI・SOME



THE HISTORY OF ARIMATSU SHIBORI-SOME (TIE-DYE)

The first Arimatsu Shibori goods were sold just a few years after Japan's first shogun unified the warring country and opened the major roadway of Tokaido Road which connected the old aristocratic capital of Kyoto with the new samurai capital of Edo (today's Tokyo). Though the first goods were hand towels made from cotton, the intricacy of variety of their patterns caught the eye of every passerby. People started talking of these "mysterious hand towels" of Arimatsu, and the increasingly busy Tokaido Road was the perfect conduit to spread the word. These hand towels soon became a must have item for anyone embarking on a trip.

「尾張有松に摩訶不思議な染物あり」

「有松絞染」は、徳川家康が江戸幕府を開いて間もない慶長13年(1608)に尾張藩藩主の徳川義直の名のもと有松は開村して竹田庄九郎によって誕生しました。えも言われぬ美しさの手ぬぐいは、瞬間にお伊勢参りで東海道を行き交う人々のたちの間で「尾張有松に摩訶不思議な染物あり」と賛美されました。



Arimatsu Town grew and so did the shibori-some (tie and dye) goods. The range of customers grew as well. Powerful regional lords and samurai on their way to and from attending court of the Shogun stopped in Arimatsu to buy kimono and materials not available in their home areas. Regular townspeople from around the country passing through on their way to complete a pilgrimage to the famous Ise Shrine also bought yukata robes, hand towels and other goods with the distinctive Arimatsu style. The popularity Arimatsu's clothing extended across all classes of people. The regional samurai lord of Owari which included Arimatsu Town declared the clothing a special regional product and the area became an official purveyor to the lord and samurai of the Owari area. The town was growing, and so was Arimatsu Shibori as the crafts workers continued to improve their skills and techniques which started to number over 100.

寛永18年(1641年)絞染めは尾張藩二代目藩主徳川光友に気に入られ有松絞りを尾張の特産品として保護されました。更に將軍徳川綱吉に絹の絞り手綱を献上したところ特別の賞賛を賜り有松絞りの名声は天下にとどろきます。



The Nagoya's Avant-garde Age

Nagoya's economy boomed and fostered its own independent Popular culture, helped on by the local samurai lord Tokugawa Muneharu from 1730.

1730年より7代尾張藩藩主、徳川宗春の時代には名古屋の大衆文化が花開き独自の文化を育んだ。

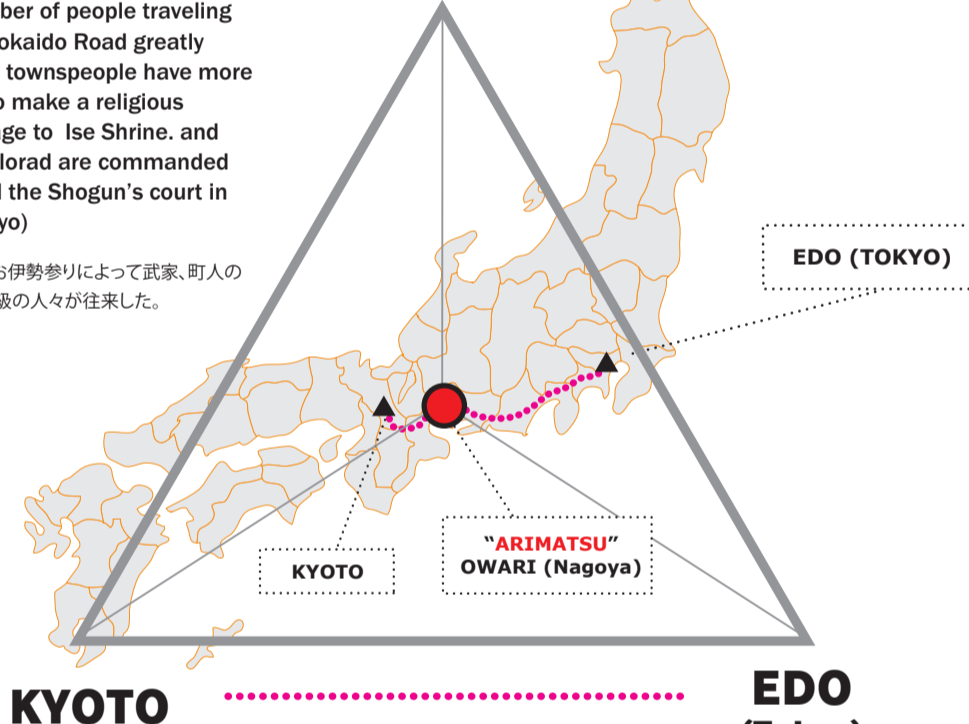
The number of people traveling on the Tokaido Road greatly grows as townspeople have more money to make a religious pilgrimage to Ise Shrine, and regional lord are commanded to attend the Shogun's court in Edo (Tokyo)

参勤交代、お伊勢参りによって武家、町人のあらゆる階級の人々が往来した。

町人／大衆文化
Japan's first Popular Culture Develops 1680 (mid. of the Edo Era)

「ARIMATSU」
OWARI
(Nagoya)

尾張有松(名古屋)



KYOTO
京都

The home of Traditional Aristocratic Culture (during Japan's Edo Era)
公家文化

「TOKAIDO ROAD」
(東海道五十三次)

EDO
(Tokyo)

江戸(東京)
The home of Samurai Culture (during Japan's Edo Era)
武家文化

With the growth in Arimatsu Shibori's popularity from merchants and craftsmen to becoming an official brand of the samurai, there was a new sense of cross-class culture developing. The Arimatsu style was not from either the old aristocratic culture, nor exclusively part of the samurai class culture. Owari's (today's Nagoya) economy started to boom and by 1680 a golden age of the Edo era was reached. The local lord encouraged the emerging popular culture to be consumed by all classes. This new social culture and Arimatsu fashion developed into its independent culture and was called "Nagoya Iki", or Nagoya Avant Garde". it was represented in the famous Ukiyoe woodblock print series by famous artists like Hokusai and Hiroshige during this time. Famous poets and haiku authors also wrote about Arimatsu Shibori.

華やかな元禄の世になると街道一の名産品に成長し、尾張藩の『御絞り染御用達』として武家へ納める絹の絞り染めも次々と開発されてその隆盛ぶりは北斎や広重、国芳などの浮世絵にも描かれ多くの歌人や俳人にも詠われて全国一の絞り染めの産地として繁栄しました。



The end of the Edo era came with the opening of Japan's borders. Arimatsu Shibori found its way to western Europe where the clothing was awarded a silver prize at the Paris World Expo in 1900, followed by a silver prize in 1905 at the London Expo. The craftsmanship, artistic skill and beauty of Arimatsu Shibori-some was highly praised by artists and critics alike and this study of Japanese aesthetics was called Japonism. Both the Arts and Crafts movement and Art Nouveau were greatly influenced by this.

明治になるとパリ万博(1900年)において銅賞を受賞、続いロンドン万博(1905年)において銀賞を受賞するなど「ジャポニスム」と称され「有松絞染」の工芸技術と美しさは海外でも高く評価され一世を風靡しました。



Today, there is a kind of "neo-Japanism" occurring with Arimatsu Shibori. Internationally renown Japanese fashion designers such as Issey Miyake and Yohji Yamamoto have used Arimatsu Shibori to create stunning and never seen before fabrics and fashion. Arimatsu and new styles of Arimatsu Shibori continue to be appreciated by royalty such as Japan's Emperor and the United Kingdom's royal family, and is popular among the fashion aficionadoes from across all of society. New techniques in tying and dyeing are still being developed and when applied to today's modern materials Arimatsu Shibori can be found in large stage production costumes, hotel lobby installations to soft and elegantly patterned translucent curtains blowing in a small country home.

江戸時代より絞染の職人は生涯一人一芸と言われ、一人の職人に一つの絞りを一生やりつづけ、その種類は100種類を優に超えるといわれました。現在ではその職人の数は減り続けているものの「有松絞染」の伝統と精神は守られ育てられて、今もなお絞りの技法の多様性は世界一を誇り、世界を代表するイッセイミヤケやヨウジヤマモトのようなファッションデザイナーを魅了し続けるインスピレーション的な素材となっています。