

Welcome to the Museum of Traditional Medicine!

Morinomiya College of Medical Arts and Sciences

Tatoos in red and black on the white colored face?!

The unusual shaped five-head manikin with round shoulders (forward head posture) exposing the collarbones and drooping hands is a douningyo or meridian doll, which attracts popularity as a symbol of the Museum. Photo 1 shows the manikin that has been handed down in the Takeda family in Saga prefecture, Kyushu.

This kind of meridian doll is called tong ren or douningyo (bronze doll) because it was first made of bronze in China. Many ancient meridian dolls made of paper or wood still remain in Japan. The Museum of Traditional Medicine houses a collection of four other meridian dolls made of paper and wood.

はりきゅうミュージアム
Museum of Traditional Medicine



Photo 1: Meridian Doll handed down in the Takeda family (Height 80 cm, Breadth of Shoulder 17cm (circa 1700))



The photo of Meido-zu (meridian chart) with a unique expression illustrated beautifully with the style of the 17th century. This inspired Hidetaro Mori to begin his collection. Hidetaro Mori collected many of the historical materials displayed in the Museum.

When he encountered this Meido-zu about 30 years ago, he was impressed that old material relating to acupuncture and moxibustion remained. The Museum of Traditional Medicine houses many other Meido-zu's he collected.

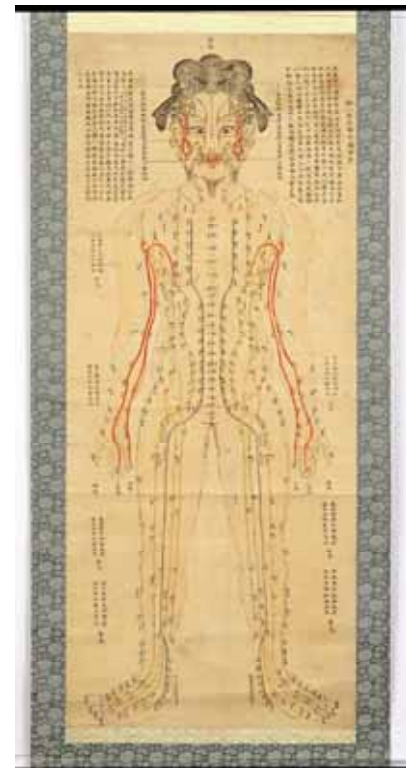


Photo 2. Meido Douningyo (Meridian Chart)

Acupuncture and moxibustion originating in China are said to have been introduced into Japan in the year 562 when Buddhism first arrived in Japan. Subsequently, mainstream medicine was Kampo, acupuncture, or moxibustion until western medicine was adopted.

Kampo, acupuncture, and moxibustion of Chinese medicine, however, have not been used literally in Japan. Instead they developed to their present form with the addition of modifications, theories, and techniques unique to Japan. Among other things, advanced metallurgical technology has allowed the manufacture of very fine acupuncture needles. Furthermore, this has enabled delicate needle manipulations distinctive to Japanese acupuncture, providing subtle stimulation with effectiveness.

Special techniques that are not seen in China have been developed, such as the Sugiyama method of “Kanshin-jutsu” inserting a needle using a guide tube and the Misono method of “Dashin-jutsu” inserting a needle using a hammer tapping the head of the needle. In the Edo period, many schools of thought emerged and developed providing techniques that are used to this day.

On the other hand, moxibustion that uses moxa or mugwort herb to burn directly on the skin of a patient was by far the most popular in the Edo period. This took root in the life of the common people as a means of treatment or self-care to prevent disease. Books on moxibustion points and ukiyo-e woodblock prints depicting a scene where a patient is receiving moxibustion provide us with rich historical information.

We can learn much of the history of acupuncture and moxibustion from the historical materials including Meido-zu (meridian chart), douningyo (meridian doll), ukiyo-e, and the book of secrets and tips.

These historical items are on display for the public at the Museum of Traditional Medicine.

Please visit the Museum and enjoy exploring our collections.

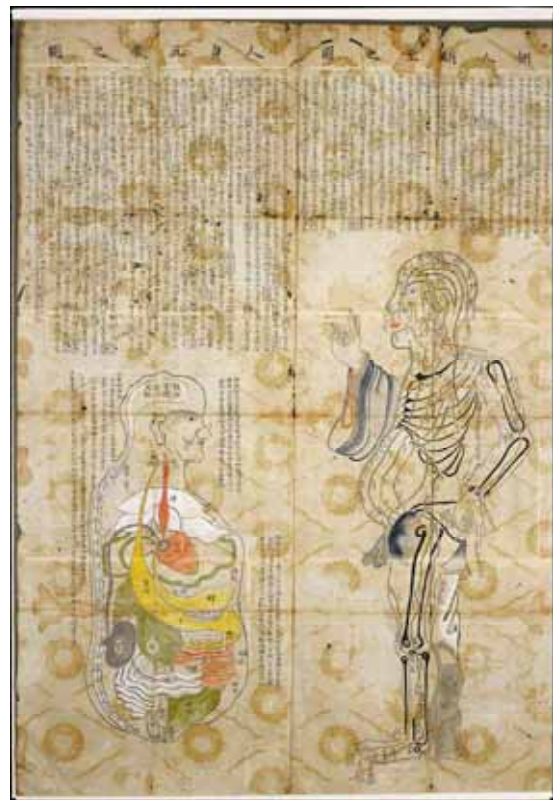


Photo 3. Illustration of Meido (Meridians) and Manikin with Five Visceral Organs



Photo 4. Old Picture of Workman (acupuncturist), work in the early Edo period

In the right upper part of Photo 4, a scene where a patient receiving tapping acupuncture is depicted. The tapping technique, which is a needle insertion method unique to Japanese acupuncture, was widely popular in around 1600.



Photo 5. Tapping apparatus of the Mubunryu Needling Method



Photo 6. Filiform Needle and Needle Box



Photo 7. Ukiyo-e “Atsusou (seems hot)” (1888)



Photo 8. Scene of Pediatric Moxibustion (A woman is holding a child using her legs with her left hand taking hold of the right hand of the child to give moxibustion for her jian (second space on the radial side of the index finger distal to the 2nd metacarpo-phalangeal joint), san jian (third space on the radial side of the index finger, proximal to the head of the 2nd metacarpal bone), he gu (union valley in the middle of the 2nd metacarpal bone on the radial side) of the large intestine meridian points. (Picture drawn between 1832 and 1842)



Photo 9. Moxibustion Box

Old oil lamp stand type of moxibustion box used by the domain lord of Matsumoto. The box contains all

the necessary items for administering moxibustion, such as moxa, incense sticks, charcoal container, and ink brush • stone.



Photo 10. Books on Falconry by Nezu Family (1577)

Rolled books handed down in the falconer family, describing the moxibustion points of a falcon. Horses and cows received acupuncture or moxibustion therapy in these days. Old books on meridian points for the treatment of disease are on display at the Museum.

Introduced above are a part of the collections that are on display.

References:

Hitoshi NAGANO, et al.: Museum of Traditional Medicine Vol. 1 Bronze Doll, Meido-zu; Publishing Department at Morinomiya College of Medical Arts and Sciences, 2001.

Hidetaro MORI and Hitoshi NAGANO: Museum of Traditional Medicine Vol. 2 Nihon-no Dentou to Iryou to Buka-hen; Publishing Department at Morinomiya College of Medical Arts and Sciences, 2003

Hitoshi NAGANO: Hari-kyu Museum no tanjo to kongo-no-tenbou, Acupuncture and Moxibustion OSAKA Vol.16-4, p.111-118, 2000

Hidetaro MORI: Shin-setu shita hari-kyu Museum, THE SHIBUNN No.110, p.69-81,2002



Opening Times: 13:30 – 18:30 Closed on: Saturdays, Sundays, National Holidays, and Official School Holidays Admission fee: Free for all visitors Access: By Osaka Municipal Subway Chuo Line, Nearest station: “Midoribashi”, Exit No. 3 (seven minute walk to the Museum area) By JR Kanjou-sen, Osaka Municipal Subway Chuo Line/Tsurumi Ryokuchi-sen, the nearest station: “Morinomiya” (twelve minute walk to the Museum area)

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Access Map

