

# Hidden Christian village in Ibaraki



# History of Christianity in Japan



**Francisco Xavier  
of the Jesuit Missionary**

# The Age of Exploration (15c~16c) & The Reformation (1517)



# Catholic

# Protestant



Spain  
Portugal



Holland



Hideyoshi  
Monkey



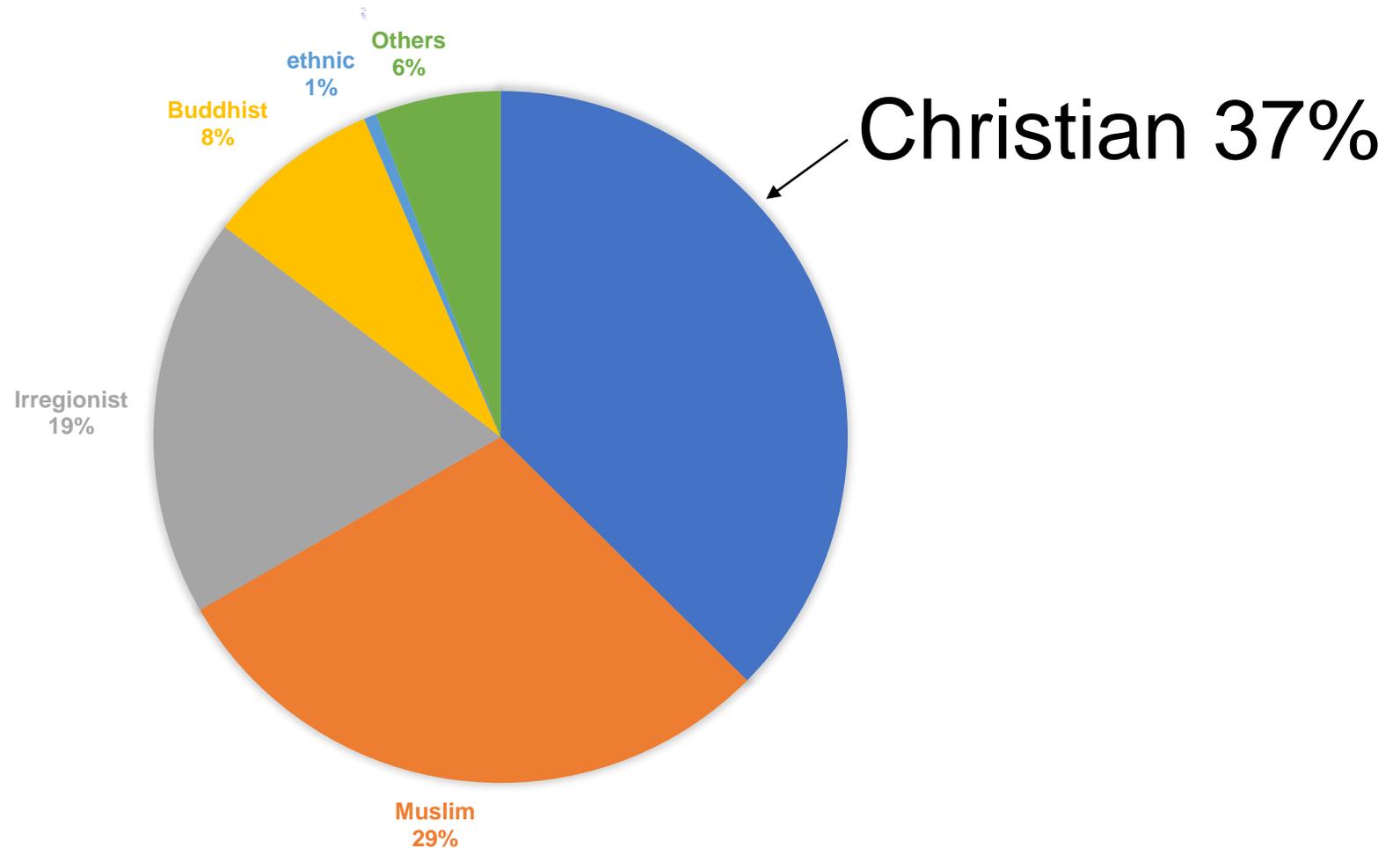
Ieyasu  
Raccoon dog



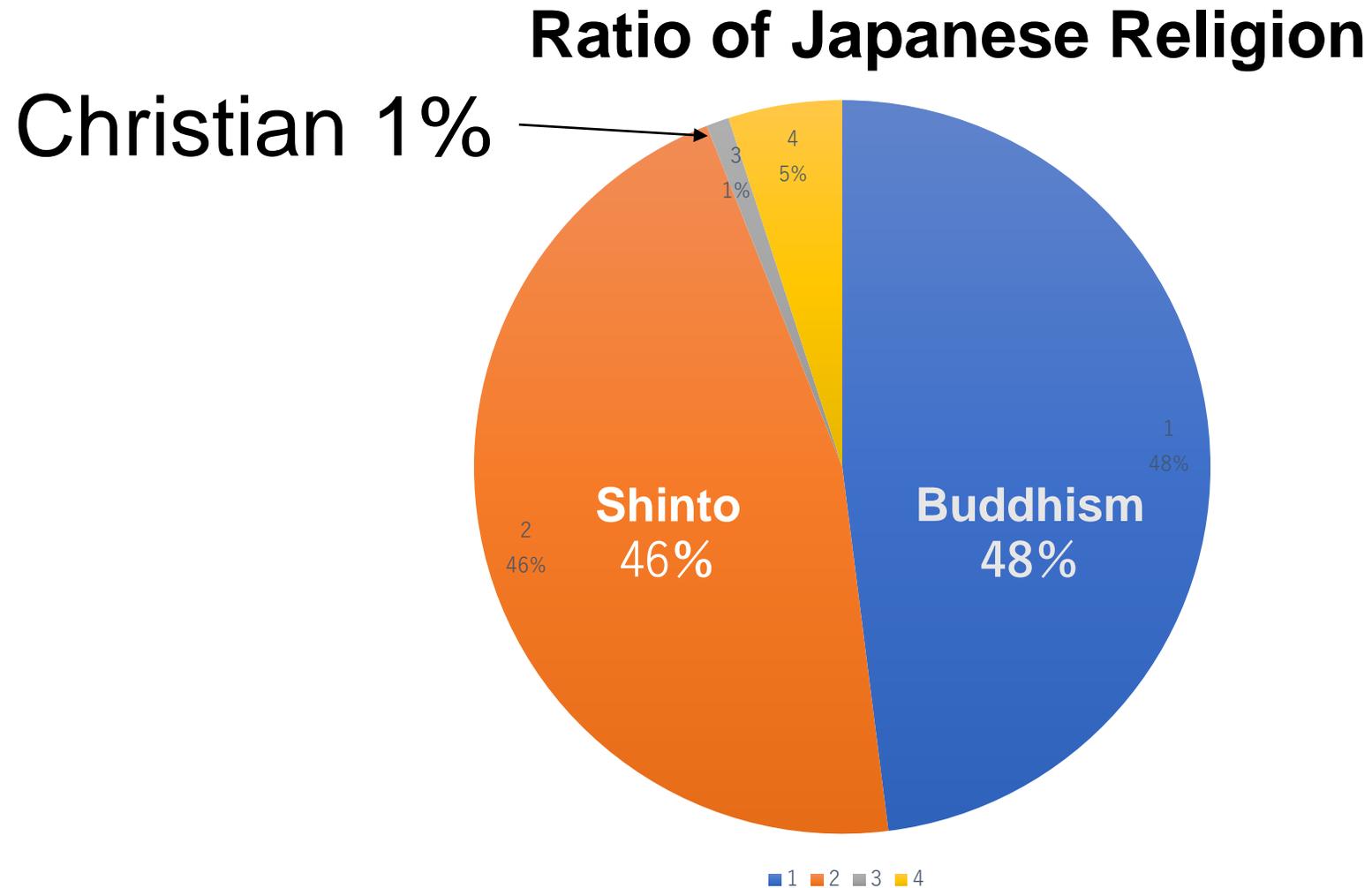
Nobunaga  
Horse

# Ratio of Christianity in the world

## RELIGIOUS RATIO IN THE WORLD



# Ratio of Japanese religion





# The persecution of Christians in the Edo period

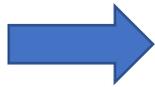
**Step on Fumie  
or  
not**



# Warlords felt a threat of the growing power of Christianity



Accept



Accept → Ban



Ban



Ban



**Nobunaga**  
feudal lord



**Hideyoshi**  
feudal lord



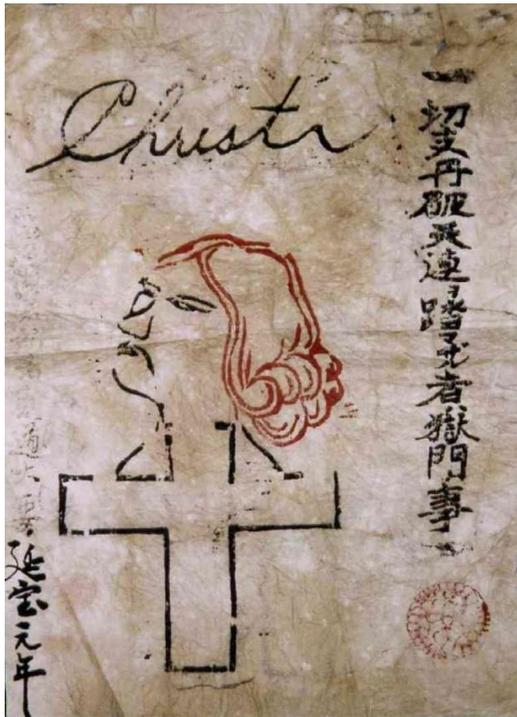
**Ieyasu**  
the 1<sup>st</sup> Tokugawa Shogun



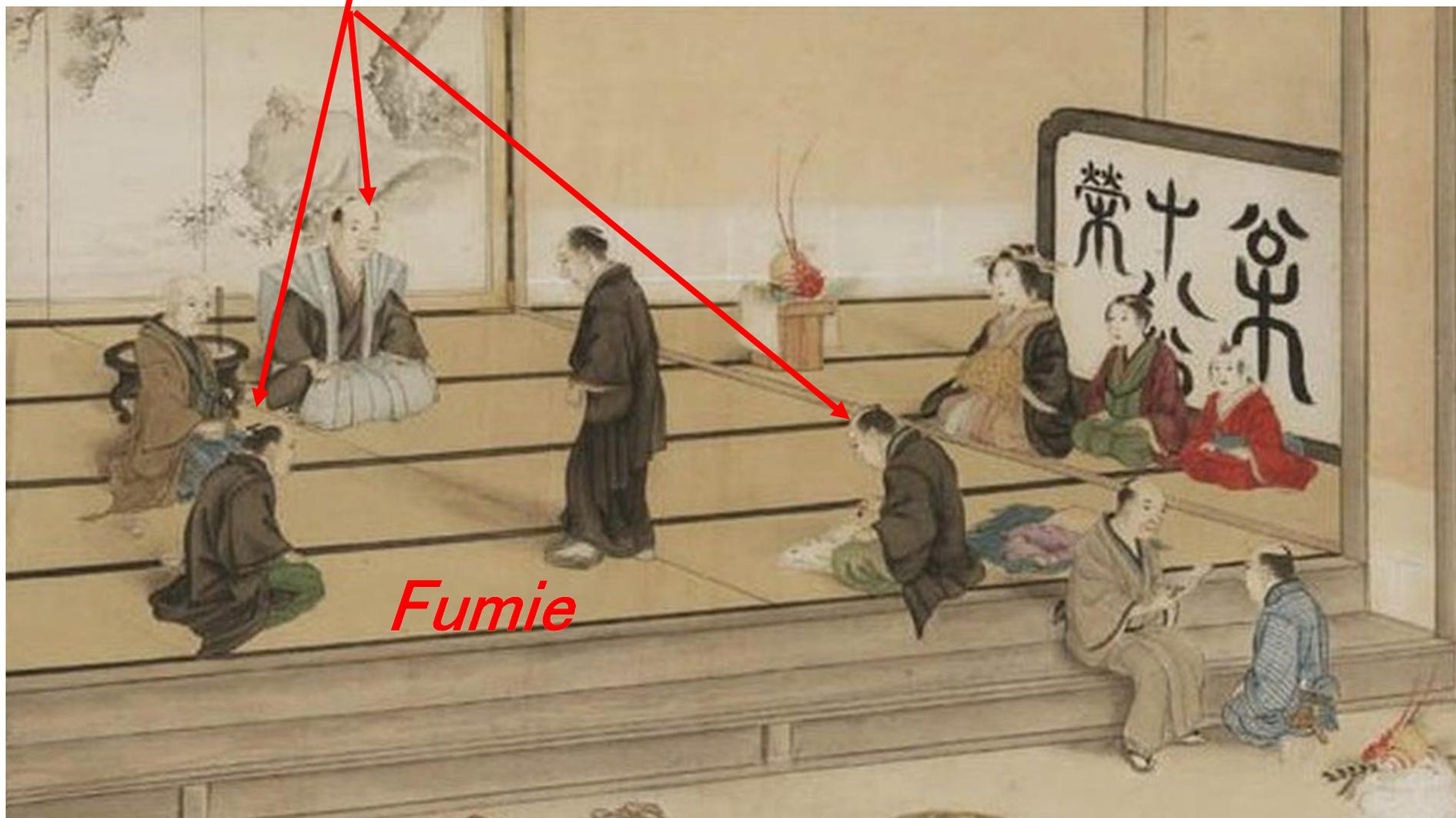
**Hidetada**  
the 2<sup>nd</sup> Shogun

# What is Fumie?

Fumie was used as a test to identify people who were Christians and wipe out Christianity in Japan.



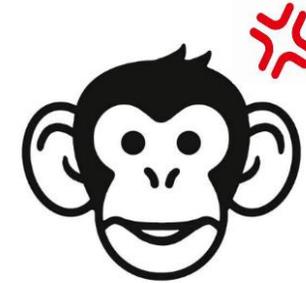
A man stepping on the Fumie, officials observe him carefully





They issued **the ban on Christianity**

in **1612**



**Fumie act began**

**and**

**forced Christian to abandon their faith**



If a person didn't step on the Fumie...  
He was captured and faced torture or execution

If a person stepped on the Fumie...  
he was seen as giving up his faith  
and he could live another day





## Bulletin Bord

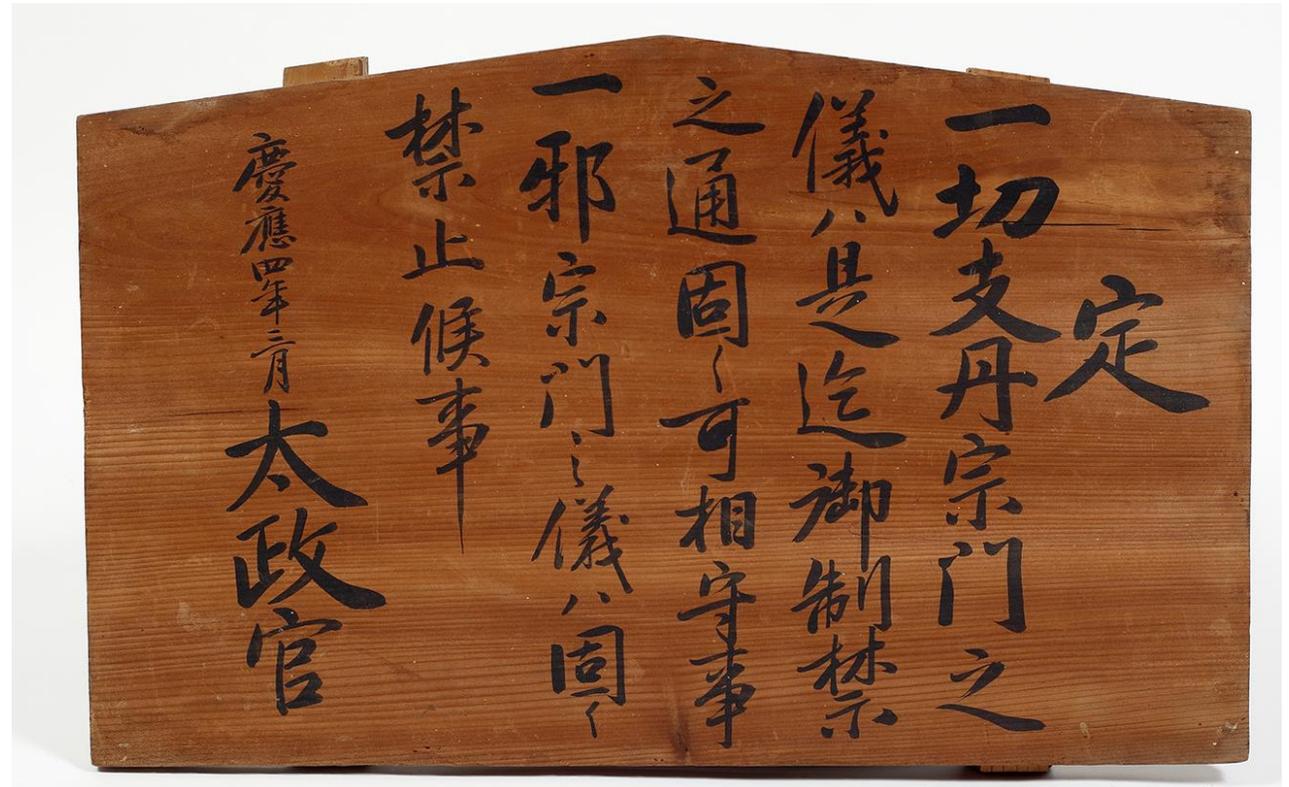
### Rewards

500 pieces of silver (\$ 3.5million)

: information of a Padre or Father

300 pieces of silver (\$ 2.1million)

: information of a monk



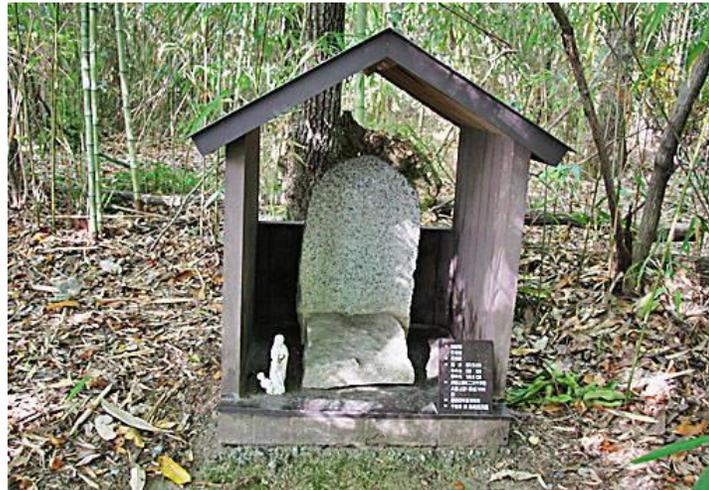
# Hidden Christian region in Sendaiji

Higashi family



Koun-ji temple  
Soto school of Zen Buddhism

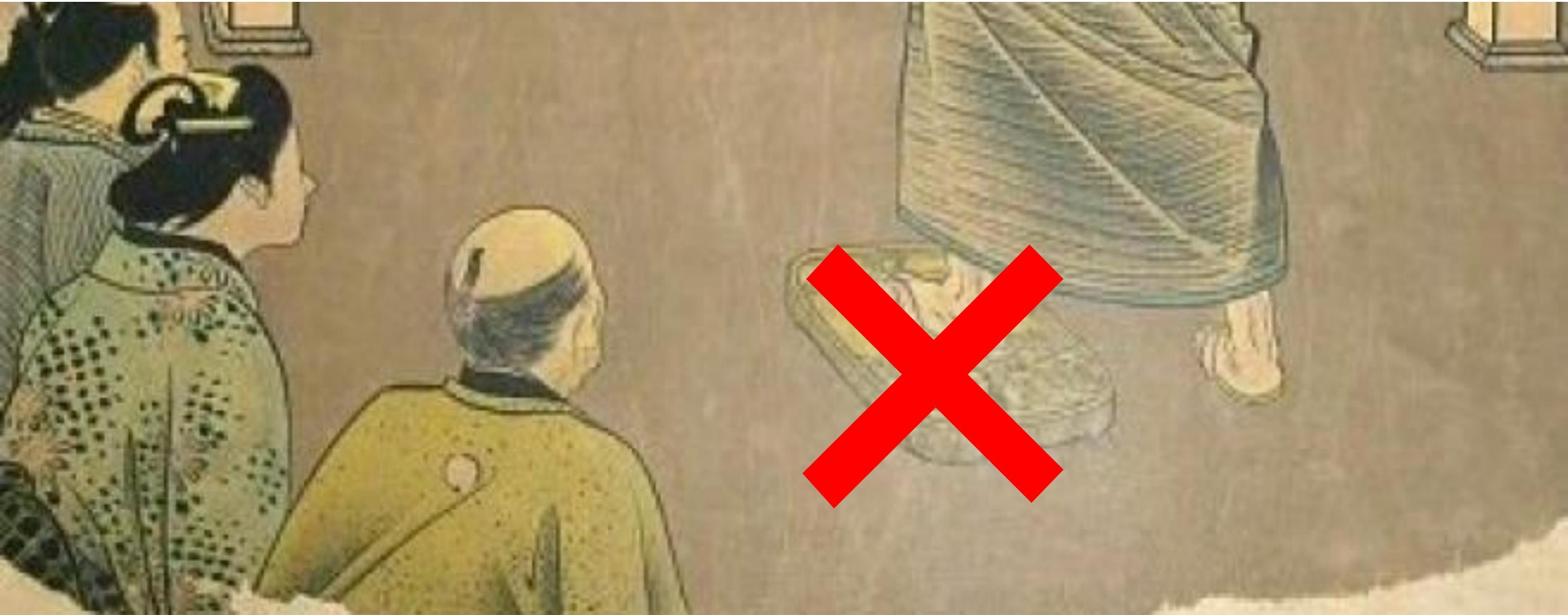
Hidden Christian tombstones



**Maruyama Geisha competed in gorgeous kimonos on New Year days**



**Gradually Fumie lost its original meaning**



**Fumie ~~abolished~~ in 1858 after 230 years!!**

**Unfortunately, the persecution itself of Christian continued**

The ban on Christianity  
from 1612

to

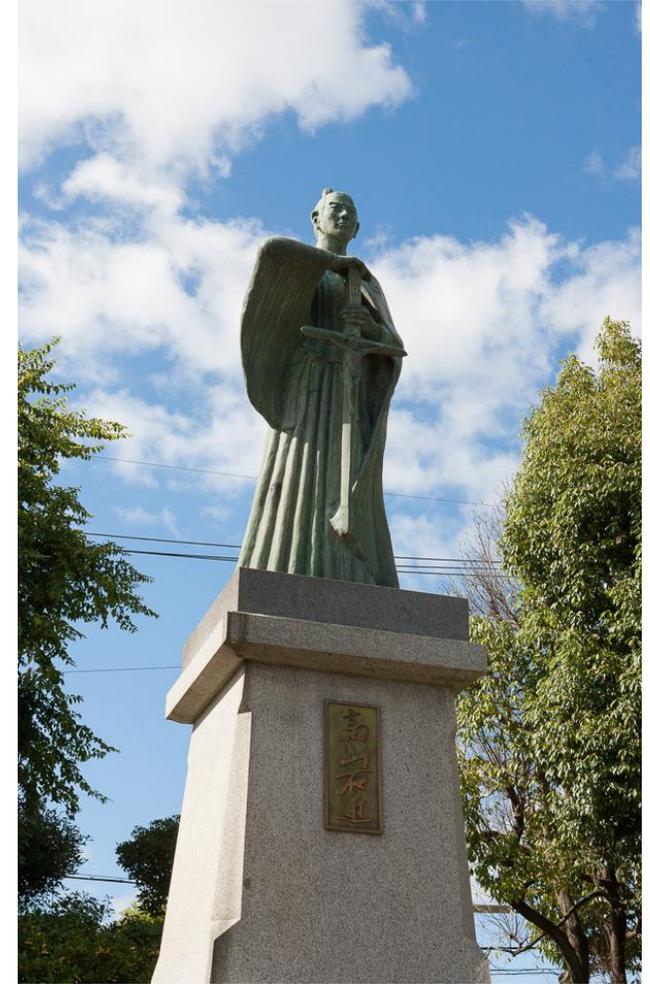
1873

for 260 years!!!

Persecution of Christian was over  
in **removal of bulletin boards**

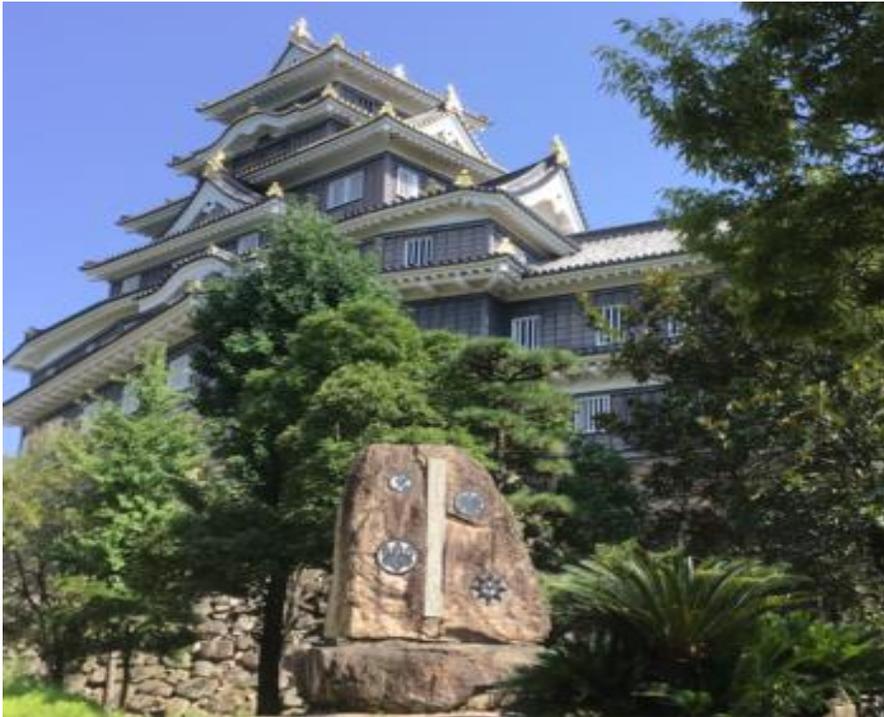


# Ukon Takayama

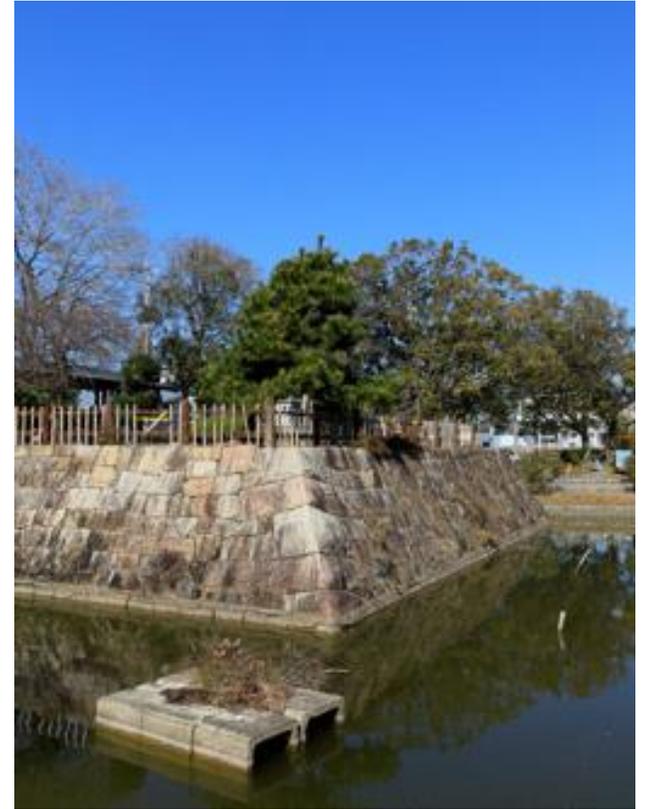


**Ukon Takayama was baptized at Sawa Castle in Nara Prefecture at the urging of his father. It was in 1564 at the age of 5.**

**Ukon moved to Takatsuki Castle Town at the age of 17<sup>th</sup>**



Takatsuki Castle ruins



**Ukon succeeded his father as lord of Takatsuki in 1573 at the age of 21, and married Justa (Christian name)**

After the rebellion of Araki Murashige (1578), Ukon was given the territory of Ninchoji Gokasyo by Nobunaga Oda for his achievements. Sendaiji and Shimo-otowa were also included in this area.



Araki Murashige



Battle of Yamazaki



**Sen no Rikyu**

Sen no Rikyu encouraged Ukon to convert, but Ukon stubbornly refused to give up his faith.

Ukon has counted as one of Sen no Rikyu's disciples in the world of tea, "The seven disciples of Rikyu".

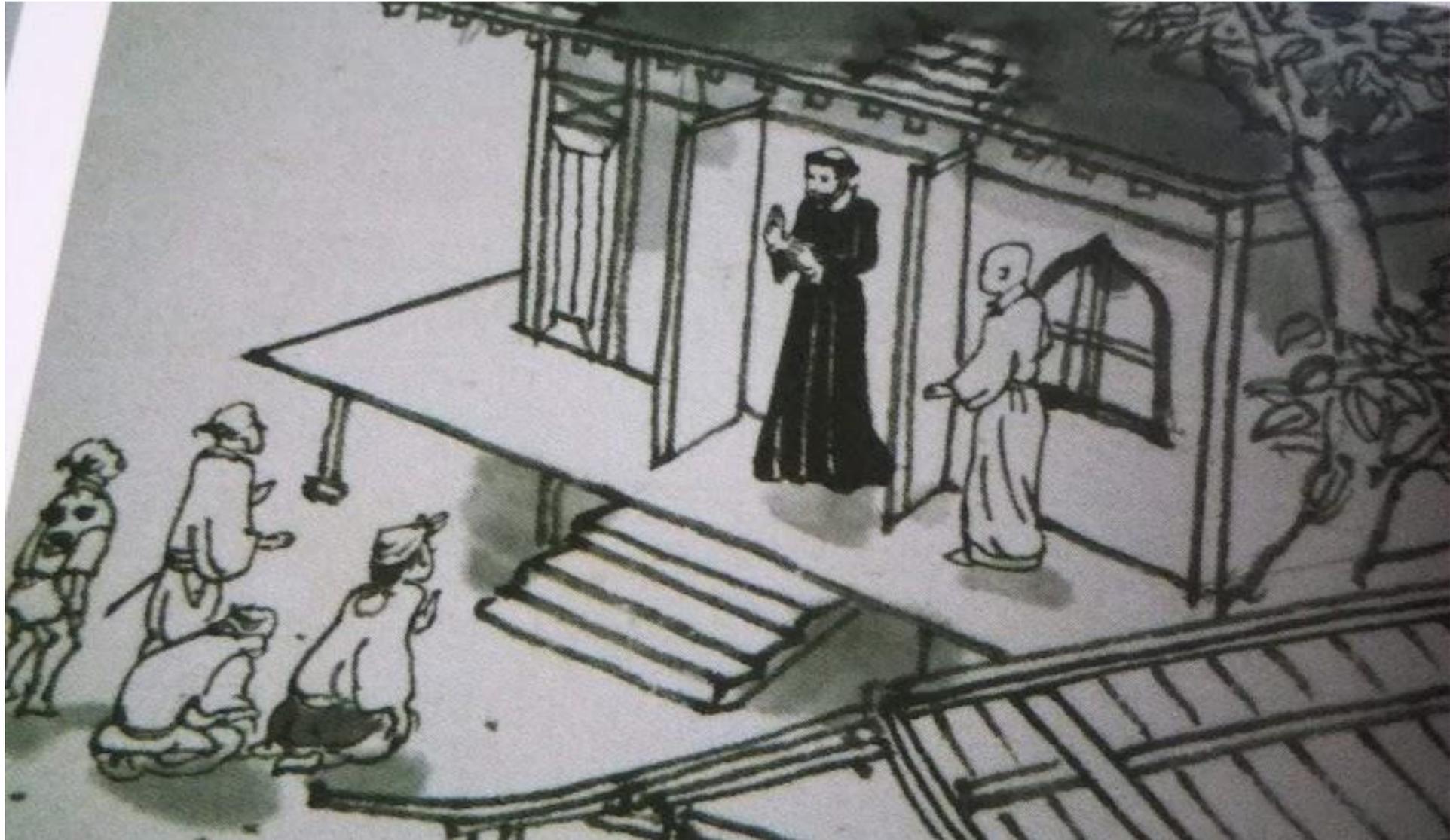


**Ukon**

Sendaiji village and Shimo-otowa village are  
remote mountain area in IBARAKI



Missionaries also visited Sendaiji and Shimo-otowa to carry out missionary work. Because these area was near the place where Ukon was born.



In Edo Period, by the shogunate ban on Christianity, many believers were forced to Buddhism. But there were people who continued their Christian faith secretly.

This is Kounji temple in Shimo-otowa. They became followers of this temple ostensibly. They were also hidden Christian.



# Takayama Ukon's statue in KANAZAWA Catholic church



# Takayama UKON' s works



Waterway

NANBOU was the name of tea master.

NANBOU stone



Kanazawa castle Otemon Ruins



## HONGYOUJI temple as Christian temple in NANAJO city.



**IN the Edo period, there was a hidden Christian temple. Takayama Ukon sometimes stayed here. And prayed with some believers.**

**Tower of Zeus, in opposite side, there's words of Buddhism.**



# Now-existing Hidden Christian Buddha



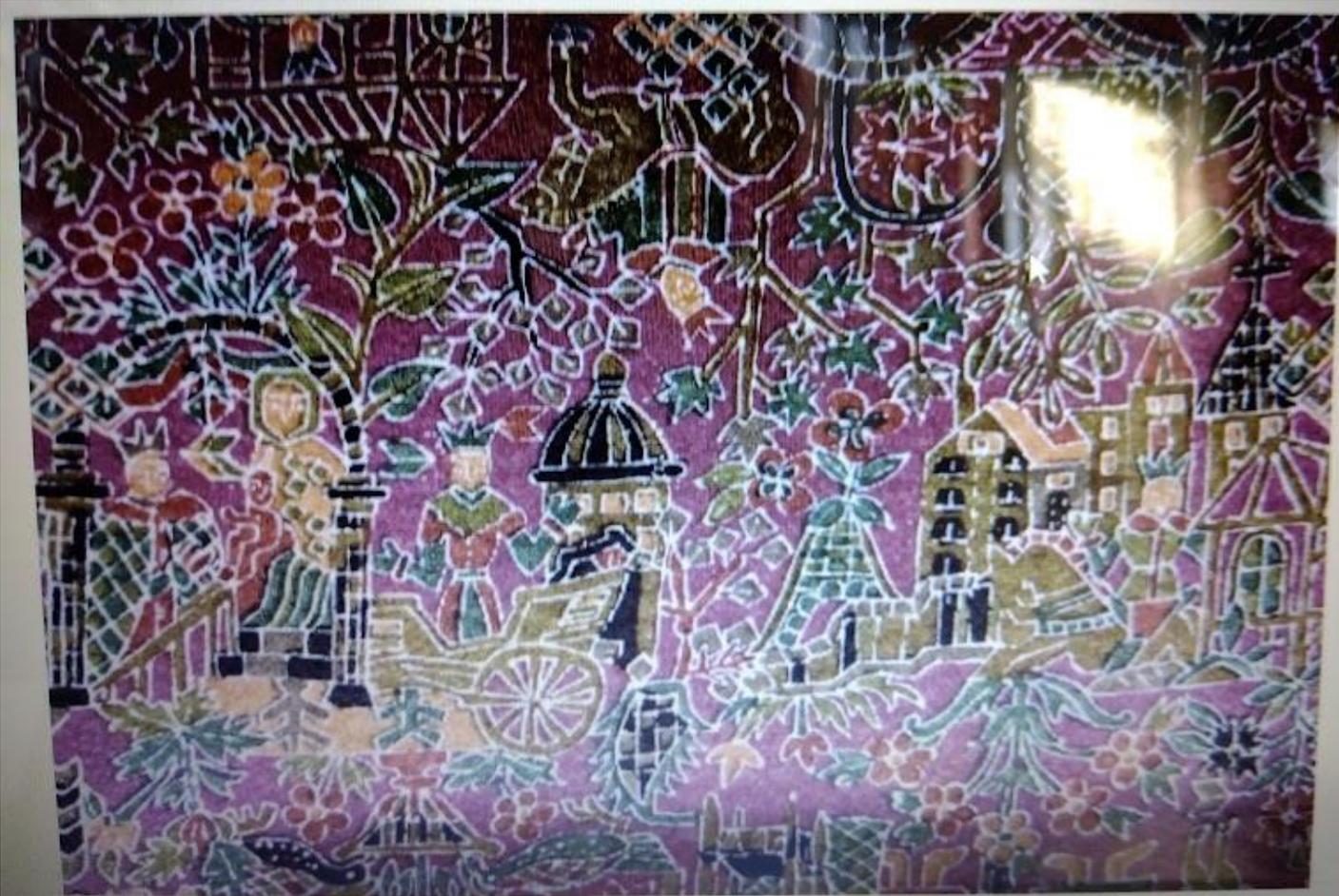
**This is a secret Buddha.  
When Christians pray, they spread Buddha's hands.  
Then the cross appears on his chest.**

# Guardian dog with a cross on it's forehead



# Depicting Christianity

A kimono worn by a Christian woman called "Christ komon"







**In 1613, UKON was deported to  
MANILA**



**Old Japanese village in Paco, Manila**

# Ibaraki Christian Relics Depository

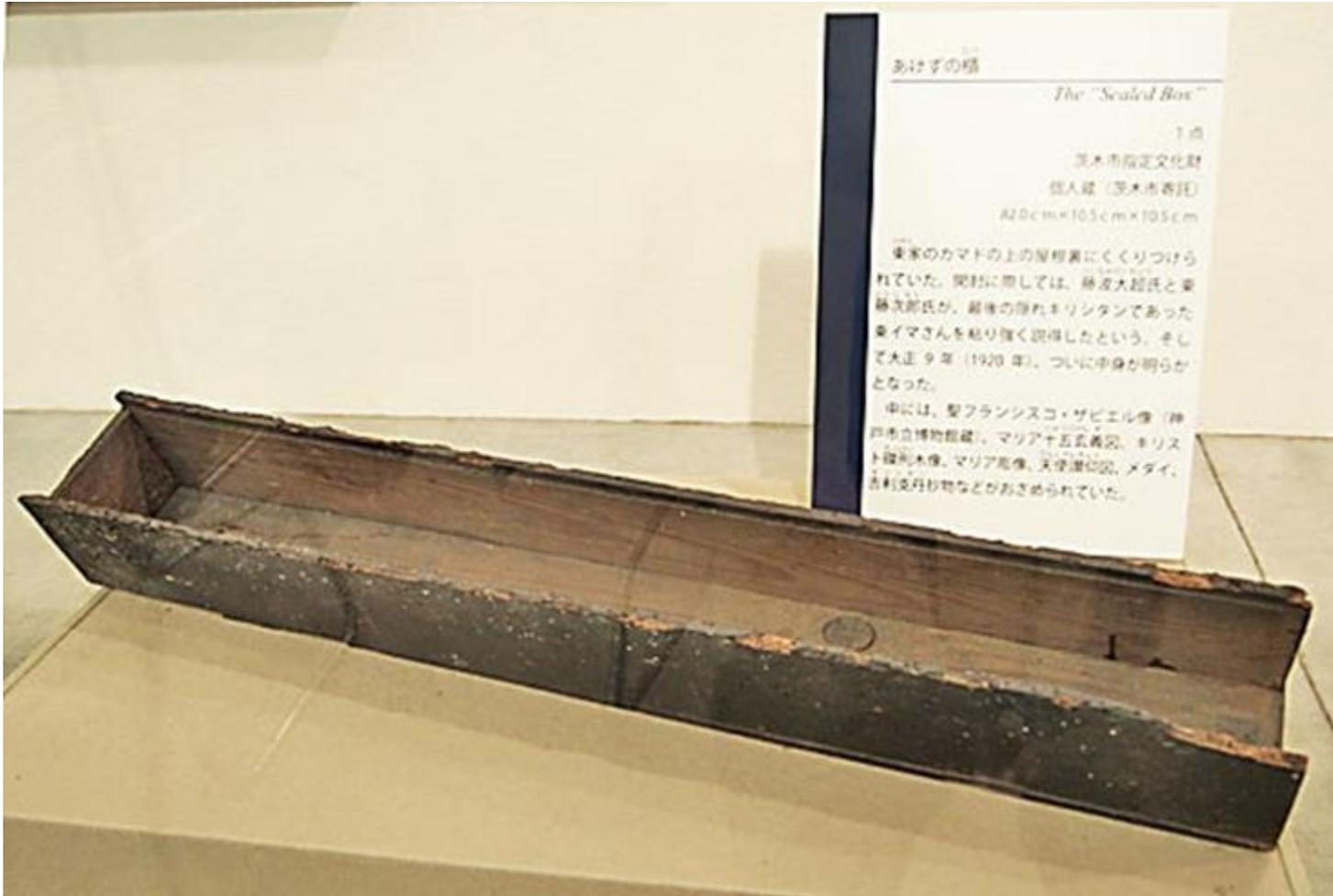
founded in 1987.

~Lives as hidden Christians for 300 years~



# Wooden Chest forbidden to open

~ sealed and hidden behind a ceiling beam for centuries~



In the chest...

size: 82cm\* 10.5cm\* 10.5cm  
32inch \*4inch \*4inch

# Portrait of Francisco Xavier

One of the most famous foreigners  
in Japan...



Wooden statue of Jesus crucified



its copper container



# To learn and transmit Christianity



Found in Higashi's house

*Fifteen  
Mysteries  
of Virgin  
Mary*



Found in Nakatani's house

# Mental Supports under persecution



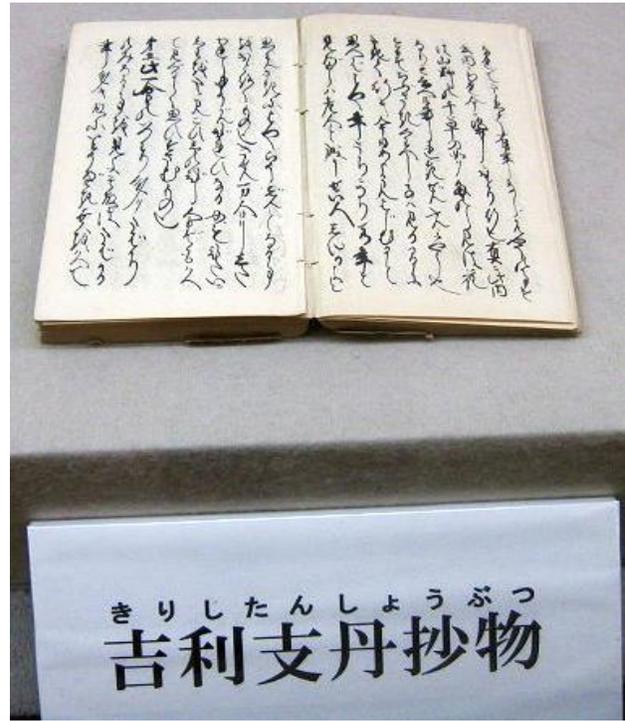
a statue of Virgin Maria



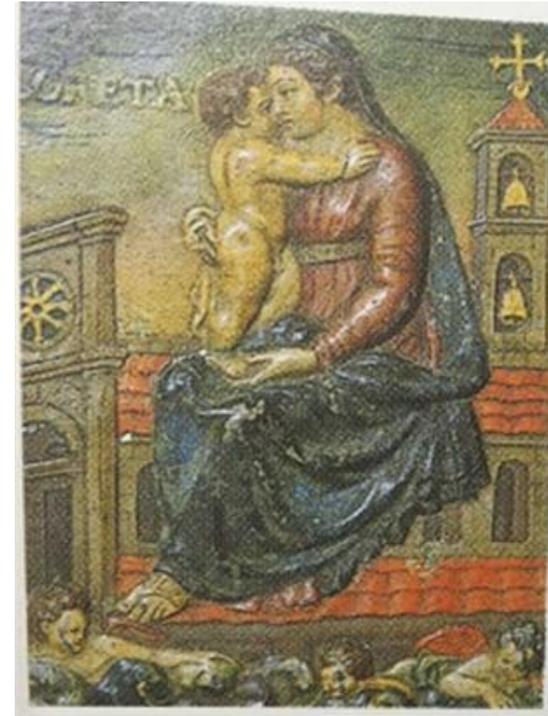
rosary



Medals



Textbook for Christianity



Madonna Loreto

Even in this remote village...



定

きりしたん宗門ハ累年御制禁  
たり、自然不審成もの有之ハ  
申し出へし、御ほうひとして、  
はてれんの訴人 銀五百枚  
いるまんの訴人 銀三百枚  
立かへり者の訴人 同 断  
同宿并宗門の訴人 銀 百枚  
右之通可被下之、たとひ同宿宗門の  
内たりといふとも、訴人に出る所により  
銀五百枚可被下之、かくし置他所より  
あらハるゝにをいてハ、其所の名主并  
五人組之一類共に可被處嚴科者也、  
仍下知如件、

天 和二年五月 日  
奉行

右之通被仰出之間、當領内之輩急度  
可相守之者也、

日向

Bulletin board on banning Christianity in 1682

# The Tombstone ⇒ Discovery of the hidden Christian village

Undeniable proof of hidden  
Christian village



Tombstones with  
a double-branched  
cross,  
Christian name,  
the year of death  
inscribed



Tombstones found  
as a wash basin(left) & a stepping stone (right)

# Just after the hidden Christian village was spotted...



Sendaiji-Church **1924-41**

The site of  
Sendaiji-Church



Papal envoys from the Vatican  
**1926**



# The Ai River Dam curry

About 50 Years of Trail of the  
Ai River Dam



1967.6 Hokusetsu torrential rains

# 2014 construction of the main body started



2022

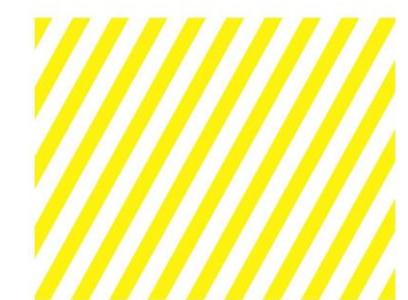
Trial flooding began





Making the dam area a new landmark in Ibaraki

次なる  
茨木へ。



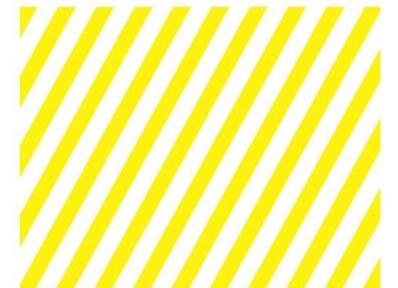
茨木には、次がある

**Let's Explore Ibaraki together!**  
**We are looking forward to seeing you soon!!**



**IIN working group on outdoor activities**

次なる  
茨木へ。



茨木には、次がある。