

Tanoue Kannon-do Tsuketari Munafuda (wooden ridge plaque attached to the Kannon-do Hall), 2 pieces

Of the **33 Pilgrimage Temples of Kiso**, this Kannon-do Hall is number five, and while its foundation date is unknown, the wooden ridge plaques show that its reconstruction was in 1776.

Built entirely of zelkova timber and with a thatched roof, this hall is a rarity in the Kiso Valley.

It is 4.84 m long and 3.75 m across with exquisitely delicate carvings on the transom panel at the front.

Enshrined as the principal image is Sho Kannon Bosatsu (Sacred Avalokitesvara).

While it is said two great cherry trees used to stand on the temple grounds, the one remaining tree has been designated by the village as a natural monument.

Of the two wooden ridge plaques, one is from the rebuilt hall and is of great interest as it reveals a message that states "Enshrined the principal Buddhist image in the rebuilt Kannon-do Hall on November 6, 1776 Year of the Fire Monkey", as well as the name of the Buddhist priest Kaian, the 11th-generation priest of Gokurakuji Temple at the time, the names of the village headman and the master carpenter, and also the total cost, and the name of a person from Echigo, who is thought to be the thatcher.

The other ridge plaque bears inscriptions in two places: "Hall built and dedicated in offering" at the top, and below that "Stone stairs donated in offering". The inscription about the stone stairs is a record from seven years before rebuilding of the hall, which tells us that the hall grounds were already established before its reconstruction, suggesting this Kannon-do Hall was inaugurated long ago.

Source: *Kiso-mura no Bunkazai Meguri* ("A Tour of Cultural Properties in Kiso Village")

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