山形市の歴史と伝統工芸

Yamagata city's history and traditional crafts

蔵王山脈の懐に抱かれ、豊富な水資源と肥沃な土壌により美しい自然と豊かな気候風土に育まれた山形市は、古くから数多くの素晴らしい素材の宝庫でした。こうした真の素材は、人々の感性を奮い立たせ、職人たちの「モノづくり」への意欲を大いにかき立てるものでありました。また、北前船により最上川を渡って京文化が伝えられ、独自の文化がここに残されています。

延文元年(1356)に山形に入部した斯波兼頼は、翌年の延文2年、山形の政治拠点とするために山形城の築城を進め、城下町山形の基盤が形成され始めました。

城下町には、職人町をつくり高度な技術を持つ職人達を手厚く保護し風土に生き技磨く匠 たちの伝統の技が今も息づいています。

この匠たちの「鋳物」「仏壇」「打刃物」「鋸」「指物家具」「焼物」「和傘」「張子」「こけし」「建具」「特技木工」「漆器」「籐工芸」「押絵」「表具」「石工」「桐箱」「草木染」等それぞれの業種が、交流をしつつ技術の研鑽に励み、現在に至っています。

自然の恵みに感謝し、素材の良さを最大限に引き出すことに情熱を傾け、ひたすら己の技術を 磨き続けてきた職人たちの魂が込められているのが山形市の伝統工芸品の数々です。

Hugged by the bosom of the Zao Mountain Range and born of beautiful nature and a rich climate with abundant water and fertile soil, Yamagata City has long been a veritable treasure chest of natural resources. Such pure materials stirred the people's sensibilities and fueled the craftsmen's drive for "creating things." The Kitamae ships that plied the Mogami River also carried with them the culture of Kyoto, which has left a unique culture here. In 1356 (First year of the Enbun period), Shiba Kaneyori entered Yamagata and the next year, he started construction of Yamagata Castle, which would become the center of Yamagata government. The foundations of the town surrounding the castle stretches back to this time. A craftsman's district was created in the castle town where highly skilled craftsmen were warmly cared for. Living in harmony with Yamagata's natural features, these masters of their crafts polished their techniques, leaving a tradition that lives on today.

These master craftsmen's [IMONO/(Casting)] BUTSUDAN/(Household buddhist altar)]

[UCHIHAMONO/(Smithery)] [NOKOGIRI/(Pull saws)] [SASHIMONOKAGU/(Joined furniture)]

「YAKIMONO/(Pottery)」「WAGASA/(Japanese umbrella)」「HARIKO/(Papier mache)」「KOKESHI/(Wooden doll)」

TATEGU/(Joinery)」「TOKUGIMOKKOU/(Feats woodworking)」「SHIKKI/(Lacquerware)」

「TOUKOUGEI/(Rattan handicrafts)」「OSHIE/(Raised fabric pictures)」

「KUSAKIZOME/(Plant dyed textiles)」, and other crafts mingled and stimulated the development of their techniques, which continue to this day.

Giving thanks to nature's bounty and pouring their hearts into bringing out the very best of the area's superb natural materials, the spirit of these craftsmen who ceaselessly polished their crafts remains within the many traditional crafts of Yamagata City.

