



The Kodayu Daikokuya Memorial Hall



Exhibition: Kodayu and Two Laxmans

— Early Connections between Japan and Finland



JAPAN - FINLAND

Diplomatic relations 100 years

Erik Laxman, Adam Laxman and Kodayu Daikokuya

Congratulations on the 100th anniversary!

Exhibition Opening Ceremony and Lecture

Date & Time : Mon October 14, 2019, 12:30 – 15:00 (Door opens at 12:00)

Place: Kodayu Daikokuya Memorial Hall Parking area

Guests:

Mr. Pekka Orpana, Ambassador of Finland in Japan

Dr. Jussi Nuorteva, Director General, The National Archives of Finland

Mr. Valtteri Bottas, Finnish Motorsports Professional

◆◆ Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis, for up to 100 guests. ◆◆



200 copies of publications about Finland and 1000 copies of brochures of the exhibition are available on and after October 14

Wed. October 9 ► Sun. December 8, 2019

Opening hours: 10:00 ~ 16:00

* Closed on Mondays, Tuesdays and the 3rd Wednesday of each month

The Kodayu Daikokuya Memorial Hall

<http://www.suzuka-bunka.jp/kodayu>

Admission Free

Organizers: Suzuka City The National Archives of Finland Honor society of Kodayu Daikokuya

Support: Embassy of Finland in Japan

Cooperation: Business Finland Konecranes Oyj Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation Kambe High School Broadcasting Club

Erik Laxman, whom Kodayu admired as “my father in Russia”, was a Finnish natural historian. His son, Adam Laxman accompanied Kodayu back to Japan. Introductions about the two Laxmans, Finnish gentlemen who were very important for Kodayu, and panel exhibition to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Finland, produced by the National Archives of Finland, are exhibited.

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Mascot : Two Laxmans



Mascot : Kodayu



Mr. Pekka Orpana
Ambassador of Finland
to Japan

Year 2019 marks the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Japan and Finland. It is a significant and historical milestone for our leaders and diplomats. Most importantly, however, it is a celebration for the friendly and booming relations between the Japanese and Finnish people. It is the individuals from many walks of life – such as artists, researchers, tourists, businessmen and women – who are tying up the knots in a vast network of connections that make up our day-to-day relations. The subject of this exhibition – the encounter of Kodayu and the two Laxmans – describes the beginning of the friendly relations between our countries.

From those days we have grown to become today strategic partners in international affairs, in research and in innovation, and developed close relations in business and arts as well.

I am convinced that the positive development of the relations between our countries will continue well in the future.

Finnish academician and natural scientist Erik Laxman died at an age of 58 years near in Siberia in January 1796. He was travelling to Japan, where he had dreamed to go for many years. In 1792 his son, Adam Laxman, had guided the well-known Japanese seafarer Daikokuya Kodayu back to Japan. Erik Laxman had met Daikokuya Kodayu in Irkutsk ten years earlier and taken him to St.Petersburg.

This is one story among many others telling about the connections between Japan and Finland. I am happy on behalf of the National Archives of Finland and the Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation to participate in the opening of the exhibition about Japanese-Finnish connections in Suzuka, the hometown of Daikokuya Kodayu. It has a special role in this narrative.

Erik Laxman is today known as a person who raised funds to get a new bell to the church of his hometown Savonlinna. That bell is used still today. Every time it tolls, it reminds us about his role in building connections between Finland and the land of his dreams, Japan.



Dr. Jussi Nuorteva
Director General
National Archives of Finland



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