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# Japan Screen Topics

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## AIZU WAKAMATSU - HISTORY AND FOLK CRAFTS -

128 feet 3 min. 33 sec.

1. (LS CITY) Traditional Japanese handicrafts, produced in homes and small shops, still are more important than factories in this tourist center in the north of the main Japanese island of Honshu.

Aizu Wakamatsu is built on a plain near the foot of lovely Mt. Aizu Bandai. Old and new blend in its streets, where many pre-modern Japanese business buildings still stand.

2. (CASTLE) Like many Japanese cities, Aizu Wakamatsu began as a local government center built around a medieval castle. The original castle was built about 600 years ago and was the site of the last big battle of Japan's civil war of 1869. The Emperor's troops crushed the forces of the shogun, or military dictator, opening the way for the modernization of the country.

The story is told in these old prints on display in a museum in the city.

3. (CRAFTSMEN WORKING) Aizu Wakamatsu's rich tradition of handicrafts includes akabeko... red lacquer dolls of cows with wobbly heads. In fact, akabeko means "red cow" in the northern dialect spoken around the city. In old times these cow dolls had a special significance. They were supposed to bring good luck and health to crippled and sick children.

4. (MAIN PAINTING) Aizu Wakamatsu's craftsmen also are noted for their skill in the field of makie... lacquerware decorated with pictures. Outstanding examples of this craft are preserved at a lacquerware exhibit hall in the city.

5. (CANDLE) Rosoku... hand painted candles... are used by the Japanese to decorate Buddhist altars on religious days. But there is also a market for them overseas where they are prized as candles for party decorations.

6. (RICE FIELD) Aizu Wakamatsu is abundant in rice... the staple crop of the country. Because of the high quality of the rice grown here, the district has become one of Japan's most famous rice liquor, or sake, producing areas.

7. (WOODEN BUILDING) Besides rice, the most important ingredient of sake is hard, clean water which the Aizu bandai area has in abundance. The first step in the brewing process is to polish the rice to remove all traces of husk. Then it is cooked and allowed to cool.

(CONVEYOR BELT) Conveyor belts transport most of the rice to fermenting tanks.

(RICE ON BENCHES) A special yeast called koji is introduced to the rest of the rice which is then spread out on benches to be aerated.

(BLENDING TANKS) This rice is blended into the rice in the fermenting tank. It takes approximately 20 days for complete fermentation.

(BOTTLES) After several other brewing processes, the end product is sake... a clear, sweet tasting drink with an alcoholic content of about 17 percent. Wooden measuring cups are the traditional receptacles for enjoying sake.



8. (PAMPASS GRASS) Mt. Aizu Bandai, inspiration to generations of Japanese artists and poets, towers over this district where old Japan lives gracefully in the modern era.

#### FROM JUNK TO JEWELS

80 feet 2 min. 13 sec.

1. (STEEL MILL) Every year Japan produces about 100 million metric tons of steel. However, there is an ugly by-product... 30 million tons of iron ore slag. Some of it is used to make concrete or road surfacing. Now, a way has been found to actually turn slag into something beautiful.

2. (HANDFUL OF SLAG) Through the magic of modern technology, slag can be transformed into decorative rocks and gems.

3. (SLAG WHITE POWDER) The first step is to mix the slag with chemicals like soda ash and zinc oxide that will change its dull, gray color.

4. (POUR INTO COOKER) Next the slag and coloring agents are fused together in a kiln... the temperature is raised to 1,400 degrees centigrade. More than 20 years of research by steel and chemical firms went into the development of this technique.

5. (POUR INTO MOLD) What comes out of the kiln is an entirely new chemical formed by fusion of the slag and coloring agents. It is poured into molds that give it the size and shape needed for manufacture of jewelry.

6. (REMOVE AFTER COOLING) Solidification takes about 24 hours. The product must be reheated at times during this process. It can be made half as hard as a diamond. In appearance, it can be made to resemble opal, turquoise or other gemstones, depending on the coloring agent used.

7. (CUTTING) The ugly slag now has become a medium for artists and craftsmen who will shape it into costume jewelry, or other decorative objects.

8. (JEWELS) Here are some of the finished products. Today they are still laboratory items, not on sale in stores.

(NECKLACE) But the commercial era of costume jewelry made from drab steel slag now appears to be only a matter of time.

### THE HERITAGE OF CRAFTS

66 feet 1 min. 50 sec.

1. (BASKET ON WALL) Part of the world's great cultural heritage is the tradition of handicrafts.

For centuries before the dawn of modern industry, artists and craftsmen used their hands to shape glass, metal, wood and clay into useful and beautiful works of art. Each nation and region of the world has made its own unique contribution.

2. (BUILDING EXTERIOR) Crafts enthusiasts from 54 countries gather in the old Japanese capital of Kyoto... center of Japan's traditional culture... for the 8th International Conference of the World Crafts Council. One goal is to preserve the tradition of individual craftsmanship in the era of mass production.

3. (PEOPLE SITTING) There's no language barrier among craftsmen... they exchange ideas by demonstration.

(MAN DEMONSTRATING) Indonesia is famous for its batik dyeing process.

(MEN CARVING) Here are carvers of the wooden masks used in Japan's traditional Noh plays.



(POTTERY MAKING) Pottery making, in Japan's shigaraki tradition.

(PAPER SCULPTURES) Mexico's paper sculpture craft has attracted world-wide attention.

(MAN W/HAMMER) India's copperware techniques are on display.

(GLASS BLOWING) An American craftsman demonstrates his glass blowing skills.

The creative spirit of the human race, expressed in a myriad of ways through handicrafts.

#### BEAUTICIANS FOR DOGS

54 feet 1 min. 30 sec.

1. (WALKING) When Mrs. Fumiko Yabe takes her pet dogs for a stroll, people always remark about the animals' beautiful grooming.

There's a reason: Mrs. Yabe has always loved dogs. When her children reached high school age, she went to a special school in Tokyo and became a professional dog beautician.

2. (COLLEGE DOOR) Yamazaki College for dog grooming in Tokyo has graduated 1,800 beauty operators for dogs since it was founded 12 years ago. It has 200 students at present.

In a pet-loving country like Japan, the school's graduates find it easy to get jobs or set themselves up in the dog grooming business.

3. (BLACKBOARD) Besides grooming, Yamazaki College teaches its students all aspects of dog physiology and psychology.

4. (EAR EXAM) The students also learn the basic points of canine health care from professional veterinarians.

5. (CU FUMIKO's FACE) Now an instructor at Yamazaki College, Fumiko bathes a poodle in preparation for a beauty treatment. She says it's important to first make the dog feel loved and at ease.

Dog haircuts aren't just for beauty, Fumiko explains. They make the dog healthier and more comfortable. The College also trains its students in animal nutrition, so they can advise dog owners on pet feeding.

For Fumiko Yabe, a love of dogs has brought a new vocation in middle life.

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