

HANAOKA Seishu (1760-1846)

HANAOKA Seishū was born in Naga, Kishū, in 1760, died at the age of 86 and is said to be the greatest doctor of the latter Edo period. Seishū's works include "Geka-shinsho" ("外科神書"), "Yōka-sagen" ("瘍科瑣言"), "Tōka-idan" ("燈下医談"), "Sanka-sagen" ("産科瑣言"), "Shunrinken-gansanpō" ("春林軒丸散方"), Shunrinken-kōhō ("春林軒膏方"), Shōkanron-kōgi ("傷寒論講義").

Many of these were transcripts of experiences comprised by his students as if they observed his clinical lectures, and those were immediately applicable to clinical practices. Moreover, the outstandingly famous anesthetics, Tsūsen-san (通仙散), and some other medicines such as Shiun-kō (紫雲膏) and Chū-ō-kō (中黃膏) were Seishū's original drugs. Among his pupils there appeared many of the eminent physicians such as HONMA Sōken and NAKAGAWA Shūtei.

Figure 1

A portrait of Seishū, owned by Mr. Azusa
The Collection of Seishū-no-sato



Centering on surgery, Seishū's practice was manifold and covered internal medicine, dermatology, gynecology, etc. Seishū became famous for performing surgery for breast cancer using the anesthetic Tsūsen-san. He also performed various other types of surgery and was considered preeminent practitioner of the medical technique of his time.

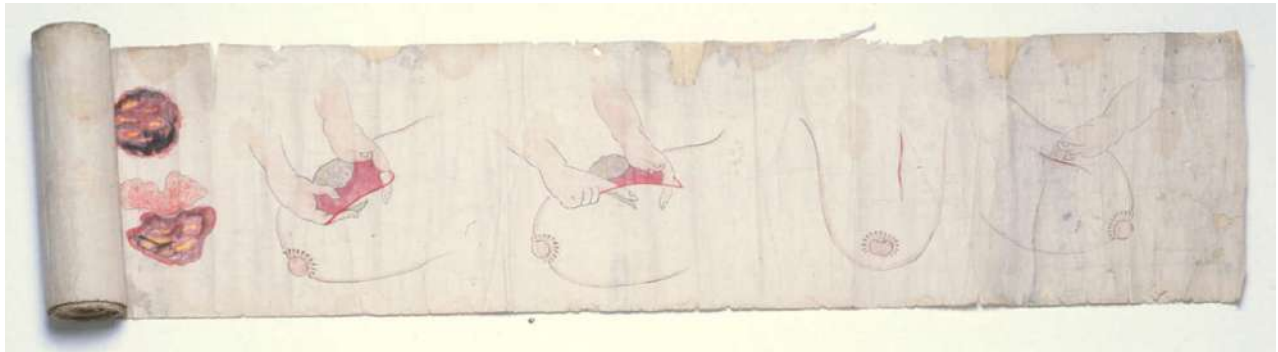


Figure 2

HANAOKA school surgery procedure of breast cancer

The collection of Naitō Museum of Pharmaceutical Science and Industry

It is said that Seishū's medicine was influenced by the series of YOSHIMASU Nangai's Kampō and YAMATO Kenryū's surgery. Not only those but also he is said strongly influenced by the Dutch medicine. On the other hand, he introduced acupuncture and moxibustion into his medical technique. For example, "Geka-shinsho" says to administer 7 cones of moxa each at GV-20 and CV-17 when the patient throws back to his head. Also for the same symptom, it says to perform acupuncture in 30 mm depth with the filiform needle bilaterally at LI-4. He also used indirect moxibustion and chemical substance moxibustion.

In "Yōka-sagen" he uses mulberry moxibustion and Chinese chives moxibustion to relieve severe pain from neck tumor (腦疽). For folliculitis (髮疽) he uses indirect garlic moxibustion. It is also written in "Yōka-sagen" that performing blood-letting with the Sanryōshin-needle is effective for carbuncle (癰疽). In "Seishu-sensei-chiken-roku" ("青洲先生治驗録") it is recommended to apply coal tar at moxibustion sites after the treatment. This indicates the effectiveness of incorporating Western medicine with acupuncture and moxibustion therapy.

In these ways, HANAOKA Seishū combined Eastern medicine (Kampō, and acupuncture and moxibustion) and Western medicine (Dutch medicine) to form an original style of medicine which he practiced in the latter Edo era.

Figure 3

Formal Japanese attire "Haori" and
"Hakama" used by HANAOKA Seishū
Owned by the Collection of Honor Committee
for medical saint HANAOKA Seishū
The Collection of Seishū-no-sato



Figure 4

The place where the HANAOKAs originated



TODA Shizuo
Professor
Kansai University of Health Sciences