








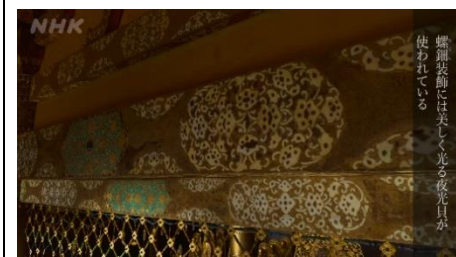
The Golden Hall of Chūson-ji Temple: Prayers for Peace in an Age of Glory

 <p>NHKは世界の芸術文化を8K超高精細映像で紹介</p> <p>中尊寺 金色堂 平和への想いと栄華を伝える</p>  <p>世界遺産 中尊寺が育んだ文化と歴史を堪能してみよう</p> <p>中尊寺 金色堂 平和への想いと栄華を伝える</p>  <p>奥州藤原氏 初代前により900年前に建立</p>  <p>世界でも唯一無二のお堂</p>  <p>室内には奥州藤原氏二代の遺体が納められている</p> <p>初代清和 二代 秀衡 一代 基衡</p> <p>江戸時代に鑑みられた奥州藤原氏二代 藤原清衡 墓公園 毛呂寺蔵</p>  <p>仏教美術の粋を集めて作られた金色堂</p>	<p>Japan's public broadcaster NHK produces 8K ultra-high-definition films to complement its exhibitions by showcasing art and culture from around the world in incredible detail.</p> <p>This film uses the world's most advanced imaging technology to delve into the history and culture of Chūson-ji Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site in the town of Hiraizumi in northeastern Japan.</p> <p>Chūson-ji Temple houses the Golden Hall, which was designated a National Treasure in 1951. It was constructed 900 years ago by the founder of the Ōshū Fujiwara dynasty, Fujiwara no Kiyohira (1056–1128).</p> <p>At the time, Buddhist art had climbed to new heights in Japan under elite patronage. The hall is an iconic example from this era. Nearly every surface is richly adorned in gold.</p> <p>Its gilded appearance and other extraordinary features have made it the only site of its kind in the world.</p> <p>Inside, the remains of Fujiwara no Kiyohira, his son Motohira, and his grandson Hidehira are entombed.</p> <p>The hall is located in what was then a rugged, northern frontier, but the Buddhist art seen inside represents the very best of the day, rivaling that found in the capital of Kyoto.</p>
 <p>孔雀の羽が丁寧に表され生き生きとした様子が伝わる</p>	<p>The peacocks that adorn the altars reflect a particularly high degree of craftsmanship.</p> <p>They appear almost lifelike, with each feather rendered in meticulous detail.</p>



The flowers next to the peacocks are equally remarkable.

They are depicted in their full form, as if they were growing out of the ground.



Exceptional craftsmanship is not the only unusual characteristic of the hall's adornments. Take a look at the designs in mother-of-pearl inlay. Iridescent pieces of green turban snail shell are inlaid in black lacquer.



A staggering 27,000 pieces of shell were used to make these designs.

However, green turban snails live only in tropical oceans.

The shells must have been transported hundreds of miles northward to reach the Golden Hall.

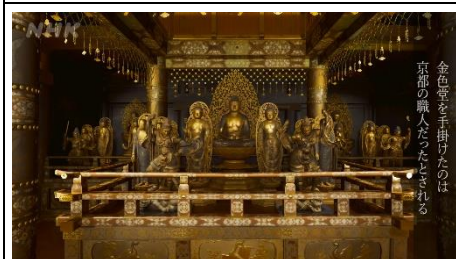


Other materials were imported from abroad as well.

Take a closer look at the railings on the altars. They are made of rosewood, a timber prized for its lustrous red hues.

This particular species of rosewood comes from Southeast Asia.

Scholars think it was delivered to northeastern Japan directly, rather than being shipped through the capital of Kyoto.



Further, the advanced styles and techniques seen in the hall indicate that master craftspeople from Kyoto helped build it.



But Kiyohira's true motivation for constructing the Golden Hall does not lie in its artistry.



His founding wish is preserved today in an unexpected form:

A sword dance by masked performers, called Kawanishi Dai'nenbutsu Kenbai.

It is meant to bring peace to the spirits of those who died in battle.

The dance was developed after Kiyohira had a dream about a monkey that was a messenger of Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha. In his dream, the monkey led restless spirits to the Pure Land of the buddha Amida, a realm in which all beings can attain enlightenment and escape the cycle of rebirth.

Kiyohira was born in 1056, when northeastern Japan (Ōshū) was caught in a fierce power struggle between Minamoto no Yoriyoshi (988–1075) of the Kyoto-based Minamoto clan and the region's own ruling clans, who had not yet sworn fealty to the imperial court.

Kiyohira not only survived this period of intense warfare, but eventually seized control of the region. Rather than rule by force of arms, he chose to pursue peace through Buddhism. He constructed Chūson-ji Temple as an act of prayer, invoking solace for the departed spirits of friends and foes alike. He prayed that they would be reborn in the Pure Land.

Kiyohira's wish is illustrated in the Buddhist statues he chose to enshrine.



The Amida triad on the central altar is a traditional grouping in Pure Land Buddhism. Bodhisattvas associated with compassion (Kannon) and wisdom (Seishi) are positioned next to the buddha Amida.



Three statues of the bodhisattva Jizō are placed on either side of the triad. Jizō rescues those who are suffering in the six realms of rebirth, including the Buddhist hells and the animal realm.



The devas Zōchōten and Jikokuten drive away evil and are placed in the forwardmost position.



Fascinatingly, this combination of statues is unique to the Golden Hall.



Some believe it expresses Kiyohira's wish to save not only those in our realm of existence, but to save every being trapped in the six realms of rebirth.

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NHK、東京国立博物館、
文化財活用センター、中尊寺が
最新の高画質CG技術により
デジタル上に再現したものです

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制作 NHKエデュケーショナル
制作 2019 NHK

- The Golden Hall of Chūson-ji Temple featured in this film was digitally recreated by NHK, the Tokyo National Museum, the National Center for the Promotion of Cultural Properties, and Chūson-ji Temple using 8K CG technology.
- Narration by Ayumi Watanabe
- Produced by NHK Educational.
- Produced and written by NHK.