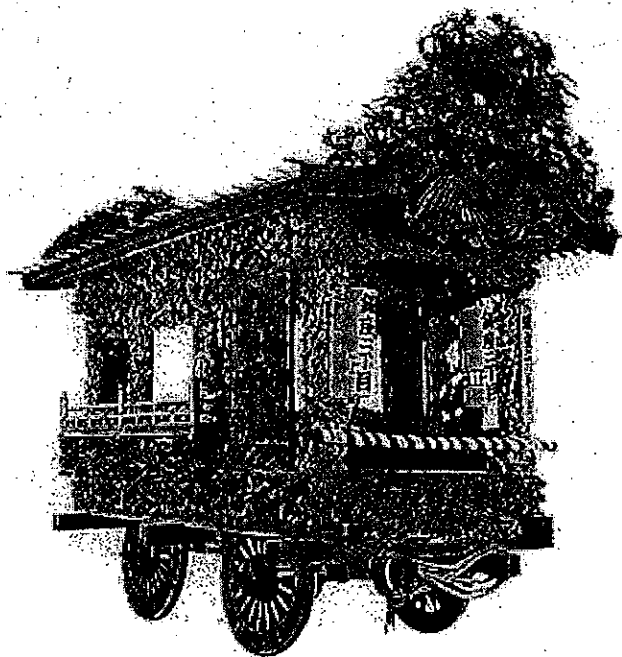


the other two. The panel above the front windows of the stage has a family of peacocks in a canopy of cherry blossoms, complimented by lions playing in peony flowers on the panels below the windows. Bluebirds and an owl in a plum tree are carved above the main sidewall of the stage. The right side panel of the stage has the Chinese lion - "Ah" carved on it and the left has "Un". Many small birds, parrots, golden pheasants, magpie jays, and grosbeaks fly and perch within the branches of the pomegranate trees caved along the side and between the windows of this float. Above the side windows is a panel that has a family of dragons and below the red lacquer bridge structures is a scene of the "Ah" and "Un" pair of lions playing with their cubs. The father (green) plays with two of his cubs while the mother (blue) licks a third pup's ears clean. At the back of this float two dragons and a phoenix fly above the entrance and the Chinese lion pair with their cubs stand guard at the sides of the doorway.

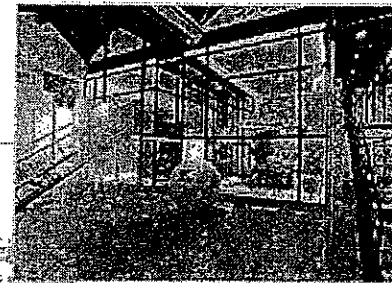


GINZA 2 CHOME FLOAT

Production of this float began in 1850 and continued until 1857. The entire float - including the body and carvings - is made of unvarnished wood, reflecting the style predominant at that time. Especially noteworthy are its highly decorative carvings combining boldness and subtlety.

The headboard of this float has two phoenixes and smaller parrots flying through the branches of a paulownia tree. The front beam above the stage

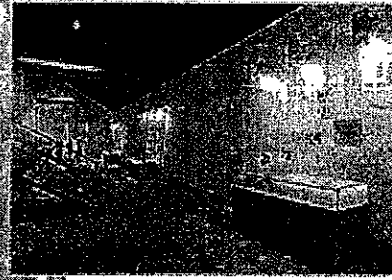
is decorated with a pair of bee eaters and an eagle in a background of cherry blossoms and pine bows. The panel above the stage entrance depicts more bee eaters flying through blooming plum trees. An exquisitely carved scene of a pair of Chinese lions with two pups is carved on one of the back panels of the stage, surrounding the stage window are another five pups playing in peony flowers. Peonies are considered by the Chinese and Japanese to be the King of the Flowers, so they are often carved or painted along with lions, the King of the Beasts. All four baseboards of this float have a pair of dragons carved on them. The panels that decorate the sides of the stage have a pair of dragons playing with a turtle that is carved on the bottom panel. Bee eaters, jays, and other small song birds fly within the clusters of cherry blossoms that ornament the window frames of the musician chamber. A pair of peacocks decorates both the panels that flank the sides of the backdoor and cherry blossoms, pine bows and bee eaters are caved into the beam above it.



INTERACTIVE DISPLAYS

Computer Display

This computer has a touch sensitive screen and gives interesting facts about the floats in a game format. It presents information about the float's headboards, cart frame, bridge/fence structure, base, carvings, lintel carvings, stage panels, and wheels. This computer program also gives interesting information about various animals such as the phoenix (hou), dragon (ryu), monkey (saru), eagle (washu), lion (karajishi), and golden pheasant (kinkeichou).



Lacquering and Painting Display

This display shows the powders and ingredients that are used to make paints as well as the process by which the paint and gold leaf is applied to the carvings. Samples of lacquer resin and the rocks from which various paints are made can also be viewed here along with the stages of gold bracket making.



Carvings Display

In this display, the process of carving a dragon's head from a block of wood is illustrated.

Types of Wood Display

In this display the visitor can examine various types of wood that are used in making Yatai floats.

Scroll Display

This display shows many of the historical documents, blueprints and instructions relating to the assembly of the floats.

History Display

A huge wood ball has a small shadow play in it that presents Kanuma's history.

JAPANESE TEA HOUSE & GARDEN

The Yatai Float Center has a Japanese garden where visitors can enjoy its natural beauty year round. At special times throughout the year, tea ceremonies are held in its teahouse.

