



Catalog of Cloisonné Silver Medallions

– Festival of Japan –

- Information in this catalog is as of February 2022, and subject to change without notice in the future.
- Please ask us the availability of products if you would like to order.

Overseas Sales Office, Japan Mint
Address : 1-1-79, Temma, Kita-ku, Osaka
Phone : +81-6-6531-5087
F a x : +81-6-6351-6608
E-mail : overseas@mint.go.jp

Common Specifications and Prices

Cloisonné Silver Medallion Festival Series	
Material	Pure silver
Finish	Cloisonné enamel Gold plating
Diameter	60 mm
Weight	Approximately 160 g
Price	<12. Etchu Yatsuo Owara Kaze-no-Bon> JPY 145,455 + shipping and insurance costs
	<1.~11. All the others> JPY 176,909 + shipping and insurance costs



* The prices may be subject to change. Please contact us (overseas@mint.go.jp) for the latest pricing.

1. Tenjin Festival (Osaka)



Obverse

“Ningyo-bune” (boat carrying traditional dolls), “fireworks,” “Osaka Castle” and “Kawasaki Bridge” from Funatogyo. These are painted richly and subtly by cloisonné enamels in six colors: yellow, turquoise, black, transparent prussian blue, red and white.



Reverse

Japanese characters meaning “Tenjin Festival” and a fan bearing the crest of Osaka Tenmangu Shrine in the background of silhouettes of Funatogyo and the Okawa River.

Tenjin Festival is renowned as one of Japan’s three major festivals over its long history and tradition.

The history of the Tenjin Festival, the summer festival of Osaka Tenmangu Shrine, dates back to 951, two years after the Shrine was built. It is believed that the festival originates from the practice where worshipers and those living near the shrine set boats adrift on the river to welcome “Kamihoko,” a small wooden float substituting for God. On the occasion, a purification ceremony called “Misogi” was held at a ritual site at the place to where “Kamihoko” had drifted from, Shato-no-hana beach.

The festival reaches its climax during Funatogyo, an event in which many boats sail up and down the Okawa River and fireworks are set off to mark the occasion.



2. Gion Festival (Kyoto)



Obverse

A scene of Yamaboko Junko, parading down Kyoto's Shijo Street with naginataboko in the lead. These are richly and subtly painted in cloisonné enamels in six colors: white, black, gray, orange, transparent blue, and transparent red.



Reverse

Komagata-chochin, which light up the yamaboko on Yoiyama, the eve of Yamaboko Junko, and Japanese characters meaning "Gion Festival"

Gion Festival is renowned as one of Japan's three major festivals over its long history and tradition.

Yasaka Shrine is in Gion, Higashiyama Ward, in Kyoto City. The Gion Matsuri, the main festival, begins at Kippuri on July 1, with many events like Hokodate, Yamadate, Yoiyama, Yamaboko Junko, Shinkousai and Kankousai lasting about one month.

Yamaboko Junko, which takes place on July 17, is the highlight of the festival. This is a parade of 32 yamaboko (decorated floats) moving from Shijo Karasuma to Shinmachi Oike. There are many highlights along the way, such as Kujiaratame and Tsujimawashi.



3. Sendai Tanabata Festival (Miyagi)



Obverse

The obverse features a man and woman enjoying streamer decorations, depicted with glowing color and delicate skill using seven-color cloisonné. The colors of the streamers incorporate the wish for restoration and memorial through the abundant use of transparent clear cloisonné.



Reverse

The design of the reverse features characters spelling out "Sendai Tanabata Matsuri," bamboo grass, and Tanabata decorations (strips of paper for writing wishes and origami cranes) against the background of the Milky Way.

Sendai Tanabata Festival was held on the theme of "restoration and memorial" and to pray for the restoration of the city of Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, and the entire Tohoku region.

The Sendai Tanabata Festival has constituted one of the city's yearly events since the time of Date Masamune, Sendai's ancestral feudal lord, and is held over a three-day period from August 6–8, when the entire city is brightly decorated with Tanabata decorations such as paper balls and streamers that are freshly handmade each year.



4. Aomori Nebuta Festival (Aomori)



Obverse

The float that won the grand prize in the 2011 Aomori Nebuta Festival, entitled “Descent of the Four Gods: White Tiger and Blue Dragon” (operated by Sunroad Aomori, made by Sakuryu Chiba) and heroically cavorting *haneto* dancers are skillfully depicted in vibrant six-colored cloisonné enamel.



Reverse

Designed with lettering reading “Aomori Nebuta Festival” and festival music performers (*shinobue* bamboo flute, *teburigane* cymbals, and *taiko* drums).

Aomori Nebuta Festival is a summer festival held from August 2 to 7 every year in Aomori City, Aomori Prefecture, in which numerous floats (*nebuta*) depicting gorgeous characters parade around the city, accompanied by dancers known as *haneto*. Anyone wearing the formal *haneto* costume may participate in the festival.



5. Kanda Festival (Tokyo)



Obverse

The obverse features the Ichinomiya Hōren, one of the phoenix-decorated *mikoshi*, leaving the Zuishinmon Gate of Kanda Jinja Shrine to set out on procession, which is depicted skillfully in seven colors using a sophisticated cloisonné technique.



Reverse

The design of the reverse features characters spelling out “Kanda Matsuri,” the *Nagare-mitsudomoe* crest of Kanda Jinja Shrine, and depicts a scene of *mikoshi* entering the shrine precincts.

Kanda Festival is one of Japan’s three major festivals, which boasts a long history and tradition. The main festival of the Kanda Festival is a ritual held at Kanda Shrine in Tokyo, which is celebrated in mid-May every other year. The festival came under the auspices of the Tokugawa shogunate in the early Edo period (1603–1868), incorporating a ritual procession with *mikoshi* portable shrines through the grounds of Edo Castle, and was watched by the Shogun and his wife and concubines as well as other notables. For this reason, it became known as the “Tenka Festival,” meaning a festival held in the presence of the Shogun, generally called “*Tenka-bito*” (the ruler of the world).

The festive mood is enhanced by several different events, including the Shinkōsai, in which three *hōren mikoshi* portable shrines decorated with phoenixes parade around the area, the Mikoshi Miyairi, when numerous gaily decorated *mikoshi* enter the shrine precincts, and the Reitaisai, the most important religious ritual.



6. Akita Kanto Festival (Akita)



Obverse

The obverse features performers dexterously balancing *kanto* poles against the backdrop of the Kanto Odori boulevard thronged with *kanto* and crowds, which is depicted skillfully in seven colors using a sophisticated cloisonné technique.



Reverse

The design of the reverse features characters spelling out "Akita Kanto Festival" in the center, surrounded by five different *kanto* pole balancing moves (from right: *nagashi* [handing over from one person to another], *hitai* [on the forehead], *kata* [on the shoulder], *koshi* [on the lower back], and *hirate* [on the palm]).

Akita Kanto Festival is held in summer as one of the three major festivals of Tohoku (northeastern Japan), along with the Sendai Tanabata Festival and the Aomori Nebuta Festival. With a history dating back to the Edo period (1603–1868), it has been designated by the national government as an Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property.

This festival is held over a four-day period from August 3–6 in Akita City, Akita Prefecture, during which time over 260 long *kanto* poles bearing numerous lanterns through the main venue of Kanto Odori boulevard.



7. Awa Odori Dance (Tokushima)



Obverse

A lively festival scene, with two men dancing in the background and two women in the foreground against a backdrop of paper lanterns, is brightly depicted in six colors using a sophisticated cloisonné technique.



Reverse

The design features the Japanese characters for "Awa Odori" in the center, surrounded by performers on five different instruments: *odaiko* (large drum), *shime-daiko* ("tight-side" drum), *kane* (bells), *fue* (Japanese flute), and *shamisen* (a Japanese three-stringed instrument), against a background motif depicting the whirlpools of the Naruto Strait.

Awa Odori is a dance said to have become popular mainly in the region now known as Tokushima Prefecture more than 400 years ago, with groups of dancers known as *ren* dancing to a special duple-time rhythm to the accompaniment of performers on instruments including *taiko* drums, *fue* Japanese flutes, and *shamisen* three-stringed instruments.

Today, Awa Odori festivals are also held in many other parts of Japan as well as Tokushima, and it has become well known internationally as one of Japan's most famous traditional arts.



8. Yosakoi Festival (Kochi)



Obverse

Against a backdrop of the donjon of Kochi Castle viewed through the Otemon Gate, five dancers with *naruko* in both hands, together with a *jikatasha* truck playing music, are brightly depicted in seven colors using a sophisticated cloisonné technique.



Reverse

The design features the Japanese characters for "Yosakoi Festival" and the *naruko* used in the dance.

Yosakoi Festival was started in 1954 (Showa 29) to pray for economic recovery and the revitalization of local communities, with the Kochi Chamber of Commerce and Industry playing a central role. It has constantly incorporated new dances and music, and over 200 teams of dancers holding small wooden clappers called *naruko* in both hands dance through the streets behind *jikatasha* trucks that play a song entitled *Yosakoi Naruko Dancing*.

In addition to the yearly Yosakoi Festival held in Kochi City over the four days from August 9–12, similar Yosakoi festivals are now also held throughout Japan, making this one of the country's best-known festivals.



9. Eisa Matsuri (Okinawa)



Obverse

The design features one of the large *taiko* drums that play a major role in the Eisa Matsuri, flanked by a smaller *shime-daiko* drum and a girl dancing *teodori* (a dance with hand movements). It expresses the dynamism of the dance, in which the feet are lifted exaggeratedly high.



Reverse

The Japanese characters meaning Eisa Matsuri are reproduced in the center of the design, surrounded by a *paranku* single-sided drum, a *sanshin* (a three-stringed instrument played by the singers, called *jikata*), and a hibiscus flower, a type of flower that is ubiquitous in Okinawa.

Eisa Matsuri is a traditional Okinawan festival held on the night of *kyubon* (the *bon* festival according to the old lunar calendar). It is a form of *bon odori* (bon dance) in which local youth associations form ranks and parade around their neighborhoods in their own various styles while beating *taiko* drums in time to traditional music. The dances, music, costumes, and other aspects of the Eisa have become increasingly diverse in recent years, and the event is spreading both within Japan and overseas.

The Eisa Matsuri, in which the members of local youth associations gather in their neighborhoods, is one of the best-known seasonal traditions of summer in Okinawa.



10. Nagasaki Kunchi (Nagasaki)



Obverse

The obverse depicts the dynamic Jaodori (dragon dance) scene and the Kokkodesho performance in which men toss a float high into the air while shouting loudly.



Reverse

The design of the reverse features musical instruments used in Nagasaki Kunchi: *nagarappa* (long trumpet) and *batsuo* (gong).

Nagasaki Kunchi is a grand autumn festival held to celebrate the local deity enshrined in Suwa Shrine. Its history is said to date back to 1634 when two female dancers offered the Noh dance "Komai" to the shrine.

The festival gained increasing popularity year by year with the support of the Nagasaki magistrates, while incorporating various dedicatory dances of an exotic nature as well as Japanese folk dances. These dances have been designated as Important Intangible Folk Cultural Properties of Japan.



11. Yamagata Hanagasa Festival (Yamagata)



Obverse

The obverse depicts *hanagasa* dancers performing the Kunpu Mogamigawa dance, which is an elegant and graceful orthodox female dance with vibrant shouts of *Yassho makasho!*; the Mogami River that flows through Yamagata Prefecture; and a flower hat that characterizes the festival.



Reverse

The design of the reverse features a flower hat that characterizes the festival and safflowers, the flower of Yamagata Prefecture; and has curved lines symbolizing the Mogami River that flows through Yamagata Prefecture in the background.

Yamagata Hanagasa Festival is a gorgeous midsummer night festival held in Yamagata Prefecture, and is one of the best-known festivals in the Tohoku region.

Groups of dancers clad in colorful costumes and holding *hanagasa* (hats decorated with safflowers) parade down the main street of Yamagata City, shouting "*Yassho makasho!*"



12. Etchu Yatsuo Owara Kaze-no-Bon (Toyama)



Obverse

The obverse shows male and female dancers processing through the nighttime streets of the old townscape of Yatsuo in an elegant, refined dance, subtly depicted in the rich color palette of eight-color cloisonné.



Reverse

The design depicts the *jikata*, the group of singers and instrumentalists that plays an essential role in the Owara.

Etchu Yatsuo Owara Kaze-no-Bon is one of Toyama Prefecture's best-known traditional folk events, with a history dating back around 300 years. It is held for the three days starting from September 1 each year.

The dancers wear woven straw hats pulled low down over their faces and process through streets lined with thousands of paper lanterns in time to the *Owara Bushi*, a folk song performed by the *jikata*, a group of singers and musicians playing traditional court instruments, shamisen, *taiko* drums, and traditional stringed instrument called *kokyū*.

