

Calligraphy Kyoto Newsletter #01

May 2018

Hi,

Welcome to our new Calligraphy Kyoto newsletter. It has been wonderful to work with people from around the world, and now I am excited by this chance to continue the relationship we started here in Kyoto. I look forward to meeting you again on your next visit.

Shodo to the World News

In February and March, I was pleased to share workshops at Eton College and Oxford University Japanese Society in England. Also, in France I taught in some team-building events for private companies.

I'm planning an exhibition here in Kyoto in October, and I'm excited by the chance to take the exhibition to Paris.

Kyoto this Month

The big event this month is the Aoi Matsuri on May 15. This festival started in the 6th Century. There were many disasters affecting Kyoto back then, so the Emperor sent his messengers to Kamigamo Shrine to pray for relief from the disasters, and for a good harvest.

The procession of people dressed in Heian period style (about 8th – 12th Centuries) stretches for over a kilometre, and everyone parades from the Gosho (palace) to Shimogamo Shrine then to Kamigamo Shrine. After the parade, there are important rituals at Kamigamo Shrine.

Did you know May has a poetic name? In normal Japanese it's called "gogatsu". In poetry it is sometimes called "satsuki" (皁月 or さつき). It refers to the time of planting out young rice seedlings. This is also the time of new tea, so I have prepared a copy-sheet (or tehon) for you with the character for tea.

Please enjoy our first newsletter!

Niimi Chifumi

新見 ちふみ

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Calligraphy Kyoto



Oxford University Japanese Society
(Niimi Chifumi)



Aoi Matsuri at Kamigamo Jinja
(Paul Dinning)



This Month's Tehon (copy sheet, てほん、手本)

This newsletter is the start of something new for Calligraphy Kyoto. And at this time in Kyōto we are also thinking about the new tea for this year. Let's share this tea together and think about our fresh beginnings as we write. Remember, keep your brush upright and use the correct stroke order. The stroke order numbers in the diagram show the start point for each stroke. Be careful with the sweeps and hooks, marked in pink on the diagram.



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