

Kamogawa-beni-fubuki-ishi «mei» Yoryu Kannon

This wonderful “Yûrai-Seki” belongs to the category of stones representing persons (sugata-ishi). Stones of this type do not prefer the precise reproduction of a figure but the vague suggestion.

The most popular figures in this category are: Nyoraizô: stones of the figure Buddha Nyorai, Shaka Nyorai (Shakayamuni Thatagata), Yakushi Nyorai (Bhechadjaguru), Dainichi Nyorai (Dainichi Buddha, Vairocana Buddha, etc.).

Kannonzô: stones in the form of Bodhisattva Kannon (Chinese: Kuan-Yin, the embodiment of mercy), Shôkannon; Saint Kwannin, Gyoran Kannon; representation of Kannon carrying a fish basket, etc.

Bosatsuzô: Stones in the form of Bodhisattvas; Jizô Bosatsu This extraordinary stone depicts the Buddhist Goddess of Mercy Bodhisattva Kannon (Avalokitesvara) and specifically one of the 33 apparitions that Yoryu Kannon, the willow Kannon.

In the form is found the graceful elegant submissive posture of this person. The hand positions are recognizable. In the right hand she holds the willow branch, represented by the bright quartz line, and the left hand she holds in the “semui mudra” fear taking position, This apparition is also known as Yakuo Kannon, Medicine Kannon, which cures us all of mental illness. The vague shape further conceals the corresponding leg posture and one can also guess the crown resting on her head.

The stone is of beautiful dark color called Yasemaguro-iro. The entire stone is “sakari” covered with small round holes called fubuki, fubuki is the name for the first breezy snow that falls from the sky in late autumn early winter sky. The crimson color of the quartz found in the holes is called beni. This color is popular in Japan because it was the favorite makeup color of the court ladies of the early 8th Century Nara period.

The carved base on which it stands was carved from Indian mahogany “sitan” and is shaped like a lotus flower “renge-kazari”. The box “kiri bako” was made of Pawlonia wood “kiri” and is about 100 years old. On the lid, a former owner wrote "kamogawa kannon ishi" in ink. On the inside is another calligraphy with a dedication. The calligraphy itself is excellent and a small treasure in itself.

This stone was found in the Kamo River (Kamogawa) Kyoto and was in the possession of a temple in Kyoto at the beginning of the Edo period (1600 - 1868), where there is still a calligraphy kept with a text on the stone. The stone is “ubu” completely natural.

Later, in the Meiji period, the stone entered the collection of Prince Tokugawa Rairin. The New York Times announced on May 20, 1925: MARQUIS RAIRIN TOKUGAWA.I; Descendant of Former Rulers of Japan Dies at Tokyo.

Then the stone was acquired by Mr. Ôishi Saburo, a member of the famous “Ichi-U Kai” Suiseki Club. In the early 1990th, I had the chance to purchase it from “Chikufuen”, a famous Tokyo based dealer of bonsai and Suiseki during a visit at their showroom, where ich first time met the still young Seiji Morimae, studying Suiseki and bonsai and preparing himself for becoming what he is today.

The historical information on the stone have been researched and provided to me by Mr. Matsuura Arishige, former president of the Nippon Suiseki Kyôkai





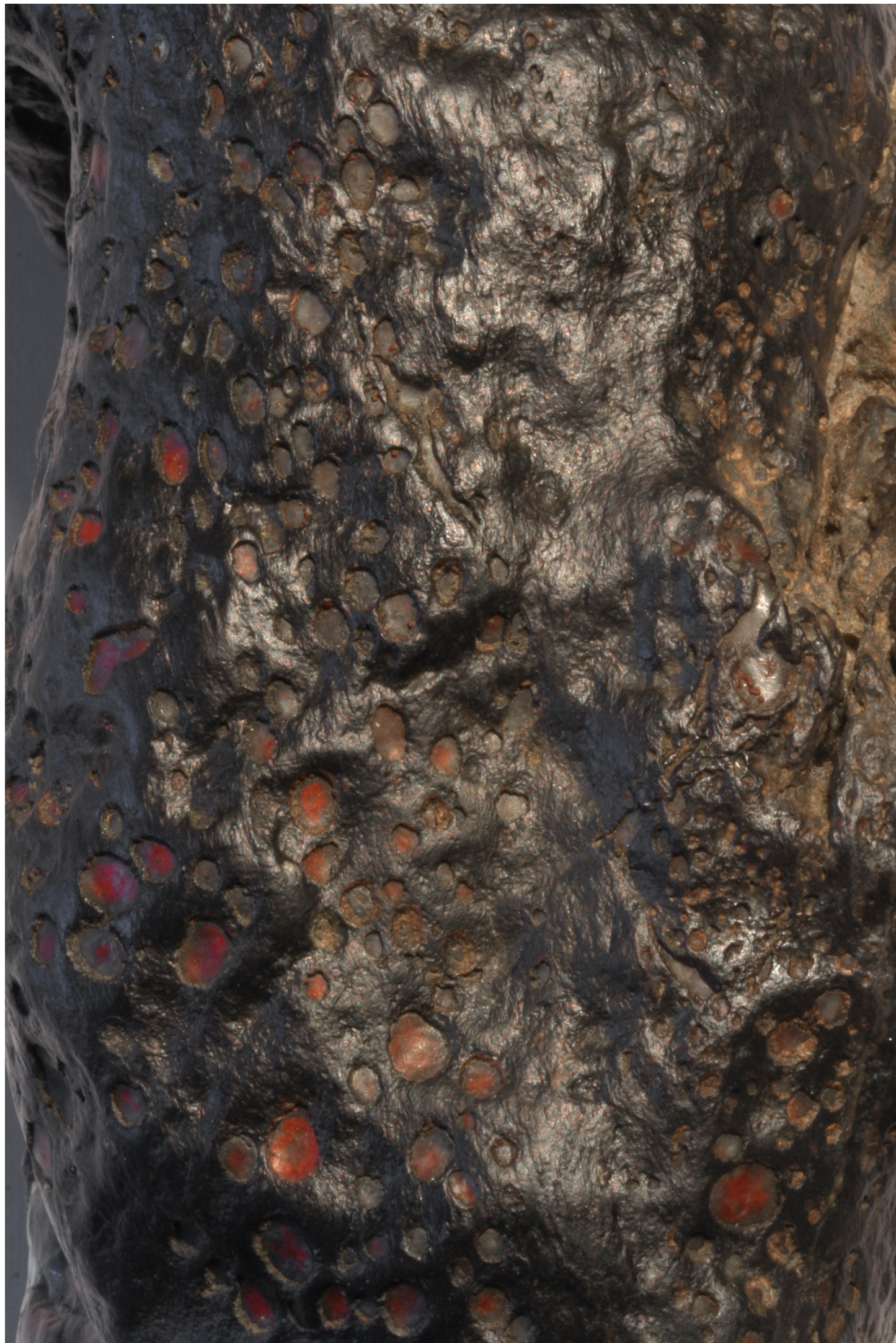




















銘

楊

柳

觀

音

伊

山

古

下

流

石

道

加茂川紅吹雪石

水石飾りの真髓

一雨會大石譜



主石 加茂川紅流し石・観音像
(7×6.5×21)

台座 蓮華飾り

席主 大石善四郎

姿石の楽しみの中では、とくに人物像・仏像が上位とされている。

その中でも位の上下はあり、如来像（釈迦如来、薬師如来、大日如来 等々）

観音像（聖観音、魚籃観音 等々）

菩薩像（地藏菩薩、八幡大菩薩 等々）

天部像（毘沙門天、大釈天、大黒天 等々）

などである。

斯界での姿石では観音像と附銘されたものが多いようである。主石の観音像には、加茂川石特有の紅が散見。風情を増している。

形象石は単にその形の面白味を觀賞するのではなく、持ち込みの味が尊いのは当然として、写実的なものより茫洋とした中に本来の姿が感じられるところに、姿石のよさがある。

水石飾りの真髓

一雨會水石譜