

# 霜月酉の日 酉の寺

## 浅草酉の市縁起

来る年の幸を願う浅草酉の市、始まりは長国寺に安置される、鷲妙見大菩薩のご開帳日に立つ門前市から。



浅草「酉の寺」長国寺に安置される、鷲妙見大菩薩は、宝剣をかざして鷲の背に立つ姿から、江戸時代「おとりさま」と親しまれていました。そのご開帳日(十一月酉の日)の門前市が「酉の市」と呼ばれ、現在の浅草酉の市の発端となっています。当時は、花又村(現在足立区)の酉の市を本の酉、浅草の市を新の酉といい、花又村のほうが盛んでした。しかし長国寺東隣に移った吉原の賑わいとともに、浅草長国寺の酉の市は江戸で一躍、有名になります。



開運招福 商賣繁昌

## 黄金餅

### 頭芋



江戸の名物となった酉の市。当初、花又村の露店では、十一月という時節がら、落ち葉を掃き寄せる熊手が売られていました。後に浅草長国寺の酉の市では、絵に描いた大判小判、おかめの面などを飾った「縁起熊手」が財をかき込む、福をかき込むという縁起をかついで、頭の芋や黄金餅とともに、商売繁昌を願う人々に大歓迎されました。



一方、長国寺では「かつこめ熊手」と呼ぶ、小さな竹の熊手に、たわわに実る稲穂をつけたお守りを出していました。現在も開運招福のお守りとして、当時のまま参詣者にさずけています。町人文化が華ひらいた江戸時代、酉の市の賑わいはまた、様々な文芸の格好の主題にされています。廣重の絵に度々描かれたり、其角の句に「春を待つ事のはじめや酉の市」と詠まれるなど、江戸庶民の生活に欠かせない行事として知られていました。今、

明治時代の神仏分離令で、長国寺は「酉の寺」長国寺と鷲神社に分かれ、今、各々が酉の市を開いています。

江戸の文化を伝える酉の市も、お寺での開催は、東京では「浅草」酉の寺長国寺、唯ひとつです。

酉の市は各地で開かれますが、それは江戸の伝統を三六〇余年間受け継ぐ、浅草酉の市が広まったものです。



熊手

## The History of Asakusa Tori no Ichi

Asakusa Tori no Ichi dates back to the open-air market held on the day of a ceremonial exhibition of a Buddhist image for Washi Myoken Daibosatsu-a Great Bodhisattva at Chokokuji Temple that was familiar to the people during the Edo Era because of its statue standing on the back of an eagle with a treasure sword. The Great Bodhisattva was called "Otorisama" by the populace.

The open-air market was used to be held on the day of a ceremonial exhibition of a Buddhist image for Washi Myoken Daibosatsu that was the 10th zodiac day in November and was called "Tori no Ichi" This "Tori no Ichi" then became the origin of the current Asakusa Tori no Ichi open-air roadside market.

In the beginning, Tori no Ichi that was held in Kasai Hanamata Village (currently in Adachi-ku) was called "Hon no Tori" and the another one held in Asakusa was called "Shin no Tori" whilst the former was more thriving than the latter in those days. It then so happened thereafter that Yoshiwara, a famous pleasure resort was then re-located to the east adjacent area of Chokokuji Temple that made Asakusa Tori no Ichi the most famous annual event in Edo.

### GOOD LUCK AND HAPPINESS-GOOD BUSINESS AND PROSPERITY

"Tori no Ichi" that became a special and famous event in Edo had its origin in Hanamata Village where the open-air market had been held in the month of November to sell the bamboo rakes for cleaning autumn leaves by the populace.

Later on, Tori no Ichi at Chokokuji Temple sold a bamboo rake called "Engi Kumade" decorated with the illustration of Japanese gold and silver coins and many other treasures, and a moon-faced woman's mask called "Okame" which were believed by the people as a sign of good luck bringing an excellent fortune.

"Kashira no imo" and "Kogane mochi" were also believed leading toward good fortune and wealth for the populace believing in omens. On the other hand, the Chokokuji Temple itself sold an amulet called "Kakkome Kumade" that was a small bamboo rake decorated with a rich crop of rice. Currently, visitors to the Temple can also get the same amulet for good fortune, luck and wealth.

In Edo Era, the populace culture was flourishing and in particular thriving

"Tori no Ichi" was taken up as the subject and theme in the field of then art and literature-Hiroshige, the master of "Ukiyoe" often drew a picture of "Tori no Ichi" and a famous "Haiku" composer composed "Haru wo matsu, koto no hajime ya Tori no Ichi" Thus Tori no Ichi was an indispensable annual event to the populace in Edo. Nowadays, Tori no Ichi is being held at various places in the country having been pervaded by Asakusa Tori no Ichi with more than 360 years' heritage from the Edo Era.

In line with the legal enforcement of Shintoism and Buddhism separation during the Meiji Era, the Chokokuji Temple was separated to Tori no Tera Chokokuji Temple and Ootori Shinto Shrine and each of them has been holding its own Tori no Ichi. In Tokyo, Asakusa Chokokuji is the only one Temple solely held by the Tori no Ichi with the cultural heritage from the Edo Era. (In general, Tori no Ichi is held by the special Shinto Shrines.)

- Tori no Ichi and Edo Populace: Tori no Ichi is one of the biggest turning points in the yuletide for ending up the past year for a nearing happy New Year to come.
- Washi & Ootori: An eagle.

