

Miyajima History and Folklore Museum: Exhibition Room C

Items related to woodworking are displayed in a small storehouse located at the far end of the former Egami family property. Woodworking developed among the local people and was a significant industry on Miyajima from the 1800s to the early 1900s. However, residents were prohibited from felling trees on the island because they were the property of the local daimyo (feudal lord). Consequently, most of the wood used by local artisans was brought over from the mainland.

The exhibits include *shakushi* paddles used to serve and stir rice, which are said to have been invented on Miyajima in the late 1700s and are now used throughout Japan. Various trays and tableware, some decorated with intricate carvings, are also on display, as are giant versions of the *shakushi* which are traditionally sold as souvenirs and commemorative items. Besides admiring the crafts, visitors can find out about the process of woodworking by viewing the traditional lathes and other tools on display.