

Historical Documents About Ninja

Due to the secretive nature of their activities, the Koka ninja left behind few records. Fortunately, researchers have discovered a number of documents about *ninjutsu* (ninja arts) and other aspects of ninja culture that were produced in the first half of the Edo period (1603–1867). These materials had been safeguarded and passed down by the descendants of ninja families, allowing researchers to piece together and preserve this knowledge for future generations.

Please note that the documents are replicas due to the fragile state of the original materials.

- The *Bansenshukai* is a compilation of knowledge about *ninjutsu* (ninja arts) from both Koka and Iga (in adjacent Mie Prefecture). It was compiled in 1676 by a descendant of the Fujibayashi ninja family and is the most comprehensive known record of *ninjutsu*. The book is a designated Important Cultural Property.

- The *Ninjutsu Ogiden*, passed down through the Mochizuki family, explains the origins of *ninjutsu* and is written in classical Chinese. It includes the legend of Aburahi Daimyojin, the deity enshrined at Aburahi Shrine, where the Koka ninja gathered for tactical meetings.
- The historical records of the Watanabe family, a prominent ninja family in the Owari domain (present-day Aichi Prefecture) during the Edo period, contain details of the techniques and strategies favored by the Koka ninja.
- A copy of the *Kanrin seiyo* was discovered in Koka in 2021. The document is believed to date from 1748. However, in 1676, a member of the Fujibayashi ninja family mentions the *Kanrin seiyo* in his preface to the more famous *Bansenshukai*, stating that he had included some of its content in his text. This suggests the original *Kanrin seiyo* predates the *Bansenshukai*.