

What is “celluloid”?

Celluloid was invented in the late 1800s and was the first plastic to be produced industrially. Because of its strength, light weight, transparency, and ease of coloring and processing, it was used as a substitute for ivory and other high grade materials. For this reason, it was called dream material at the time. It was used in motion picture and photographic film, bringing about a revolution. Through the processing of celluloid, molding and molding technologies were developed, which are the foundation of today's industry and molding technologies progressed, and these technologies are the basis of current industry.

What's

About raw materials for celluloid

The raw materials of celluloid are cellulose from cotton and camphor from camphor trees. The celluloid business was the starting point of Daicel Corporation.



Cotton



Camphor tree

celluloid?

Information

Free Admission Advance reservations are required for group guests.

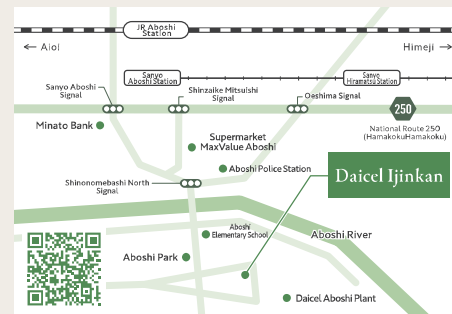
Opening hours: 10:00-16:30

Closed on Saturdays, Sundays and national holidays



Welcome!

Access



★ Get off at Sanyo Electric Railway Aboshi Station and walk south for 15 minutes.

Ijinkan Area view point

There are historical buildings and 100th anniversary monuments in the Ijinkan area. Please take a stroll.

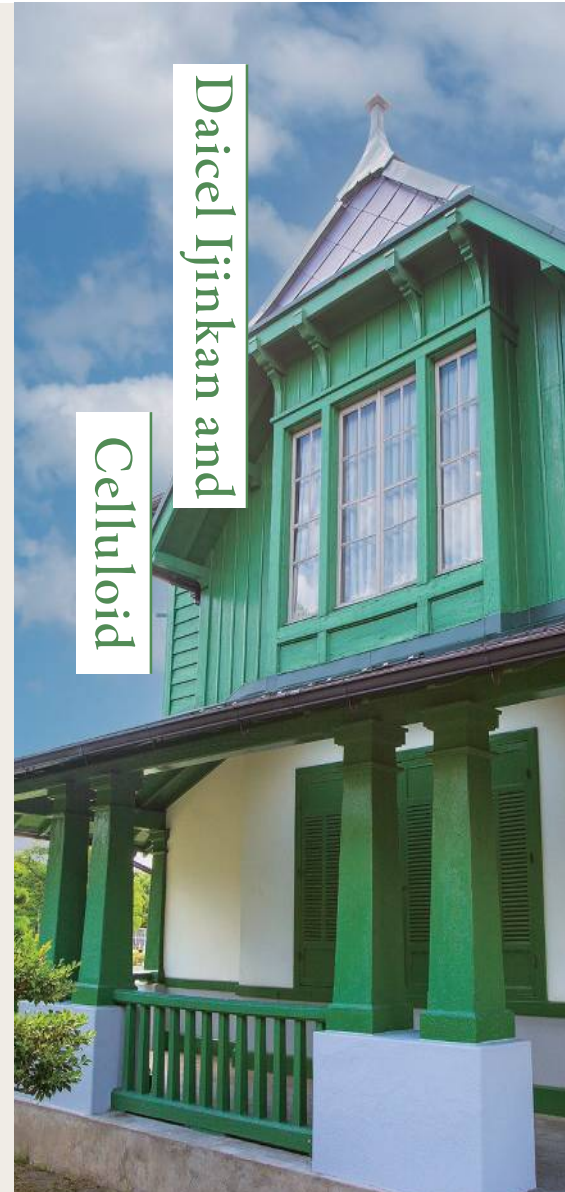


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Daicel Ijinkan and

Celluloid



Welcome to the Daicel Ijinkan

In 1908, the Celluloid Factory, the predecessor of Daicel Corporation, was built. The Daicel Ijinkan, completed in 1910, was designed by Sadao Shitara, the architect who designed Osaka's Tsutenkaku Tower, as a dormitory for engineers invited from Europe. The green Ijinkan is now open to the public as a historical museum.



Green Ijinkan



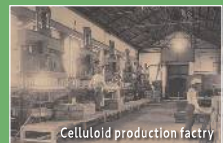
Red Ijinkan

World's No.1 celluloid production plant

In the 1930s, the Aboshi Plant became the world's No.1 celluloid plant, with a global share of over 30%.



Aboshi Plant at that time



Celluloid production factory

Registered as Chemical Heritage No.009

The Daicel Ijinkan was registered in 2008 as a heritage site that tells of the origin and prosperity of the celluloid industry in Japan.



Celluloid's

Historical Trajectory

Celluloid was developed as the world's first plastic in the United States in the late 1800s, and after being widely used as a substitute for ivory, it greatly contributed to the development of the film and photography industries.

Because of its unique beauty and texture, it is still loved as a part of fountain pens, eyeglass frames, and musical instruments. At this museum, you can learn more about the history of celluloid and its various uses.

Fountain pen



Guitar picks



Animation film

The photo is of a 1930s animated film. Animated films at the time were shot frame by frame using celluloid film and hand-drawn cel animation on transparent celluloid sheets.



Technique of Celluloid

Molds used in the manufacture of celluloid dolls

Molds and products used in the blow molding process. Multiple products can be manufactured simultaneously.



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Swan figures

This figurine, molded from an elaborate, sculpted mold, was exhibited at the 1915 San Francisco World's Fair.



Color and pattern of celluloid

Celluloid is known for its beautiful patterns due to its unique transparency and luster. Celluloid can be made in a variety of color patterns and is used in a wide range of products.



Tortoiseshell pattern



Marble pattern



Ivory pattern



Checkered pattern (In Japanese, 'ichimatsu')

Beauty of Celluloid



Bridal hair ornament

This is made of celluloid, imitating white tortoiseshell. White tortoiseshell is the highest grade of tortoiseshell.

Bibles with ivory-like celluloid cover

Bibles with ivory like celluloid cover. This Bible was spread to the general public as an alternative to the very expensive ivory covered Bibles that were only available to the nobility.



Celluloid used in a variety of products

Celluloid began to be used for expensive applications such as jewelry, and was later used for musical instruments, toys, and everyday items.



Play of Celluloid

Kewpie Doll

The Kewpie doll was introduced in 1909 and was a worldwide hit. Kewpie dolls with various designs and poses were made from celluloid.



Reindeer Figurine

This is an animal figurine made of celluloid from the 1920s to 1950s, popular as a realistic animal toy.



Exported Toys

Celluloid's lightness and durability made it an ideal material for children to play safely. Many toys, including colorful dolls and animal figures, were exported from Japan.



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