王塚古墳
OUZUKAKOFUN

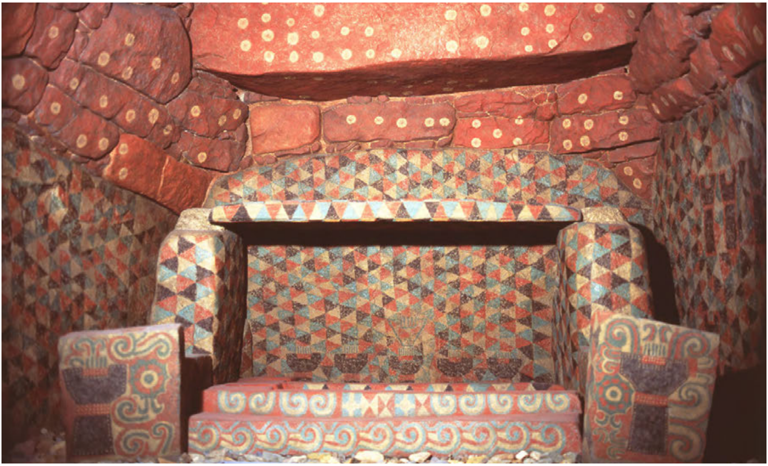
Spring Public Viewing Ozuka Ancient Tumulus

Date: April 20 (Sat) and 21 (Sun), 2024
Opening hours: 9:30 to 16:00
*** No booking required**
Location: 376 Jumei, Keisen-machi, Kaho-gun, Fukuoka
Admission: Free
Contact: 0948-65-2900, Ozuka Decorated Ancient Tumulus Museum

Ozuka Ancient Tumulus was established around 100 years before the other well-known Takamatsuzuka and Kitora Tumuluses, both famous for their murals.

Ozuka Tumulus also has murals but in a

variety of designs painted over the interior stone surface in six colors: green, red, yellow, white, black and gray.
It was also the first decorated ancient tumulus designated as a National Special Historic Site.

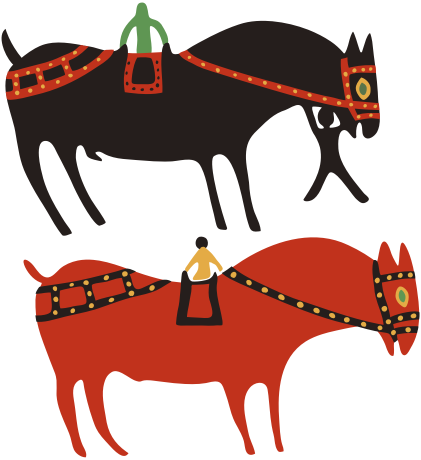


Ozuka Ancient Tumulus

This is a circular-shaped ancient tumulus with a rectangular frontage, and believed to have been constructed around the middle of the 6th century. It was discovered completely by accident during soil repair work at its location in 1934, and a number of items were excavated, including horse tack, weapons, bronze mirrors, ornaments and earthenware. The most outstanding features here are the impressively colored and decorated interior walls that exhibit images of quivers, shields, horses, stars, and geometric shapes (circle with two legs, fern spirals, triangles) in green, red, yellow, white, black and gray.

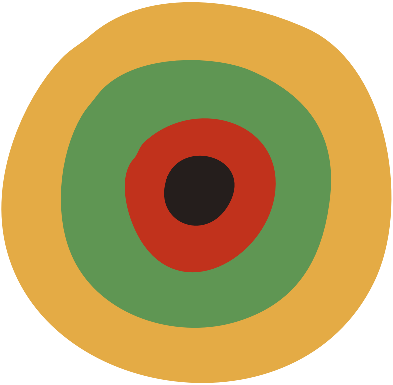
In addition, it is recognized as the best decorated ancient tumulus in the country, and was designated as a National Special Historic Site in 1952.

Mural Designs



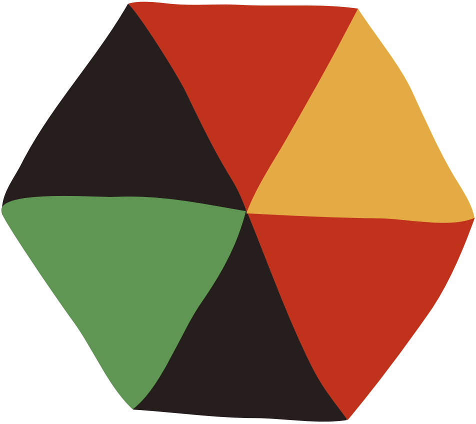
[Horses]

There are black and red horses featured here (five in total), wearing headgear, back straps, saddles, and reins adorned with metal ornaments.



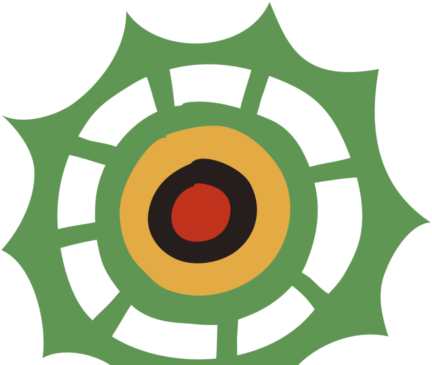
[Concentric circles]

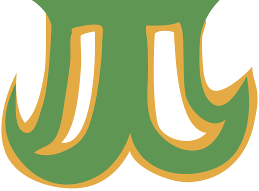
Small concentric circles with a diameter of approximately 10 cm are drawn on surfaces in the front room and on the stone lantern.



[Triangles]

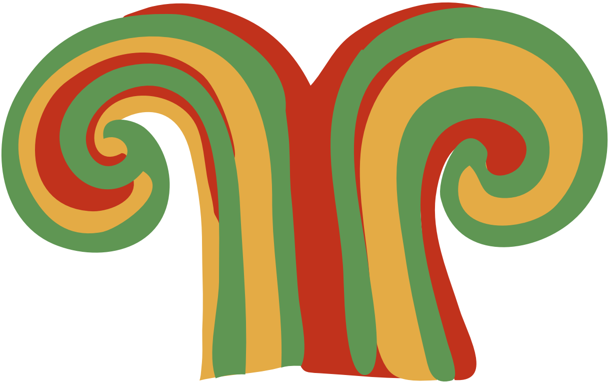
This is the most used design in this tumulus, especially around the area of the sarcophagus.





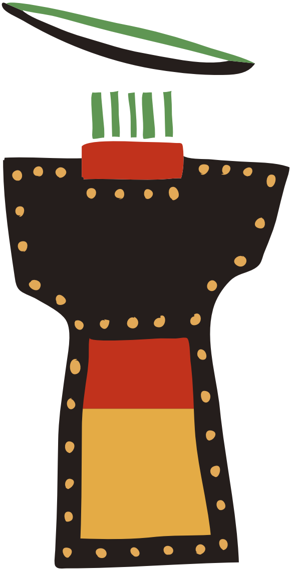
[Circle with two legs]

The true meaning of this design is not exactly known, but it is believed in part to represent a kind of fan to cover the face of a noble person.



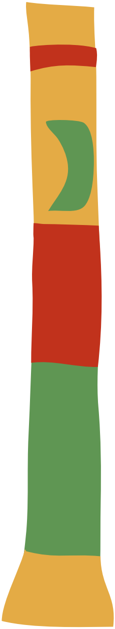
[Fern spirals]

This design is thought to represent a magic spell. There are only seven tumuluses that are known to exhibit this design.



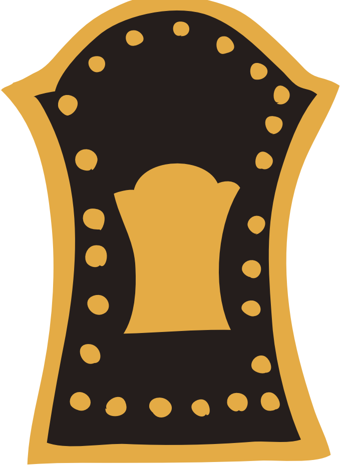
[Quivers]

These quivers, containing arrows, are made to be carried on the back. Arrows are drawn in at the top of the quivers.



[Long swords]

These swords have a large sheath with a belt to protect the hands.



[Shields]

These shields have a rounded top with a straight bottom edge.

Ozuka Decorated Ancient Tumulus Museum

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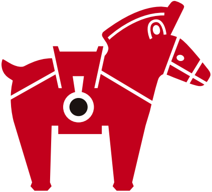
Kaho-gun, Fukuoka
contact : 0948-65-2900

MAIL: bunkazai@town.keisen.fukuoka.jp
http://www.town.keisen.fukuoka.jp/ouzuka/index.html



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