

PRESS RELEASE

Special Exhibition & Related Exhibitions

June 2024

“Human History of the Ocean: A Million Years of Pioneers”




This exhibition seeks to reconsider the relationship between humans and the sea from a historical perspective. How did our distant ancestors interact with the sea, and what did they gain from it? What are we trying to do with the sea today?

We humans obtain much from the oceans. In addition to the food, spectacular scenery, leisure activities, and various water sports that feed our bodies and souls, the oceans and seas now serve as expansive highways connecting remote areas of the globe. In recent years, they have also become sources of energy, rare earth elements, and other raw materials. However, humans—who evolved as a primate group—have not always been deeply connected to the sea in this way.

Monkeys do bathe in pools, soak in hot springs, and swim across rivers. However, having evolved in tropical forest environments, primates essentially have no real connection to the sea. Since our origin in the forests of Africa about 7 million years ago, humans, a member of the primate family, have also largely evolved without the need for any significant contact with the sea. For early humans, the sea was a "barrier" that prevented them from advancing, and was by no means a beneficial place.

At some point during human history, however, someone decided to confront this obstacle and thereby began to



change the relationship between humans and the ocean. The countless benefits that we enjoy from the ocean today are thanks to the cumulative efforts made by our ancestors. Yet, we, their descendants, have not stopped challenging the ocean.

This exhibition peers back into the history of human exploration of the oceans. Particular attention is paid to the earliest developments and to the present. In Part I, we introduce some of the unexpected and surprising cases of early human interactions with the sea, focusing on examples from Southeast Asia and the Japanese archipelago, as revealed by modern scientific research. In contrast, Part II highlights some of the new challenges that the shipping industry has been facing in recent years, and innovative thinking that goes beyond the pursuit of maximum functionality. We hope that through this exhibition you will realize humanity's relationship with the sea is entering a new phase.

Contents

Part I Challenges in Prehistory

Chapter 1 The Oldest Evidence: Mysterious Early Humans Who Crossed the Sea - c. One Million Years Ago

Chapter 2 The Beginning of Full-Scale Ocean Expansion

Chapter 3 Further Afield: Challenges of the Jomon People - 16,000 to 3000 Years Ago

Chapter 4 The Next Era: The End of Jomon Ocean Expansion - 3000 to 2000 Years Ago

Part II Contemporary Challenges

Chapter 5 Constructing a New Ship--the Return of the Wind

Chapter 6 Protecting Maritime Safety and the Marine Environment--From Individuals to Organizations

Chapter 7 Designing New Ships--Frontiers of Technological Innovation

Key Information

Title: Special Exhibition "Human History of the Ocean: A Million Years of Pioneers"

Dates: July 5, 2024 – October 6, 2024

Opening Hours: 11:00 – 18:00 (open until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) *Opening hours may change.

Closed: Mondays (or the following Tuesday if Monday is a National Holiday; however the museum is open on August 13 and 19) and September 2-9. May close irregularly.

Venue: Intermediatheque 2F [GREY CUBE]

Organizer: The University Museum, The University of Tokyo (UMUT)

Cosponsors: Pharamarise Holdings Corporation / Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. / Nippon Kaiji Kyokai / Yamagata Maritime Institute

Support: The University of Tokyo Ocean Alliance Collaboration Research Organization / Japan Institute of Navigation / The Japan Society of Naval Architects and Ocean Engineers

Cooperation: Maritime and Ocean Digital Engineering Laboratory (MODE)

Admission: Free of charge

Address: KITTE 2F - 3F, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN

Access: JR lines and Tokyo Metro Marunouchi line Tokyo

Station (Marunouchi South Exit). Nijubashimae Station (Exit 4) on the Chiyoda Line (about 2 minutes on foot).

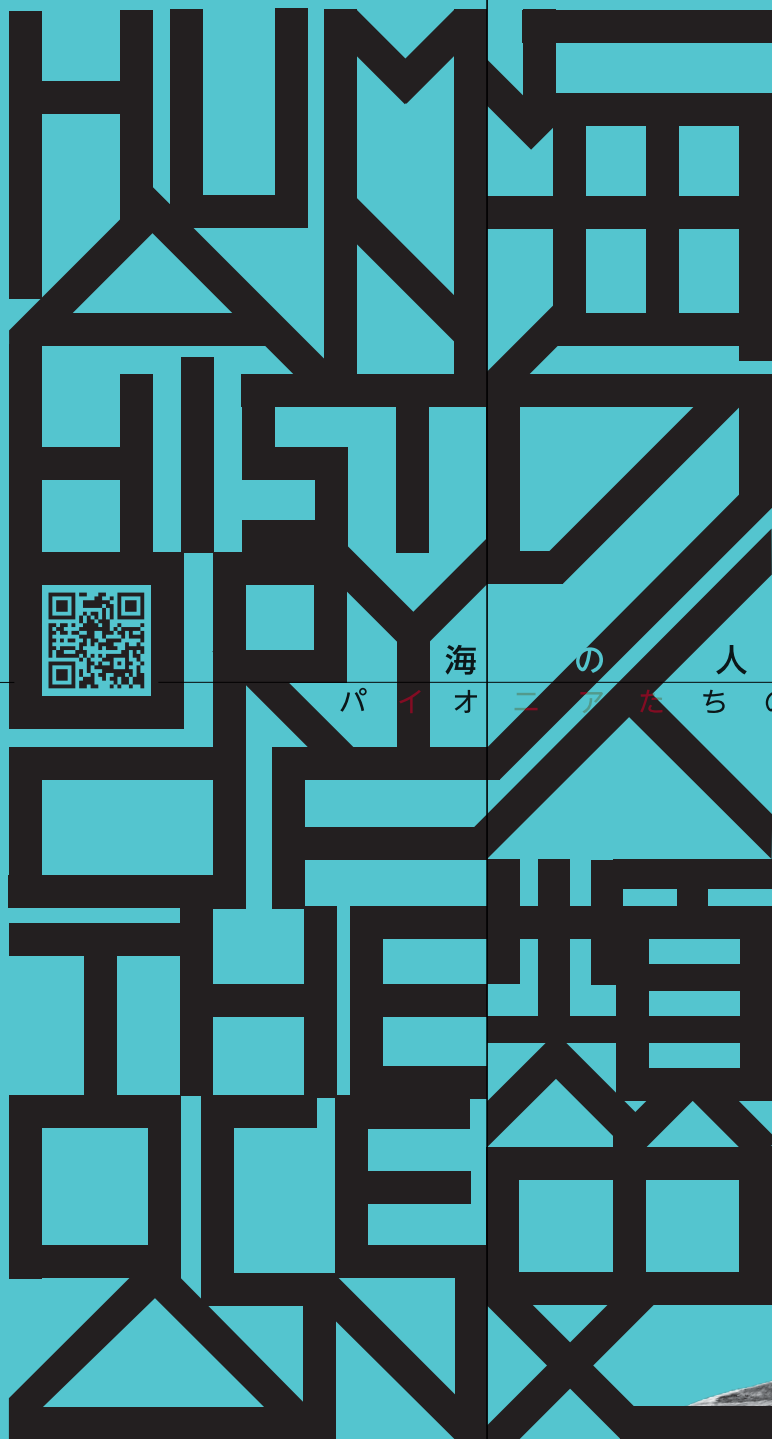
Contact: +81-47-316-2772 (NTT Hello Dial Service)

From Japan: 050-5541-8600 (NTT Hello Dial Service)

Website: <http://www.intermediatheque.jp/en/schedule/view/id/IMT0277>

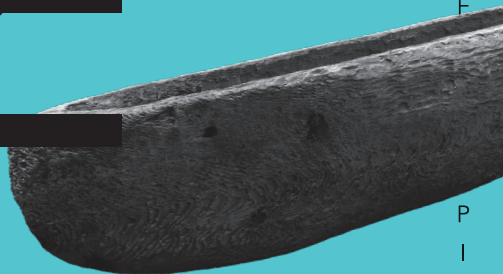
私たちが先ず目指した旧石器人

巨大マグロを捕えていた縄文人



人類史の100万年の先人たちの

2024
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JPタワー学術文化総合ミュージアム
インターメディアテック

開館時間：11時～18時（金・土曜日は20時まで開館）＊時間は変更する場合があります。

11:00 - 18:00 (open until 20:00 on Fridays and Saturdays) *Opening hours may change.

東京都千代田区丸の内2-7-2 KITTE 2-3階

休館日：月曜日（月曜日が祝日の場合は翌日休館）、その他館が定める日

KITTE 2-3F, 2-7-2 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, JAPAN
Closed on Mondays (or the following Tuesday if Monday is a National Holiday)
May close irregularly.

入館無料 Admission Free

INTERMEDIATHEQUE



— 祖先たちの挑戦のドラマ、そして現代の私たち —

3万8000年前頃に現れた「最初の日本列島人」は、困難な海を渡ってきた「航海者」だったことがわかってきました。

その後に続いた縄文人の海への挑戦も、見逃せません。祖先たちが繰り広げてきた知られざる人間ドラマ。

それを受け継いだ現代社会は、どのように海と向き合い、そこから何をしようとしているのか、その最前線の現場を紹介します。

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展示構成

第一部 先史時代の挑戦 Part I Challenges in Prehistory

- ① 人類最古の渡海 海を渡った謎の原人 — 100万年前頃
Chapter 1 The Oldest Evidence: Mysterious Early Humans Who Crossed the Sea — c. One Million Years Ago
- ② 本格的海洋進出のはじまり 「最初の日本列島人」の挑戦 — 40000〜30000年前
Chapter 2 The Beginning of Full-Scale Ocean Expansion — 40000 to 30000 Years Ago
- ③ さらに遠くへ 縄文人の挑戦 — 16000〜3000年前
Chapter 3 Further Afield: Challenges of the Jomon People — 16000 to 3000 Years Ago
- ④ 次なる時代へ 縄文海洋進出の終焉 — 3000〜2000年前
Chapter 4 The Next Era: The End of Jomon Ocean Expansion — 3000 to 2000 Years Ago

台湾から与那国島を目指す丸木舟
国立科学博物館「3万年前の航海 徹底再現プロジェクト」より



沖縄島で発掘された世界最古の釣り針
所蔵：沖縄県立博物館・美術館



縄文人が遠い島から入手していた貝のアクセサリー
所蔵：東京大学総合研究博物館



縄文人が八丈島へ持ち込んだ石製アクセサリー
所蔵：八丈町教育委員会



縄文遺跡から発掘された大量のマグロ骨
所蔵：気仙沼市教育委員会



縄文人が使っていた精巧な漁具 所蔵：東京大学総合研究博物館



帆船を発展させた理想中の水素エネルギーブランド 提供：株式会社商船三井

第二部 現代のチャレンジ Part II Contemporary Challenges

- ⑤ 新しい船をつくる — 風の復権
Chapter 5: Constructing a New Ship — the Return of the Wind
- ⑥ 海上の安全と海洋環境を守る — 個から組織へ
Chapter 6: Protecting Maritime Safety and the Marine Environment — From Individuals to Organizations
- ⑦ 新しい船を設計する — 技術革新の最前線
Chapter 7: Designing New Ships — Frontiers of Technological Innovation

イベント情報

- 7/7 (日) 14:00~16:30 映画『スキメ』(3万年前の航海 徹底再現プロジェクト)上映会
 - 7/15 (月祝) 14:00~16:30 講演会「海への挑戦 原始×現代」
- ※どちらもインターメディアテクにて。詳しくはウェブサイトをご覧ください。

入館無料 Admission Free

主催：東京大学総合研究博物館 / 協賛：ファーマライズホールディングス株式会社 株式会社商船三井 一般財団法人日本海事協会
一般財団法人山縣記念財団 / 後援：東京大学海洋アライアンス連携研究機構 日本航海学会 日本船舶海洋工学会
企画協力：東京大学海事デジタルエンジニアリング講座 (MODE)
Organizer: The University Museum, The University of Tokyo (UMUT) / Cosponsors: Phamarise Holdings Corporation Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd.
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