Osamu Dazai Memorial Hall “Shayokan”

The Old Tsushima Residence, the Beginning of Osamu Dazai

Osamu Dazai’s father, Gen’emon Tsushima was a rich landowner in the Meiji era and a member of the House of Peers. This big house with a semi-gabled roof was built by him in 1907.

All the buildings, including the rice warehouse, are mostly made of hiba tree. This mansion has 11 rooms on the first floor and 8 rooms on the second. The total area is 2,688.72 sq. yards, including all the houses and the garden with the spring.

Dazai mentioned this house in his writing: “My father built a terribly big house. It had no special atmosphere or anything; it was just big.”

It was sold by the Tsushima family after World War II and from 1950 was used as a Japanese inn named “Shayokan” which was visited by many Dazai fans from all over Japan.

It became the property of Kanagi Town in March of 1996, ending its history as an inn.

The old house of the Tsushima family was designated an important cultural property of Japan on December 10, 2004.

Osamu Dazai, the writer who is read and is still succeeded

Osamu Dazai was born on June 19, 1909, the tenth child of the Tsushima family, which was one of the richest landowners in the Tsugaru District. His real name was Shuji.

Dazai wrote many famous stories such as “Hashire Meros (Run, Meros),” “Ningen Shikkaku (No Longer Human),” and “Tsugaru.”

The Osamu Dazai literature monument was erected in Ashino Park in 1965. A commemorative ceremony remembering him is held there every year on June 19. On that day many Dazai fans gather to lay flowers on the monument there.

Dazai’s literature has continued to gain new readers even though 60 years have passed since his death.

Information

Open: May - October 8:30 - 18:00
November - April 9:00 - 17:00
(both entry at 17:30)
Closed: December 29

Admission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Osamu Dazai Memorial Hall</th>
<th>Osamu Dazai Memorial Hall &amp; Tsugaru Shamisein Hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individual</td>
<td>Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
<td>¥300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior high school &amp; College students</td>
<td>¥300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary &amp; Junior high school students</td>
<td>¥200</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Group discount is applied to parties of 20 or more only when tickets are purchased at the same time.