


History and Culture

 Cultural properties  Monuments

Tsukiji Catholic Church Cathedral (cultural property of Chuo City)

 5-26 Akashicho




 Tsukiji Catholic Church (St. Joseph's Church) was founded in the early Meiji era within Tsukiji Foreign Settlement. The old cathedral was destroyed by fire in the wake of the Great Kanto Earthquake, thus the present one was rebuilt in 1927. The cathedral, which reminds you of the Greek temple, is a wooden architecture with mortar finish on the walls. The front side shows a row of six massive Doric order pillars, and the walls of the gables feature reliefs of roses and lilies. It is a historical building that conveys the remnant of the Foreign Settlement to this day.

Birthplace of Fingerprint Research

 Off 8-1 Akashicho




 There used to be a foreign settlement in the present Akashicho area during the first 32 years of the Meiji era, up to 1899. Henry Faulds, a British doctor/missionary who lived at #18 of the Settlement, conducted the first scientific fingerprint research with clues drawn from the fingerprints of ancient people left on the pottery unearthed at the Omori Shell Mound, as well as the Japanese custom to use indexes.


Site of Asano Takumi no Kami Residence (Tokyo Cultural Property)

 10/11 Akashicho




 The location where the main mansion of the Asano clan of the Aki domain of Harima Province (present day Hyogo Pref.) used to stand during the Edo period. In 1701, Asano Takumi no Kami Naganori, the third feudal lord, made an attempt to assassinate Kira Kozuke no suke at the Edo Castle, and was sentenced to commit *seppuku* (ritual suicide by disembowelment). The following December, 47 samurais of Asano clan attacked Kira's mansion in Honjo to avenge his master, which has become legendary famous.

Site of The Beginning of the Dutch Studies (Tokyo Cultural Property)

 Off 11 Akashicho




 The location where the sub-residence of the Okudaira clan of Nakatsu domain of Buzen Province (present day Oita Pref.) used to stand during the Edo period. Nakatsu domain doctor Maeno Ryotaku, Obama domain doctor Sugita Genpaku from Wakasa Province (present day Fukui Pref.), and Western medicine doctors Nakagawa Jun-an and Katsuragawa Hoshu gathered here to interpret *Tafel Anatomie*, a dutch book on anatomy. After a painstaking process, they completed the translation entitled *Kaitai Shinsho* in 1774. This place was the starting point of Dutch studies and modern Japanese medicine.


Starting Point of Telecommunication Business

 Off 13-10 Akashicho




 A monument that commemorates the launch of the first public telecommunications (handling of telegraphs) in Japan in 1869. At the time of launch, approximately 32km (about 20 miles) of telegraph wire was installed between Tokyo Customs Office (office for signal transmission machines) and the Court of Yokohama to send and receive telegraphs. The site of the Customs Office is approximately 40m (about 43.7 yards) south-southeast of the monument.

Tsukiji Little Theatre Site

 2-11-7 Tsukiji



 Tsukiji Little Theatre opened in 1924 as the Japan's first theatre dedicated to *shingeki* (new drama) and had an eponymous theatre group. Founded by stage director Hijikata Yoshi and stage director/playwright Osanai Kaoru among others, the *shingeki* home ground had a high ceiling, a dome-shaped curved wall (Kuppelhorizont), a movable stage and an excellent lighting system.