

25) 1370m Ginkgo tree (*Ginkgo biloba*), muku tree (*Aphananthe aspera*) and Japanese black pine (*Pinus thunbergii*)イチョウ・ムクノキ・マツ

Shukkeien Garden 縮景園

2 Kami-nobori-cho, Naka-ku, Hiroshima 中区上幟町 2



Shukkeien Garden was created in 1620 by Ueda Soko (1563-1650) for the lord Asano Nagaakira (1586-1632). Soko, a samurai, was one of the greatest tea masters of that time and the tea school originated by him has continued for 16 generations.

There are three A-bombed trees in the garden: a ginkgo, a black pine and a *muku*. The ginkgo tree is more than 200 years old. It is slanting toward the hypocenter because after the blast moved outward from the city center, the air gushed back in. The trunk of the tree is about 4 meters in circumference and about 17 meters tall. The branches are pruned so that the tree won't fall down.

After the atomic bomb, many people fled to this garden and died here. In 1987, about 64 people's remains were excavated and moved to the memorial mound in the Peace Memorial Park. Near the A-bombed black pine, there is a monument erected in 1988 for these victims. The black pine is supported by wire. The *muku* tree is at the far end of the garden in the northwest corner. It has a big scar, but still bears sweet fruits.

Open hours: 9:00-18:00 (April-September), 9:00-17:00 (October-March) Admission: 250 yen (adult)

Reference:

http://www.pcf.city.hiroshima.jp/virtual/VirtualMuseum_j/exhibit/exh0603/exh060311.html,

<http://www.ueda-soukoryu.com/htm/02uedasouko.html>

