

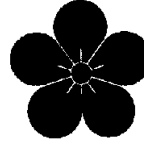
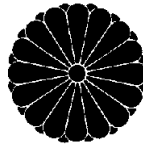





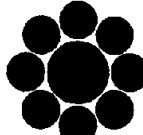












***Shinmon* types and their distribution**

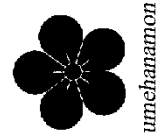
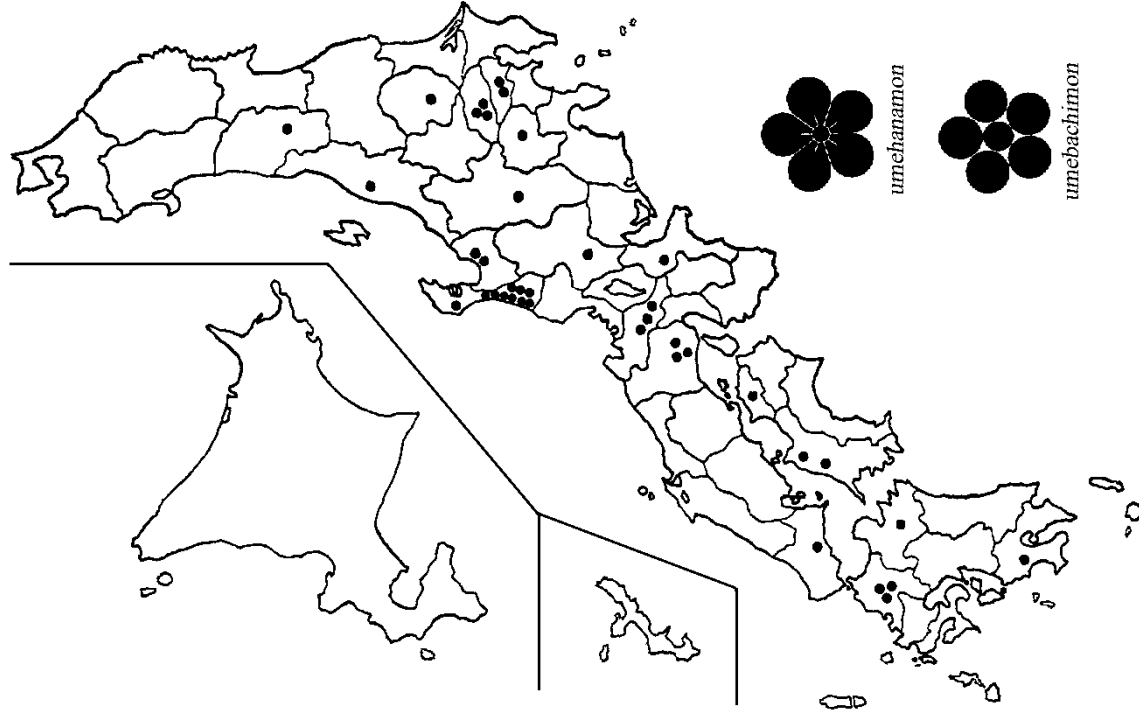
Each shrine has its own *shinmon*, a decorative crest of the deity worshipped in the shrine. Presented on this page are some typical examples of *shinmon* and where they may be found, based mainly with reference to Niwa Motoji, *Shinmon* (Akita shoten). The book presents an analysis based on the results of a survey of *shinmon* at 3,285 shrines throughout Japan. There are an estimated 200 basic *shinmon* patterns according to this work. The book states that, if the data is restricted only to rural district shrines (*gōsha*) or higher under the old shrine ranking system, the most widely observed pattern is that of *tomoe* (comma-shaped crest, 1044), followed by *kiri* (paulownia, 268), *kiku* (chrysanthemum, 215), *ume* (Japanese plum, 139), *aoi* (hollyhock, 130), *hishi* (diamond, 112), *mokkō* (*Chaenomeles speciosa*, 102), *sakura* (cherry blossom, 101), *fuji* (wisteria, 99), and *kikkō* (turtle or tortoise shell, 80). One or two examples of typical *shinmon* mainly from well-known shrines are shown here. Given that some *shinmon* demonstrate little regional variation while variations are apparent among others, the *tomoe* crests are presented as examples of the former and the *ume* crests as examples of the latter. Please see the map (“Diffusion of *umemon/tomoemon*”) showing the distribution of these variations.

wisteria (<i>fuji</i>) 	hollyhock (<i>aoi</i>) 	plum blossom (<i>ume</i>) 	chrysanthemum (<i>kikumon</i>) 	paulownia (<i>kirimon</i>) 	comma-shaped crest (<i>tomoe</i>) 
Isonokami jingū (Nara)	Nikkō Tōshōgū (Tochigi)	Dazaifu Tenmangū (Fukuoka)	Meiji jingū (Tokyo)	Ōmiwa jinja (Nara)	Usa jingū (Ōita)
Kasuga taisha (Nara)	Kamomioya jinja (Kyoto)	Kitano Tenmangū (Kyoto)	Yasukuni jinja (Tokyo)	Atsuta jingū (Aichi)	Samukawa jinja (Kanagawa)

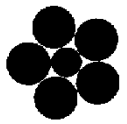
hawk wings (<i>takanoha</i>) 	clouds (<i>kumo</i>) 	sickles (<i>kama</i>) 	astronomical objects 	sheaves of rice (<i>ine</i>) 	cherry blossom (<i>sakura</i>) 	diamond (<i>hishi</i>) 
Aso jinja (Kumamoto)	Hikawa jinja (Saitama)	Suwa taisha (Nagano)	Chiba jinja (Chiba)	Fushimi Inari taisha (Kyoto)	Heian jingū (Kyoto)	Sumiyoshi taisha (Ōsaka)
cranes (<i>tsuru</i>) 	crows (<i>karasu</i>) 	eggplants (<i>nasu</i>) 		ideographic characters 	turtle shell (<i>kikkō</i>) 	chaenomeles speciosa (<i>mokkō</i>) 
Aso jinja (Kumamoto)	Kumano Santaisha (Wakayama)	Aguchi jinja (Ōsaka)	Ōtori jinja (Tokyo)	Kotohiragū (Kagawa)	Izumo taisha (Shimane)	Yasaka jinja (Kyoto)

Diffusion of *umemon* and *umebachimon*

*Includes shrines ranked as municipal, prefectural, or higher.



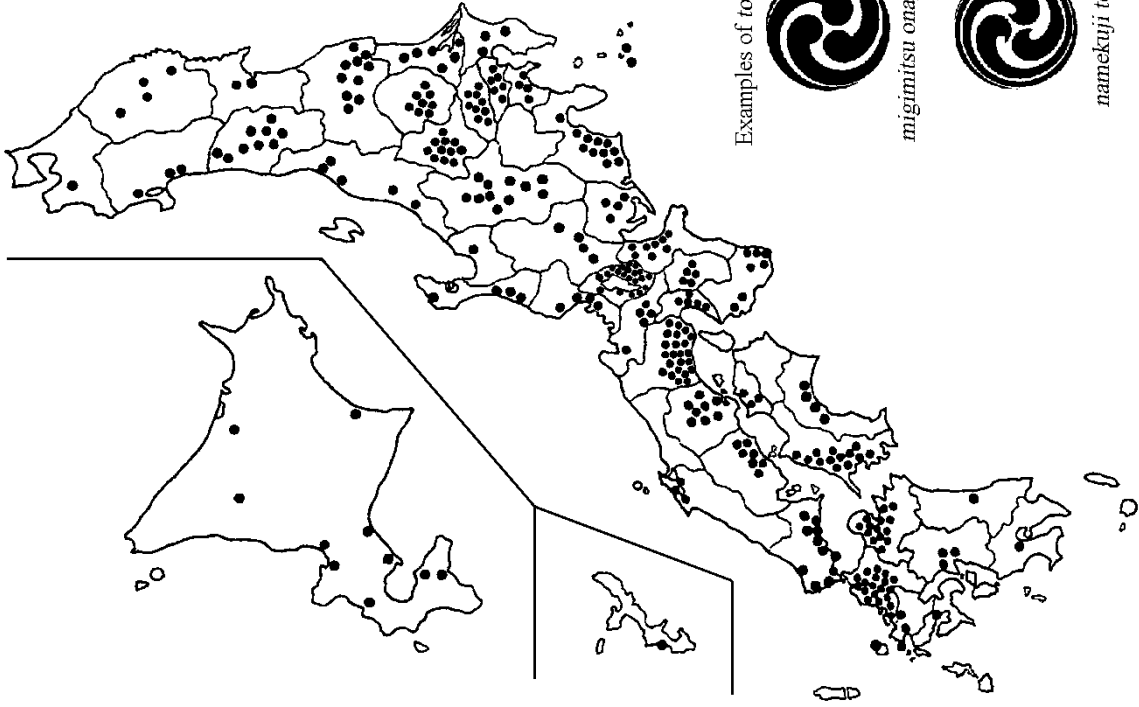
umeharamon



umebachimon

Diffusion of *tomoemon*

*Includes shrines ranked as municipal, prefectural, or higher.



Examples of *tomoemon*



migimitsu onaga tomoe



namekiji tomoe

From NIWA Motoji, *Shinmon* (Akita shoten, 1974).