The Oldest Irrigation Wheel in Japan

Supplement to “The Restoration of Medieval Irrigation Wheels” —

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The oldest painting of an irrigation wheel in Japan operated by hydraulic power was considered to be a screen painting called Ishiyamaderaengiemaki that had a picture of the irrigation wheel placed at the foot of Uji Bridge. Recently, a picture of the Uji Bridge irrigation wheel was found in the Fushimi Tenno Shinkan Genjimonogatari, in the collection of the Takamatunomiya Family, which was transferred to the National Museum of History from the Agency for Cultural Affairs. The picture is described, with brief comments.