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ŌTSU-E

AMIDA BUDDHA

Ōtsu-e are pictures of Buddhas, demons, beautiful women, animals, and so on, which were sold along the road from Ōtsu in Ōmi province to Yamashina near Kyoto to travellers and pilgrims as inexpensive souvenirs. They appeared first in the middle of the 17th century and, like other handicraft objects of the Tokugawa period, were mostly the creations of farmers who engaged in such artistic pursuits in their spare time. Among the wide variety of subjects depicted were simple, unassuming images like this one of gods and Buddhas of the Buddhist pantheon. Rapidly painted in great quantities, such images hung in the homes of people of the poorest classes.