都会にひそむ古代のロマン

Ancient Romance Lurking in the City

It was about two thousand years ago, during the middle years of the Yayoi period, when a full-fledged agricultural culture was conveyed to Minato City. Later, the nation was formed and ruled by the *Kuge* (court aristocracy) Government, until eventually its control was seized by a military government. Let's consider this period as Ancient times following events from Yayoi until the end of the Heian period.

People in Yayoi lived in villages on rather higher ground near the coast. That is the surroundings of Mitadai (see page 7). Over time, they made their way inland where they remained active. Remains dating back to the 3rd century under the rule of Queen Himiko have been found in approximately 10 places of Azabudai and Akasakadai. There is no doubt that villages continued to be formed also on the higher ground near the coast, in Mitadai and Takanawadai.

Later, during the Kofun period, around the end of the 4th century or the beginning of the 5th century, Shiba-Maruyama-kofun Tumulus, the largest keyhole-shaped tumulus in the Minami-Musashi area, was built where Shiba Park is today (see page 4). There are 20 tumuli across Minato City, but only Shiba-Maruyama-kofun Tumulus, apart from a good state of preservation, still has a relatively clear resemblance to the shape of the tumulus at time of construction.The area surrounding Shiba-Maruyama-kofun Tumulus was once dotted with more than 10 round-shape tumuli. Each of these were lost to public works carried out since the Edo period.

Incidentally, there is a theory about the existence of an ancient public road connecting Mitadai to Takanawadai. Ruins dating from Yayoi to Heian period have been found along Hijirizaka-ue through Nihon Enoki-dori Avenue so as to confirm said theory. Passing through this neighborhood was a woman who is said to have returned to Tokyo together with her father from Kazusa Province (now Chiba Prefecture) where her father had been transferred. She is the daughter of Sugawara-no-Takasue, who wrote the "Sarashina Nikki." It was in the early 11th century, almost one century since the Taira-no-Masakado Rebellion, when the Fujiwara Hokke clan held a powerful authority which developed into an aristocratic government. Amidst such times, a national Japanese culture had just begun marking its contours. Despite the "Sarashina Nikki" being a memoir covering the life of the author, some suggest the grounds where once stood Takeshibaji Temple and are mentioned in the diary, might be the surroundings of present-day Kamezuka Mound (see page 7) and Saikaiji Temple (see page 39).

Also, another old place within the city is Azabu. Just by considering the Zempukuji Temple (see page 8), which is said to have been erected in the early Heian period, and Azabu Hikawa-jinja Shrine (see page 8) which is considered to be connected to Taira-no-Masakado, others testify, there are many imperative historic and archaeological sites that stand as testaments to the ancient history of the Minato City.

The ancient Minato City is a world still full of mysteries. Why not take a trip to these ancient historic and archaeological sites - let your imagination run wild. See what new discoveries it might lead you to!

Ancient Romance Lurking in the City
都会にひそむ古代のロマン
N
S=1:24,000
0
500m
Shinjuku City
Shibuya City
Chiyoda City
State Guest House Akasaka Palace
Akasaka Palace and surroundings
Akasaka-mitsuke Sta.
Moto-Akasaka 2
Moto-Akasaka 1
Akasaka 3
Akasaka 4
Kita-Aoyama 1
Kita-Aoyama 2
Aoyama-itchome Sta.
Akasaka Sacas
Akasaka Sta.
Akasaka 7
Akasaka 8
Akasaka 5
Tameike-sanno Sta.
Akasaka 2
Gaiemmae Sta.
Minami-Aoyama 1
Minami-Aoyama 2
Akasaka 6
Aoyama-dori Ave.
Kita-Aoyama 3
Minami-Aoyama 3
Aoyama Cemetery
Nogizaka Sta.
Akasaka 9
Tokyo Midtown
Omote-sando Sta.
Minami-Aoyama 4
Roppongi 7
Roppongi 4
Roppongi-itchome Sta.
Roppongi 2
Roppongi 1
Aoyama Park
Roppongi Sta.
Roppongi 3
Minami-Aoyama 5
Gaien-Higashi-dori Ave.
Minami-Aoyama 6
Nishi-Azabu 1
Nishi-Azabu 2
Roppongi-dori Ave.
Roppongi 6
Roppongi Hills
Roppongi 5
Metropolitan Expressway Route No. 3 Shibuya Line
Minami-Aoyama 7
Nishi-Azabu 4
Nishi-Azabu 3
Azabu-dori Ave.
Moto-Azabu 3
Goal
Azabujuban Shopping District
Azabujuban 1
Azabujuban 2
Minami-Azabu 5
Moto-Azabu 2
Moto-Azabu 1
Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park
Azabujuban 3
6 Zenpukuji Temple
Azabujuban 4
Mita 1
Azabu-juban Sta.
Higashi-Azabu 3
Higashi-Azabu 2
Higashi-Azabu 1
Azabu-Mamiana-cho
Azabu-Nagasaka-cho
Azabudai 1
Azabudai 2
Azabudai 3
Azabudai Hills
Toranomon 5
Kamiyacho Sta.
Toranomon 4
Toranomon Hills Sta.
Toranomon 2
Toranomon 1
Toranomon Hills
Toranomon 3
Toranomon Sta.
Sotobori-dori Ave.
Shinbashi-dori Ave.
Nishi-Shimbashi 1
Nishi-Shimbashi 2
Nishi-Shimbashi 3
Atago 1
Atago 2
Shimbashi 1
Shimbashi 2
Shimbashi 3
Shimbashi 4
Shimbashi 5
Shimbashi 6
1 Karasumori-jinja Shrine
Uchisaiwaicho Sta.
Start
Shimbashi Sta.
Shiodome Sta.
Dai-ichi Keihin Ave.
Higashi-Shimbashi 1
Higashi-Shimbashi 2
Hamamatsucho 1
Shibadaimon 1
Metropolitan Shiba Park
Shiba-koen 3
Onarimon Sta.
Tokyo Tower
Minato City Office
2 Zojoji Temple
Shiba-koen 4
Shiba-koen 1
Daimon Sta.
Minato City Shiba Park
Shiba-koen 2
Shibadaimon 2
Hamamatsucho Sta.
Kaigan 1
Akabanebashi Sta.
Metropolitan Shiba Park
Kyu-Shiba-rikyu Gardens
Hamamatsucho 2
Takeshiba Sta.
Shibakoen Sta.
3 Shiba-Maruyama-kofun Tumulus
Rail map
Toei Asakusa Line
Toei Mita Line
Toei Oedo Line

JR Line
Keikyu Line
Tokyo Metro Ginza Line
Tokyo Metro Hibiya Line
Tokyo Metro Chiyoda Line
Tokyo Metro Namboku Line
Yurikamome
Tokyo Monorail
Hiro-o Sta.
7 Azabu Hikawa-jinja Shrine
Minami-Azabu 1
Minami-Azabu 4
Minami-Azabu 3
Minami-Azabu 2
Mita 2
Shiba 3
Shiba 2
Shiba 1
Shiba 5
Shiba 4
Kaigan 2
Hinode Sta.
Shibaura 1
Mita Sta.
Tamachi Sta.
Shirokane 5
Shirokane 3
Shirokane 1
Mita 5
5 Mitadai Park
Mita 4
Mita 3
Shibaura 3
Shibaura 2
Shirokane 6
Shirokane-takanawa Sta.
Shirokane 2
4 Kamezuka Mound
Shibaura-futo Sta.
Shirokane 4
Minato City Local History Museum
Takanawa 1
Futo Park
Kaigan 3
Meguro City
Shirokanedai 5
Shirokanedai 4
Shirokanedai 1
Shibaura 4
Institute for Nature Study of The National Museum of Nature and Science
Shirokanedai Sta.
Sengakuji Sta.
Rainbow Bridge
Takanawa 2
TAKANAWA GATEWAY CITY
Shibaura Central Park
Takanawa Gateway Sta.
Shirokanedai 3
Konan 1
Shirokanedai 2
Konan 3
Shinagawa City
Takanawadai Sta.
Takanawa 3
Konan 5
Gaien-Nishi-dori Ave.
Meguro-dori Ave.
Sakurada-dori Ave.
Dai-ichi Keihin Ave.
Kyu-Kaigan-dori Ave.
Metropolitan Expressway Route No. 1 Haneda Line
Yurikamome Line
Route / Required time
Start
Goal
Shimbashi Sta. SL Square
2 min
1 Karasumori-jinja Shrine
1 min
Shimbashi .Sta.North Gate Bus stop
Chii Bus (Shiba route)
23 min
Minato City Hall Bus stop
1 min
2 Zojoji Temple
3 min
Minato City Shiba Park
3 min
3 Shiba-Maruyama-kofun Tumulus
25 min
4 Kamezuka Mound
2 min
5 Mitadai Park
5 min
Takanawa-itchome Bus stop
Toei Bus [Route 反 96]
10 min
Ninohashi Bus stop
5 min
6 Zenpukuji Temple
10 min
7 Azabu Hikawa-jinja Shrine
10 min
Aazbujuban Shopping District
Walk
Public Transportation

Karasumori-jinja Shrine

course 1

2-15-5 Shimbashi

からすもりじんじゃ
烏森神社
所 新橋２－１５－５
コース1

According to its legend, this sanctuary dates back to 940. In the Kanto area where conflicts between samurai persisted, Taira-no-Masakado raised an army in 939 and conquered eight provinces. It was Taira-no-Sadamori and Fujiwara-no-Hidesato (well-known as Tawara-no-Toda for the legend of killing a giant centipede) who were ordered to suppress the rebellion. Just after Hidesato prayed for victory at an Inarisha Shrine, a white fox appeared and gave him a white arrow. Eventually, Hidesato managed to kill Masakado using this arrow. It is said that Karasumori-jinja Shrine was built precisely to express his gratitude for this victory. However, this is just a legend. Since documents of a prayer for victory left by the Kamakura Kubo Ashikaga Shigeuji in 1455 still exist today, it is believed that the construction of this shrine might date back to at least the Muromachi period. According to the "Edo Kanoko" chorography written in 1687, it appears that in 1184 a descendant of Hidesato, called Shimokobe Yukihira, donated a waniguchi (a copper Buddhist altar fitting similar to a gong) to the temple.

Shiba-Maruyama-kofun Tumulus course 3

4-8 Shibakoen (inside the Metropolitan Shiba Park)

芝丸山古墳
所 芝公園４－８　都立芝公園内
コース3

With an overall length exceeding 100m, this is the largest keyhole-shaped tumulus in Tokyo. It is to have been erected around the 5th century on the edge of a plateau approximately 16m-high. The construction of Zojoji Temple in the Edo period and its further development in modern times considerably affected the original form of this tumulus. In 1898, excavations and research conducted by Tsuboi Shogoro (1863-1913) from the Tokyo Imperial University (now Tokyo University) revealed that the burial facilities had been lost. Also, it is believed that formerly there was a group of 10 round-shaped tumuli in the vicinity, related to the keyhole-shaped tumulus. However, according to the investigation Meiji University conducted after war, it was made clear the two structures had been erected in significantly different times, and the round-shaped tumuli group was 200 years more recent (it doesn't exist anymore). Today, a monument and description plate stand near the base of the tumulus.

Metropolitan Heritage Site

Zojoji Temple course 2

The Kan-eiji Temple (Ueno) and Zojoji Temple (Shiba) are Edo's largest and most prominent Buddhist temples. Within their precincts stand the Tokugawa family temples. Only in Zojoji Temple six of the 15 Tokugawa shoguns are laid to rest: Hidetada (2nd), Ienobu (6th), Ietsugu (7th), Ieshige (9th), Ieyoshi (12th), and Iemochi (14th).

Details about the temple prior to the Edo period are unknown, but it appears that during the Muromachi period the temple converted from the Shingon to the Jodo sect. Initially located in the present-day Kojimachi and Kioi-cho areas (Chiyoda City), it is said that at the time Shogun Tokugawa Ieyasu entered Edo, he accidentally passed before its gate and met the chief priest Gen-yo Zonno, which led to Zojoji Temple becoming Tokugawa's family temple. Later, the temple was moved, □rst to Hibiya, then in 1598, to its present location by orders of Ieyasu.

The present-day Shiba Park extends

almost entirely over the precincts of the old temple, which explains the large number of cultural properties it comprises. A signi□cant part of the temple was burned down in the Great Tokyo Air Raids, except the Sangedatsumon Gate (nationally important cultural property) which managed to escape the ravages of war and made it through to the present today. In April 2025, Three Editions of Buddhist Sacred Canons stored at Zojoji Temple were registered in UNESCO's Memory of the World Programme. * Due to restoration work scheduled to begin in the fall of 2024, the temple may be closed for viewing. The restoration is scheduled to end around November 2032.

Hiroshige: "Complete View of Shiba Shinmei Shrine and Zojoji Temple" from Famous Places in the Eastern Capital

Minato City Local History Museum

4-6-2 Shirokanedai

郷土歴史館
所 白金台４－６－２

Minato City Local History Museum is housed in the former Institute of Public Health, which was completed in 1938. As a part of the renovation works,the building has received seismic reinforcement and will be barrier-free when it is fully open as a facility complex that includes the Cancer Palliative Home Care Support Center, Appy Shirokanedai support center for infants and mothers, Shirokanedai School Kids Club, Shirokanedai Community Collaboration Space, and bicycle parking for Shirokanedai Station. The central stairway, old lecture hall, and lighting fixtures have been preserved to show the original appearance of the former Public Health Institute.

In the Free Zone of the Local History Museum exhibition rooms include the Guidance Room which presents Minato City in outline, and the Communication Room where you can handle or touchauthentic items. Meanwhile, a fee is charged for viewing the Minato City themed displays in the Permanent Exhibition Room and for periodic displays in the Special Exhibition Room.

Naturally, the museum shop and café are freely open to anyone.

Opening Hours：
9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(until 8:00 p.m. on Saturdays only)
*Admission to paid exhibition rooms is accepted until 30 minutes before closing.

Closed：The third Thursday of each month (or the previous day if the third Thursday falls on a national holiday),
Year-end and New Year holiday period (Dec. 29 to Jan. 3)：
Special maintenance period

Fee：Permanent Exhibition Room: ￥300 for adults, ￥100 for elementary, junior high, and high school students, and free for preschool children, students who reside in Minato City, and residents aged 65 years and over (proof required).
Special Exhibition Room: Fee varies by exhibition.

Free admission day for Minato City residents：
Feb.11 , May 5 , Aug.11 , Nov.3

Contact：03-6450-2107

MINATO

Takanawa Seaside

The road currently known as Daiichi Keihin Kokudo was called Tokaido in the Edo Period, and was a main road along the seaside.
The lively atmosphere of Tokaido at that time is portrayed in this Ukiyoe painting.

※This picture is offered by Minato City Local History Museum

Kamezuka Mound course 4

4-16-20 Mita (inside Kamezuka Park)

亀塚

所 三田4-16-20 亀塚公園内

コース4

With an actual size of approximately 30 m in diameter and 4m in height, this round-shaped mound has been indicated as a possible kofun tumulus, although it is not known for sure. Remains of dwellings and shell-middens have been found in the surrounding area, while ruins of a village dating back to the Yayoi period have been excavated in the park's ground (Ruins of Kamezuka Park). Entering the Edo period, this place became the *shimoyashiki* (suburban residence) of the Toki clan in Numata Domain (Kozuke Province). Today, still standing on the peak is the Kameyama Monument erected in 1750 by Lord Yorioki. It is said that the whole area of the Kamezuka Mound and Saikaiji Temple is the site of the Takeshiba-dera Temple which appears in the "Sarashina Nikki" written in Heian period by the daughter of Sugawara-no-Takasue. This belief is also inscribed on the Kameyama Monument. It is also said that during the Bunmei era (1469-87), Ota Dokan, the lord of Edo Castle, set patrols here. It seems that back in those years it was a well-known place, since both the Kameyama Monument and the origin of the Kamezuka Mound are referred to as well in the *Edo Meisho Zue* chorography of famous sites in Edo, written in the late Edo period.

Metropolitan Heritage Site

Mitadai Park course 5

4-17-28 Mita

三田台公園

所 三田4－17－28

コース5

In July 1978, about 100m southeast from here (NTT Data Mita Main Building, 4-19-15 Mita), excavations and research started and lasted for approximately 18 months. At the site were discovered in order: tombstones and memorial towers of dogs and cats (Edo period), pit dwellings (Kofun, Nara and Heian period), square-ditched graves (middle Yayoi period) which are tombs in burial mounds surrounded by a square ditch, and shell-middens and remains of pit dwellings (late Jomon period). This site is called the Ruins of Isarago shell-midden, and the cross section in shell layers and excavated articles are being preserved and exhibited at the Minato City Local History Museum (see page 6). As the Minato City's first archaeological park, Mitadai Park displayed a replica of restored cross section in shell layers, and pit dwelling. Here you can find out about how people in the primitive and ancient times lived.

Zenpukuji Temple course 6

1-6-21 Moto-azabu

ぜんぷくじ
善福寺
所 元麻布１－６－２１
コース6

The legend of this emblematic place for Minato City has it that the ancient temple was founded by Kukai in 824. At first an establishment of the Shingon sect, the Zenpukuji Temple was converted to the Jodo Shinshu sect in Kamakura period when the head priest Ryokai became a follower of Shinran by the time the latter paid a visit to the temple. With their base in Zenpukuji Temple, a very large company of disciples called the "Azabu followers" enhanced missionary work around Edo, in places such as Shinagawa, and thus transformed the temple into an important base for the Jodo Shinshu sect in the southern Kanto area. Entering the Edo period, the temple was given a 10 koku-worth territory (1 koku was approx. 150kg of rice) by the Tokugawa shogunate and held many branch temples as an influential temple of the Ikkoshu sect in Edo.

Today, we are left with numerous valuable cultural properties such as Tokyo's oldest assets - gingko trees (national natural monument) and the wooden seated statue of Ryokai (nationally important cultural property not open to the public), or Zenpukuji Temple's main hall (Minato City heritage site) which is believed to be the main hall of Yao Betsuin (Higashi-Honganji Temple) relocated in 1607 from Yao City in Osaka.

Azabu Hikawa-jinja Shrine

course 7

1-4-23 Moto-azabu

あざぶひかわじんじゃ
麻布氷川神社
所 元麻布１－４－２３
コース7

This shrine is in honor of the shinto deity and protector of the Azabu area. There is a tradition that it was founded by Minamoto-no-Tsunemoto when he went to the Kanto area to suppress the rebellion of Taira-no-Masakado during the years of Tengyo period. According to some chorographies, including *Edo Sunago* written in Edo by 1732, and *Edo Meisho Zue* published between 1834 and 1836, there is also a theory that the shrine had been transferred by Ota Dokan, the lord of Edo Castle, during the Bunmei period (1469-87). It appears that the original construction had a huge precinct measuring 2,000 tsubo (1 tsubo is approx. 3.3m²), but because it had become the territory of Zojoji Temple, the shrine was then moved to this location in 1662.

Many remains from ancient times have been discovered from Moto-Azabu through Minami-Azabu, an area where both Azabu Hikawa-jinja Shrine and Zempukuji Temple are located.