



文人が愛したまちを たどる旅

A Journey through a City Beloved by Literati

There are many places in Minato City related to novelists and poets across history.

The Birthplace of Ozaki Koyo - the great author of the Meiji period, also known as the "Ko-Ro jidai" (see page 59), the Site of the Former Residence of Toson Shimazaki - author of the novel "Yoakemae" (see page 59), the Site of the Residence of Naoya Shiga - a leading novelist of the Shirakaba school (see page 57), the "Henkikan" Former Residence of Kafu Nagai who had a great love for Edo period literature (see page 58), the Site of the Residence of Sazanami Iwaya, the father of children's literature in Japan (see page 61), and the Birthplace of Morio Kita, well known for the collection of essays "Dokutoru Mambo seishunki" (see page 57), are some of the places related to all kinds of novelists who were born, educated and devoted themselves to their writing work across this city. There are many literati who turned Minato City into the set for their stories. Among them was Koyo Ozaki who cherished Shiba neighborhood throughout his life and wrote there "Shibasakana" and "Otokogokoro wa Zojoji," as well as Toson Shimazaki who depicted the neighborhood of Ikura-cho from Taisho to early Showa period in "Ikura fukin."

The Site of the Residence of Mokichi Saito - a leading figure of the Araragi school (see page 56), the Birthplace of Kanoko Okamoto who was a famous poet and mother of artist Taro Okamoto (see page 56), the Last Place of haiku poet Mantaro Kubota (see page 58), are some of the places related to Japanese poets.

You may also find here Keio University (see page 60) and Meiji Gakuin University (see page 61), both educational institutions that have nurtured these prominent literati and served as their landing field in their career. Founded by Yukichi Fukuzawa, Keio University is one of Japan's leading private universities, also regarded as the head temple of aesthetic and surrealist literature through its literary magazine, Mita Bungaku, which produced many writers and poets of said movements. Meiji Gakuin University is the oldest Christian educational institution (missionary school) in Japan, and also the graduated school of novelist Toson Shimazaki. It is believed that the school's spirit had a great influence on Toson's literary work.

Although for a short period of time, the Minato City was home to many other Japanese literati, such as Soho Tokutomi, Takitaro Minakami, Ichiyo Higuchi, Tokoku Kitamura, Doppo Kunikida, Shimei Futabatei, Jiro Osaragi, Hakushu Kitahara, Kan Kikuchi, Kido Okamoto, Jun Takami, Eiji Yoshikawa, Osamu Dazai, Edogawa Ranpo.

Let's now take a walk through the cityscape beloved by many literati as revealed in their writings.

A Journey through a City Beloved by Literati

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Birthplace of Okamoto Kanoko

2-25 Minami-aoyama



This is the birthplace of Japanese novelist and poet Okamoto Kanoko (1889-1939). She was born on March 1, 1889, to the wealthy Onuki merchant family in their second residence in 3-22 Minami-machi, Aoyama. Because Kanoko was in delicate health, she was sent in 1892 to the family's main residence in Futako (now Kawasaki Town in Takatsu Ward) where she was raised by a governess. When she was about 16 years old, she started contributing poems to a magazine, called on Yosano Akiko and became a coterie of the Japanese literary association called Shinshisha. She even presented new-style poetry and waka in "Myojo" poetry magazine and "Subaru" journal. In 1910, she married cartoonist Okamoto Ippei and gave birth the next year to their son, Taro, who would become an artist. Subsequently, they moved to 3 Kita-machi, Aoyama (now 3 Kita-Aoyama). Afterwards, she would change home several times, such as to Shirokane or Minami-cho (Aoyama), until she passed away on February 18, 1939, at the age of 49, in 3 Takagi-cho, Aoyama (now 6-6 Minami-Aoyama).

Site of the Residence of Saito Mokichi course 1

4-17-40 Minami-aoyama



A well-known poet of the Araragi school, Saito Mokichi (1882-1953) lived here for almost 40 years. Mokichi (formerly Moriya) was born in Kanakame Village of Minami-Murayama County (Yamagata Prefecture). At the age of 15, he came to Edo as a potential successor to Dr. Saito Kiichi from the same village, who had opened a clinic in Asakusa. At the age of 25, he moved here. He graduated the Tokyo Imperial University's Medical School, and became Kiichi's son-in-law when he married Kiichi's eldest daughter, Teruko, in 1914. Thereafter he was a professor at Nagasaki Medical College, advanced studies in Germany and Austria and even served as the director of Aoyama Psychiatric Hospital. During all these, he managed to leave his trademark as a poet. A year before moving from this place, Mokichi became a disciple of Ito Sachio, sent tanka to the "Araragi" magazine, and thus deepened his relationship with other authors such as Yosano Tekkan, Kitakara Hakushu, Ishikawa Takuboku, Ueda Bin, Sasaki Nobutsuna and Shimaki Akahiko. In April 1945, he left this place and retired to his birthplace. The monument standing today on the site of his residence has an inscription of a poem written by Mokichi himself.



Birthplace of Kita Morio

course ①

4-17-40 Minami-aoyama



Japanese novelist Kita Morio (real name: Saito Sokichi, 1927-2011) came into this world on May 1, 1927, as the second son of Saito Mokichi and Teruko. His father was a psychiatrist and well-known poet of the Araragi school. After graduating Seinan Elementary School in his hometown and attending Azabu Secondary School, he spent his youth in the Department of Science at Matsumoto High School (the predecessor of Arts and Humanities Faculty, Shinshu University) under the old system. His collection, "Dokutoru Mambo seishunki," is based on this experience. After graduating from Tohoku University's School of Medicine, he served as a psychiatrist while continuing his writing work. In 1960, he was rewarded with the 43th Akutagawa Prize for the story "*Yoru to kiri no sumi de*" and also covered a wide range of genres including essays and short novels (such as the "Dokutoru Mambo" series) and children's literature.

Site of the Residence of Shiga Naoya course ②

4-3-13 Roppongi



One of the leading novelists of the Shirakaba school, Shiga Naoya (1883-1971), spent here 16 years from age 14 to 29. He came from a wealthy family, which explains the vast residence of 1,682 *tsubo* he moved in with his parents in 1897. Naoya attended Gakushuin primary, secondary and high schools and then entered the English Department of Tokyo Imperial University's Literary College. By 1966, he quit his studies under Kanzo Uchimura and after changing to the Department of Japanese Literature, he dropped out of the university. In the same year, he published his first work, "*Aru asa*," and two years later launched the literary magazine "Shirakaba." He continued publishing short novels like "*Abashiri made*," then in 1912 he came out with "*Otsu Junkichi*" and "*Seigiha*" that caused him to butt heads with his father and had to move away from Tokyo to O-nomichi City in Hiroshima Prefecture, ending his time in the capital. The residence of that time was burned down by the Great Tokyo Air Raids on March 10, 1945.



Last Place of Kubota Mantaro

2-18 to 23 Akasaka



Here was the house where haiku poet, novelist and playwright Kubota Mantaro (1889-1963) lived until his death. Mantaro was born in Asakusa and was involved in Keio University's literary magazine, *Mita Bungaku*. In 1911, his short novel "*Asagao*" and play "*Yugi*" appeared in "*Mita Bungaku*," and were highly acclaimed by the publications of that time, bringing Mantaro's name into the limelight. At the same time, he published many works as a playwright, under Kaoru Osanai. Mantaro loved the atmosphere in *shitamachi* (traditional working-class neighborhood) and the classical *Rakugo*. Using the traditional Edo dialect, he depicted the human nature in the rowdy *shitamachi* and was engaged in a wide range of creative activities encompassing not only haiku, but also short novels and plays. After the war, besides his creative activity, he held various posts, such as member of the Board of Trustees at Keio University, director of Japan Broadcasting Association (NHK), member of the Council for the Protection of Cultural Properties, and president of the Japan Theater Arts Association. In 1956, he visited the People's Republic of China as the representative of the Japanese Writer's Association. He died at Keio Hospital on May 6, 1961.

"Henkikan" Former Residence of Nagai Kafu course 3

1-6 Roppongi



The novelist Nagai Kafu (real name: Nagai Sokichi, 1879-1959) lived here from 1920 for almost 25 years. Since he was very young, Kafu was familiar with the Edo period literature, and even aspired once whether to enter into the world of *rakugoka* (comic story-tellers), or become a playwright of scripts. At his father's order, he went to study in America and France, and was well versed in French literature. Still, he incorporated the decadent atmosphere and beauty of the Edo period into his work. After selling the land inherited from his father, Kafu resided in various places, including Tsukiji. However, this place is where he spent most of his life. Kafu had a two-story wooden house newly built in a western style and named it "Henkikan." It appears that this name came from its painted exterior revealing his predisposition for "*henki*" (literally "eccentricity"). Kafu's enthusiasm for writing made possible for many masterpieces such as "*Bokuto kidan*" to see the daylight in this place. The Henkikan was burned down by the Great Tokyo Air Raids on March 10, 1945.

City Heritage Site



Site of the Former Residence of Shimazaki Toson course 4

3-4-17 Azabudai



From October 1918 to July 1936, here (former 33 Iigura Katamachi, Azabu City) lived the novelist Shimazaki Toson (real name: Shimazaki Haruki, 1872-1943). He maintained a mature creative activity on this land where he finished writing his last novel, "Yoakemae." In his work "Iigura fukin," Toson starts by saying "By the time I was returning from a trip to France, I lived in Nihon Enoki (Takanawa) for a while." He then continues by vividly depicting the neighborhood of Iigura-cho from the Taisho to the early Showa period. Toson studied English at Meiji Gakuin (see page 61), a place with a free and bright spirit that had a great influence on his literary work. The lyrics of the Meiji Gakuin School song are attributed to Toson.



Birthplace of Ozaki Koyo

course 5

2-7 Shibadaimon



Known for his short novel "Konjiki yasha," Ozaki Koyo (real name: Ozaki Tokutaro, 1867-1903) came into this world on December 16, 1867, in a house near by Shubi Inari-jinja Shrine in 2-25 Shibachumon-mae. He was the first son of the tusk carver Kokusai Ozaki. In 1885, at the age of 17, Koyo formed Japan's first literary society called "Ken-yusha" and draw attention as he issued the bulletin "Garakuta Bunko." In the summer when he was 19 years old, he emerged with a pen-name, "Koyo," after Mt. Koyo in the precincts of Zojoji Temple. Together with Rohan Koda, he was one of the prominent figures of literary circles during the Meiji period, also known as the "Ko-Ro jidai" ("Era of Ko-Ro," from the given names of Ozaki Koyo and Koda Rohan). He was mentor for notable personalities such as Izumi Kyoka, Tayama Katai, Oguri Fuyo, Yanagawa Shunyo, and Tokuda Shusei. Koyo is known for having cherished his hometown's atmosphere throughout his life. "Shibasakana" (collection of short novels) and "Otokogokoro wa Zojoji" (collection of short stories) revolving around the Shiba neighborhood, and his choice for the signature of the confectionery Shibashinmei Eitaro's famous sweet "Enoshima" monaka, is just a little proof of his attachment to the place.

City Heritage Site



Keio University course 6

2-15-45 Mita



Keio University is one of Japan's leading private universities. Its origin can be traced to a *rangakujuku* (private school for Western studies) founded by Lord Yukichi Fukuzawa of the Nakatsu Domain within the grounds of his *nakayashiki* in Tsukiji Tepposhu (now Akashi-cho, Chuo City). Later, the school was relocated in 1868 in Shinsenza, Shiba, and was named "Keio Gijuku" from the name of the era at the time (see page 50). In 1871, the school borrowed the grounds of the *nakayashiki*, property of the Shimabara Domain, and finally settled at its present location (it bought the land the following year). Fukuzawa aspired to shape personalities befitting community leaders, with a "noble character" and an "innovative and path-breaking spirit," and being a "fountain of elegance," "a model of intellect and virtue," "an active member of the society," and "willing to learn as much as to teach each other."

Keio University is also regarded as the head temple of the aesthetic and surrealist literature through its literary magazine, *Mita Bungaku*, which produced many writers and poets of said movements. In May 1910, the first issue of *Mita Bungaku*

literary magazine was out, having Professor Bin Ueda as an adviser, and Kafu Nagai as the general editor. Since then, the magazine has introduced authors like Mori Ogai and Ryunosuke Akutagawa, as well as it has nurtured Keio alumni like Kubota Mantaro, Minakami Takitaro, Sato Haruo, and Ishizaka Yojiro. In the early Showa period that was witness to the rise of proletarian literature, Nishiwaki Junzaburo led the surrealist movement in Japan and was widely known as a crucial figure in aesthetic literature.

There are valuable cultural assets still preserved within the university's grounds, including the Keio University Library (photo, left) and Mita Speech Hall (photo, right) - both nationally important cultural properties.



Meiji Gakuin University

course ⑦

1-2-37 Shirokanedai



Meiji Gakuin University is the oldest Christian educational institution (missionary school) in Japan. Its origin is in the Hepburn Academy founded in 1863 in Yokohama by the missionary James Curtis Hepburn. In 1880, this academy was moved to Tsukiji and renamed "Tsukiji Daigakko." In 1883, it merged with the Preparatory School in Yokohama and became "Ichii Eiwa Gakko," then with the Eiwa Yobiko and the Tokyo Ichii Shinko, which is how the Shirokanedai campus of "Meiji Gakuin" was established in 1889. In 1949, Meiji Gakuin University was inaugurated. There are historically valuable buildings on its grounds, including the Meiji Gakuin Imbrie Hall (nationally important cultural property), Meiji Gakuin Memorial Hall and Meiji Gakuin Chapel (both Minato City heritage sites). There is also the Meiji Gakuin Archives of History.

Meiji Gakuin Archives of History
Opening Hours: 9am to 4pm
Closed: Weekends/Holidays and other days.
Admission free.
Contact: 03-5421-5170



Site of the Residence of Iwaya Sazanami course ⑧

4-1-18 Takanawa



Iwaya Sazanami (real name: Iwaya Suco, 1870-1933) was born in Kojimachi Hirakawa-cho in 1870. He was the child of Iwaya Ichiroku, a calligrapher and high-ranking official in the Meiji government (later, a senator in the House of Lords). In spite of his opposition to Ozaki Koyo and his followers, he entered the literary society Ken-yusha in 1889 in the pursuit of a literary career. In 1891, he published "*Kogane maru*," a novel which established him as the founder of original dowa (fairy tales) in Japan. With "Shonenkai" magazine launched in 1892, and "Shonen sekai" the following year, as well as other magazines such as "Yonen sekai," "Shojo sekai" and "Yonen gaho" he edited later on, Sazanami was devoted to the popularization of children's literature. He was fully engaged in creating original fairy tales and eagerly presented fairy tales from various countries around the world. Among Sazanami's achievements, remakes on famous tales, such as "*Momotaro*" and "*Hanasakajijii*," he had turned out to the world, are also worth mentioning. He is regarded as the true pioneer of children's literature in Japan. He bought this land in 1907 rebuilt on it at a later date. He died in 1933, at the age of 77.

Metropolitan Heritage Site

