

40. Education before the Pacific War

40.1 Schooling in the Meiji Period

The *terakoya* became well known as an up-to-date educational facility. It is said that the origin of the present *Fussa Diichi Shogakko* (Fussa No.1 Elementary School) was the Chotokuji Temple's *terakoya* (temple school). In 1871 (Meiji 4), TAMURA Hanjuro, Fussa Village headman and other petitioners announced the site, the teachers and the budget for a local school's establishment to Nirayama-ken.

In 1872 (Meiji 5), a compulsory educational system was proclaimed with the maxim "No village shall be without school, no family without school taught members". The following June the Fussagakusha was established as temporary schoolhouse in Chotokuji Temple's main building. That April the Large-small District System took effect, assigning the five village area of Fussa, Kumagawa, Kawasaki, Hamura and Gonokami as No. 6 Small of No.12 Large District. School and administrative districts corresponded, the expenses being shared between villages. In June 1874 (Meiji 7) the Kumagawagakusha was established in Fukushoin Temple as temporary schoolhouse. In 1875 (Meiji 8) Fussa Gakko and Kumagawa Gakko were renamed from Gakusha in accordance with Rokuban-gumi's renaming as Tama Village. The next year Fussa Gakko was renamed Higashitama Gakko .

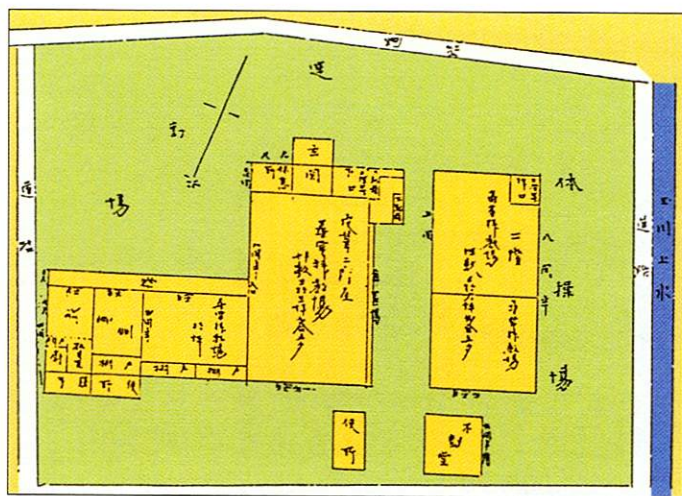


Fig.249 Higashitama Gakko building plan view. A two-story four-classroom building and a one-story building for teachers' room and two classrooms. The playground was small so students played in the neighboring garden of the priest Miyamoto.

Schooling was regulated by the *Futatsu* (Notification) announced January 8, 1875 (Meiji 8). Elementary school age range was specified as six to fourteen years old. Schooling would total eight years, divided into eight grades (six month courses over two four year schools) an upper four-year and a lower four-year school. Grade terms were not specified. In September 1879 (four years after the *Futatsu* proclamation), the *Kyoiku-rei* (Education Law) was proclaimed and the earlier school system abolished. The *Kyoiku-rei* was also called *Jiyu Kyoiku-rei* (Free Education Law) and students could graduate from school after sixteen month study (a four year school with four month study per year).

The *Kaisei-Kyoiku-rei* (Revised Education Law) was proclaimed the next year, December 1880 (Meiji 13). The minimum grade completion period was set at three years (three years each for elementary courses and middle school courses and two years for higher courses). This system continued until Education Law amendment in 1885 (Meiji 18). Children of school age became confused by the frequent change in the education system. The 1885 (Meiji 18) Education Law amendment specified four years of compulsory education and optional higher education.

On October 30, 1890 (Meiji 23), the *Kyoikuchokugo* (Imperial Rescript on Education) was proclaimed. The Imperial Rescript on Education enforced unswerving cooperation between Emperor and public on schooling and emphasis on virtue. The veneration toward the Imperial

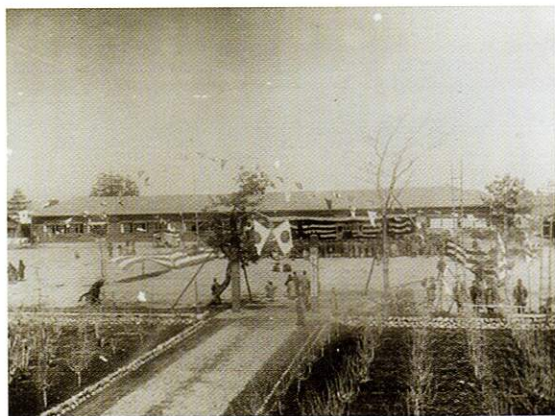


Fig.250 Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko schoolhouse completion ceremony. Two side-by-side single-storied schoolhouse buildings, with indoor gymnasium, science lecture theater and sewing room were erected in front of Fussa Station on generous school grounds. The principle Iwamura and school staffs undertook design and drafting.

Rescript on Education became prerequisite for enrolments, graduations and other scholastic events. On April 1 of the next year, 1891 (Meiji 24), the Imperial Rescript on Education was conferred on Higashitama and Kumagawa Shogakko. The Imperial Rescript on Education document was carefully kept in its *Chokugohoankyo* (Rescript Storage Case) in the faculty room to signify maximum respect. Education based on the Imperial Rescript continued until Japan's Pacific War defeat on August 15, 1945 (Showa 20). Recipients of schooling from late Meiji through early Showa Period learned it from fourth grade and recited it from fifth grade. On February 3, 1888 (Meiji 21), the Ministry of Education prescribed the Kigensetsuka song (National Foundation Day song) "Kumoni sobiyuru Takachihono ..." as a school song and enforced the *Kigensetsu* and *Tenchogetsu* celebration ceremonies.

The Major Amendment to Elementary School Law Enforcement Regulations was enacted in April 1902 (Meiji 35). Government-designated school textbooks on Morals, Japanese Language, Japanese History, Geography and Arts became compulsory. They all conformed closely in spirit to the Imperial Rescript on Education. Later the revision of government-designated textbooks continued until the Pacific War defeat.

Elementary school education during the era of the Fussa and Kumagawa villages Union (1893-, Meiji 26-) underwent renewal in



Fig.251 Schoolhouse of Kumagawa Jinjo Koto Shogakko. The schoolhouse stood in the Kumagawajinja Shrine precincts. The new schoolhouse building's construction started in 1924 (Taisho 13) on present Daini Shogakko(No.2 Elementary School)'s site. Later the old building found reuse as the Kokaido(Public hall) and Kumagawa Seinen Kurabu(Youth Association club)'s house in Taisho and Showa periods then as the Tokyo Metropolitan Kumagawa Nursery School after 1948 (Showa 23).

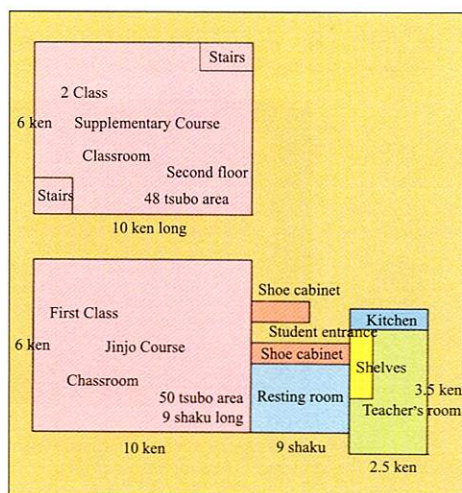


Fig.252 Plan view of Kumagawa Jinjo Koto Shogakko schoolhouse (about 1899 (Meiji 32)). At that time, a class used a whole floor of a two storied building.

preparation for modern schooling. Class hours were 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., May and June then September 11 through October, 7 to 12 a.m., July through September 10, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. November 1 through April 30, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. School days off were Sundays, national holidays, temporary closures (March 2 to 4, May 5, August 1, September 1, September 19), the summer closure (August 11 to 24), the winter closure (December 28 to January 7), farming season closure (May 26 to June 8), and end of school year closure (March 26 to 31).

Schoolchildren numbered 341 against 530 school age children in Fussa and Kumagawa villages in 1900 (Meiji 33). The school participation rate was 64.2 percent. Full time teachers numbered 4, assistant teacher 1 and part-time teachers 3 for the two schools. Schoolchildren numbered 42.6 per teacher. Non-schooled-going children numbered 24 for Fussa Village and 17 for Kumagawa Village, totaling 41. According to Higashitama Jinjo Koto Shogakko, the school participation rate improved to 96.55 percent four years later in April, 1904 (Meiji 37). The Fussa and Kumagawa villages Union School System enriched school management.

Each village of Fussa and Kumagawa villages Union owned one school district. According to the *Gakuji Nenpo* (School Annual Report), 1900 (Meiji 33) Jinjo Shogakko subjects included *shushin* (morals), Japanese, mathematics, (plus arts, music, manual arts, sewing). The Koto elementary school subjects included *shushin*, Japanese, mathematics, Japanese history, geography, science, arts, music, gymnastics, sewing (for girls), (additionally agriculture, industry, manual arts and English). The class and school graduation examinations of this school

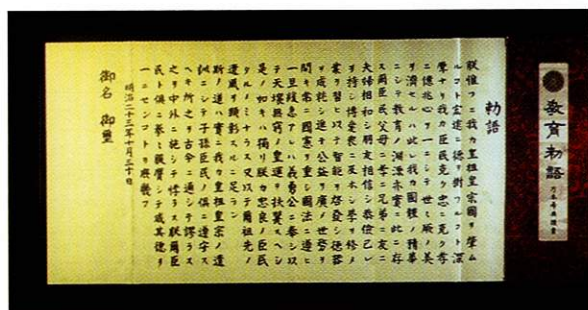


Fig.253 Imperial Rescript on Education (copy). The *Kyoikuchokugo* (Imperial Rescript on Education) was conferred on Higashitama and Kumagawa Shogakko on April 1, 1891 (Meiji 24). The Imperial Rescript on Education was carefully stored in its *Chokugohoankyo* (Rescript Storage Case) in the faculty room out of respect. The Imperial Rescript on Education had to be learned from the fourth grade and recited from the fifth grade.

system correspond to the present midterm and annual term-end examinations respectively.

The school doctor system started in the last year of the Meiji Period. YOKOTA Juichiro, a privately practicing doctor, was appointed to the school doctor of Fussa and Kumagawa shogakko. Thanks to the school doctor system, schoolchild health care greatly improved. However, many children's school attendance was postponed while others were absent from class due to insufficient food in the late Meiji Period. Village funds and private donations supported such difficult cases, supplying food and school supplies. The Higashitama Shogakko sports meetings were held at the Tama River's riverside after its leveling as a sports ground. An oak leaf arch and *Bankokki* (Flags of all nations) decorated the sports ground.

40.2 Patriotic education in the Taisho Period and the TAGUCHI Mannosuke Principle

World War I, lasting from 1914 (Taisho 3) to 1918 (Taisho 7) raised Japan's international profile, however worker unemployment increased and tenant farmers repeatedly started disputes in a whirlpool of global financial panic and economical confusion. Encouragingly, democracy and liberalism diffused and the so-called Taisho Democracy bloomed.

An educational characteristic of the Taisho Period was the development of the "New Education Movement" involving composition,

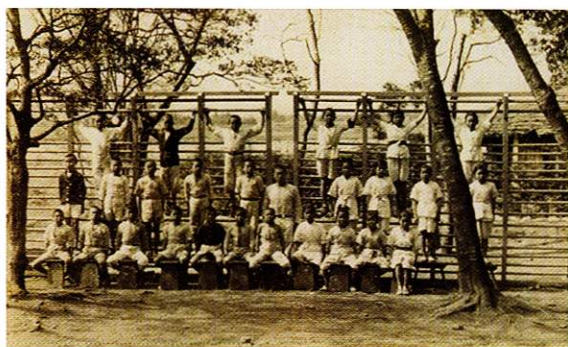


Fig. 254 Picture of Kumagawa Jinjo Koto Shogakko students in the schoolyard with wall bars for a background (Taisho Period). The wall bars behind were used for chin-ups and abdominal muscle toning. The schoolhouse was a reconstruction of a schoolhouse purchased from Meiji Shogakko (Akiruno City). From design through to erection, the schoolhouse project was contracted to master builder, OTSU Seiichi, completion ceremony held October 7, 1924 (Taisho 13).

free painting, local education and vocal training. The new trend was for the education system to change from teacher-oriented to student-oriented education, respecting the children's identity, targeting spontaneous creative activities and considering the importance of experience by focusing on the children's life. In 1918 (Taisho 7) of Taisho Democracy time, TAGUCHI Mannosuke, the principle of Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko, compiled the "Kyodokyojushiryo" (Local Education Material) to heighten understanding of local culture and love for home province. The Kyodokyojushiryo began as a teaching methodology for local education in Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko, consisting of six chapters: ideas on teaching methods for local education, history of Fussa Village, Fussa good deed list, historical summary of Nishitama-gun, school excursion topography for abroad and a historical summary of Tokyo-fu.

Taguchi's views on home province schooling are summarized in the Kyodokyojushiryo, volume one. Taguchi defined the home province as the range a child might see in a day. No established definition exists for "home province". It was not to be determined by administrative zone or arithmetical area, but as the area observable to a child on foot, allowing for difficulty of terrain and strength of leg. The purpose of Taguchi's local education was to kindle sensitivity toward the home province and local nature through direct contact with the province and understanding of it.

Taguchi was born in Sashiogi Village (Saitama City), Kitaadachi-gun, Saitama-ken in 1884 (Meiji 17). Upon graduating from Tokyo-fu Teacher Training School in 1907 (Meiji 40), he taught at Higashitama Jinjo Koto Shogakko. He served as Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko principal from 1911 (Meiji 44) to 1925 (Taisho 14). As principle, he initiated the school song, school regulations, school notebook, school



Fig.255 Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko "Kyodokyojushiryo" (Local Teaching Material). TAGUCHI Mannosuke, fifth principle, created this book about 1918 (Taisho 7). He used the practice of local studies for enhanced educational effect.

garden, industrial repair school, more teacher residences and school environment improvement.

Taguchi instructed his students on national citizenship to reflect the fundamentals of education set down in the Imperial Rescript on Education with the greater nationalistic emphasis after the Russo-Japanese War. The school song (lyrics by INOUE Sosuke), which Taguchi aimed to institute, had a heavily nationalistic tone. His morals' classes leaned heavily toward biographical lectures on local luminaries, especially TAKASAKI Jihei and his achievements in sericulture.

40.3 Education in early Showa Period

The Taisho democratization trend continued through the late Taisho to early Showa Period. In 1927 (Showa 2), guidelines on students were issued regarding personal respect and future vocations. On April 1, 1929 (Showa 4), a first collection of student compositions, from Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko and Kumagawa Jinjo Koto Shogakko, was published by the Nishitama-gun No.2 Japanese Research Department.

The Showa Period happened to bring economic decline, particularly in Fussa's silk processing and sericulture industries. In 1927 (Showa 2), Financial Panic erupted with harsh impact on the silk yarn industry and on sericulture farmers. Then, the 1937 (Showa 12) Manchurian Incident saw Japan rush into 15 years of war ("15 Year War"). In 1937 (Showa 12), the Japanese-Chinese War break out caused military training to become a compulsory subject through middle school to university. Elementary school students were called upon for volunteer duties from 1939 (Showa 14). In 1941 (Showa 16), the Pacific War break out furthered militarism in education until Japan's defeat in



Fig.256 Elementary school textbooks (End of Meiji Period to Taisho Period). Government-designated textbooks were first used in 1904 (Meiji 37).

1945 (Showa 20).

Considering 1934 (Showa 9), Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko's 14 classes were organized thus: two classes per school year at *Jinjo* (ordinary) level (12 classes in total), one class per year at *Koto* (high) level (2 in total), students numbering 816, faculty 15. Taking Kumagawa Jinjo Koto Shogakko's 7 classes, it was one class per school year at Jinjo level (6 classes in total), one class per two school years at Koto level (1 in total), students numbering 356, faculty 8. There were 1,172 students in all, 21 classes and 23 faculties.

Children took their lessons through the recession and war periods while sericulture farmers' earnings plummeted with falling cocoon prices. In 1934 (Showa 9), nearly half of all students needed support. 51 students were provided school lunches. Many farmers' children went without lunch due to shrunken cocoon-dependant incomes. In schools, there were the welfare societies for students, which provided umbrellas, Japanese abacuses and other school supplies

Radio gymnastics and swimming training were encouraged as summer vacation activities, the former taking place each morning in all Fussa and Kumagawa school grounds from August 1 to 20. Swimming training took place in the Tama River from August 1 to 10 (for Fussa School, from July 10 on school day afternoons). In 1933 (Showa 8), the *Sakura Dokuhon* (Japanese textbook started from the theme on Sakura) became the fourth government-issued textbook. Polychromatic Japanese textbooks stemmed from this version.

Sericulture was the main industry of both Fussa and Kumagawa villages. Therefore, in the Meiji 30s to about Showa 2 (about



Fig.257 Fussa Jinjo Koto Shogakko schoolhouse (Taisho Period) .

1890s -1927), school closures were customary through the busy season in sericulture and agriculture, the two weeks from May 28 to June 10. It is obvious that children provided important labor in sericulture, barley harvesting and rice planting in the Meiji and Taisho periods. In 1939 (Showa 14), 10 years into the new system, a further measure was taken wherein the students above Jinjo 5 level were absented from school and the classes for students under Jinjo 5 level were shortened.

A labor service plan enacted in 1941 (Showa 16), organized students, under teaching staff supervision, mobilized to support families of service personnel. Moreover marching became the important theme of the group training in physical education. In 1938 (Showa 13), a trumpet and drum corps was formed by Koto students who would perform at any marching events or send-off ceremonies for soldiers bound for active service.

The Education Council, established in 1937 (Showa 12), planned a modification of the school system to suit war conditions. One plan was the Kokumin Gakko Law, enacted 1941 (Showa 16). In October 1940 (Showa 15), Fussa Town had emerged from the merging of Fussa and Kumagawa villages. In 1941 (Showa 16), the Kokumin Gakko Law was proclaimed and the school was renamed Kokumin Gakko.

An inflow of army related people accelerated in 1940 (Showa 15), due to the Army Air Experimental Department's transfer to Fussa. Numbers of children increased accordingly. In March 1942 (Showa 17), six-classroom extension work for the Fussa Kokumin Gakko and four-classroom extension work for the Kumagawa Kokumin Gakko gained permits. That year, Fussa Kokumin Gakko was renamed *Fussa*



Fig.258 Kumagawa Jinjo Koto Shogakko schoolhouse 1924 (Taisho 13).

Daiichi (No.1) *Kokumin Gakko* (School) and Kumagawa *Kokumin Gakko* became *Fussa Daini* (No.2) *Kokumin Gakko* (School). In 1943 (Showa 18) Fussa Daiichi *Kokumin Gakko*'s first year classes were split into two shifts. Fussa Daini *Kokumin Gakko* added two classrooms to cope with increased student numbers by renting a house. In March 1944 (Showa 19), a new two-storied school building for Fussa Daiichi *Kokumin Gakko* was completed. Fussa's population in 1939 (Showa 14) was 6,833, rapidly increasing to 9,575 in 1944 (Showa 19).

The *Kokumin Gakko* Law imposed a compulsory eight year study period, effective from 1944 (Showa 19). The war's rapid worsening prevented its enactment, so it was postponed until Japan's defeat. However, as *Seinen Gakko* (Youth School) entrance was permitted upon *Koto Gakko*'s graduation, schooling was practically considered to begin at 6 years of age and continued until 13 years under the *Seinen* semi-compulsory schooling system.

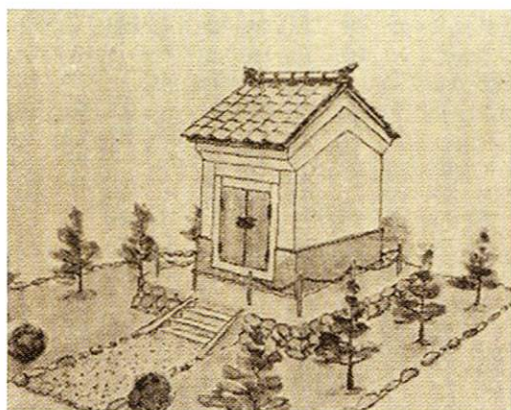


Fig.259 *Goshin'ei Hoanjo* (Imperial Portrait Enshrinement) in the Fussa Daiichi *Kokumin Gakko*. A photographic portrait of Emperor and Empress was lent to each school by the Imperial Household Agency until 1945 (Showa 20). A *Goshin'ei* was lent to Fussa Jinjo *Koto Shogakko* in 1915 (Taisho 4). Village headman TAKASAKI Jihei, principle TAGUCHI Mannosuke and student representatives visited the Nishitama-gun office to receive the *Goshinei*. The *Goshinei* was solemnly carried past vice-principle, teachers, students and citizens, all lined up under flurry of falling cherry petals from Fussa Station to the school's *Goshinei Hoanjo*.