

Postscript

Local history sends the area's accumulated messages to the next generation, telling the past through the local way of thinking and accepting the outer criticism. The local historian must write the past through citizen's viewpoint. What's more, the historian must avoid complacency to be trusted by the outsiders, and convey history to the future generations.

Many believe that a history compiled by an administrative body must be on an academic plane, acceptable to national historians, and above boastful regionalism. I take issue with this generalization because many such administratively assembled compendia fill their thick bindings with countless references and statistics that are difficult to digest. Conversely, many bodies publish modest guidebooks for the general citizen's use. Herein dwells a contradiction because the citizen is also the intended reader of the fuller version of the history. Originally the citizen guidebook has a legitimate reason to exist in itself. The citizen guidebook must reflect the standards and the findings of the fuller version, but need not be an academic monograph. Its priority is to respond to the citizen's intellectual demands, while not bringing up questions to academia.

We have already published THE HISTORY OF FUSSA CITY (First and Second volumes) and THE FUSSA CITY HISTORICAL MATERIALS. They were published as the 20th anniversary municipal projects. We sought specialists of varied eras and fields, including nature and environment, and aimed for an empirical narrative based on substance. During the compilation process, the study's progress was disclosed to research societies and published in FUSSA CITY HISTORY RESEARCH magazines. Moreover, new materials were actively assembled and resulting reports published as FUSSA CITY HISTORICAL MATERIALS. This effort now stands as groundwork and support for perpetual future research into the local history. It may also offset the likely future attrition of remaining materials, benefiting ongoing compilation of the city's history.

Our volumes on THE HISTORY OF FUSSA CITY and FUSSA CITY HISTORICAL MATERIALS are too bulky to place on the average citizen's bookshelf. From the beginning, the Fussa City History Compilation Committee and the Special Committee both aimed to create a citizen or family version, and this plan was included in the city history compilation project. Regrettably, the compilation project was brought to a halt upon the Second volume's publication. Therefore publication of a citizen's version was reassigned to the Fussa City Board of Education in expectation of a future opportunity for this mission.

A voice arose from the citizenry, desiring an educational history publication which anyone could easily read even after the end of the compilation project but alongside the ongoing study upheld by the city's historical study group. Finally the Board of Education heard this voice and acted on it. The goal of the citizen's version is to satisfy intellectual interest respectively.

Because this project would begin some years after THE HISTORY OF FUSSA CITY's publication, we had to reassess our compilation guidelines. We paid consideration to the book's length in pages, its understandability and its descriptive imagery in pictures and illustrations. Still more, linkage to important events in national and global history was also contemplated, considering Fussa's quite internationally-tied history

To appeal to the average reader, pages need consistent narrative. THE HISTORY OF FUSSA CITY had honored the individuality of its contributing authors. However, the new draft, edited from the original, needed a more consistent tone. So the chief editor ordered the rewriting of incompatible tracts to achieve such tone. This process involved multiple step refinement. We thank the patience and cooperation of desk staff.

The use of pictures and illustrations was another challenge. During compilation of the History of Fussa, picture and illustration selection was difficult, since the publication was not meant to be a picture book or an illustrated album. Thus it was delicate task to select the pictures and illustrations to best aid the reader's comprehension of the narrative.

Finally FUSSA REKISHI MONOGATARI is complete. This effort in historical inquiry finds its principal sources in Fussa City itself. We hope this content informs the citizens about the long inherited history of importance.

The 21st century will soon arise as a history theme. THE HISTORY OF FUSSA CITY sets in print a citizen's history for Fussa's 20th anniversary as a city and moreover records Fussa's historical transition. The reader is asked to view this compilation as a partial guide to a future Fussa, rapidly progressing through today to tomorrow. We hope this book will find wide readership among the following generations of torchbearers into an unknown future world.

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