

About Hasseiden (Eight Saints) Local Museum (Yokohama Honmoku)

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1 Hasseiden

Hasseiden was built by Mr. Kenzo Adachi (1864 ~1948) as a villa in 1933.

He was consecutively the Minister of Post, the Home Secretary and the president of the Constitutional Monarchy Party.

He modeled this octagonal three-stories building on the Yumedono of Horyu-ji. On the second floor, statues of eight saints are enshrined which he himself collected. In 1945, this area was badly damaged by the US military's incendiary bombs. Fortunately this building survived from the attack and is conserved as it was built 82 years ago. In 1972, in order to transfer local history to posterity, it was opened as the first general history museum of Yokohama.

Photo1 : Hasseiden This photo was taken about 80 years ago.

Photo2 : Honmoku Cape This photo was taken in 1953.

Honmoku is situated at the cape of Tokyo bay. Hasseiden is situated there on a hill. Before Honmoku- Negishi bay was reclaimed, it was a nice spot for ocean viewing.



Photo1 : Hasseiden



Photo2 : Honmoku Cape

2 Statues of eight saints

The statues of eight saints had been commissioned to be enshrined on the second floor when Haseiden was opened. All the artists who made the statues were very famous at that time. For example, Mr. Seibou Kitamura : Famous as the sculptor of “Statue of Player for Peace” at Peace Park Nagasaki Prefecture. Mr. Fumio Asakura : Famous as the sculptor of “Statue of Mr. Shigenobu Okuma who founded Waseda University.”



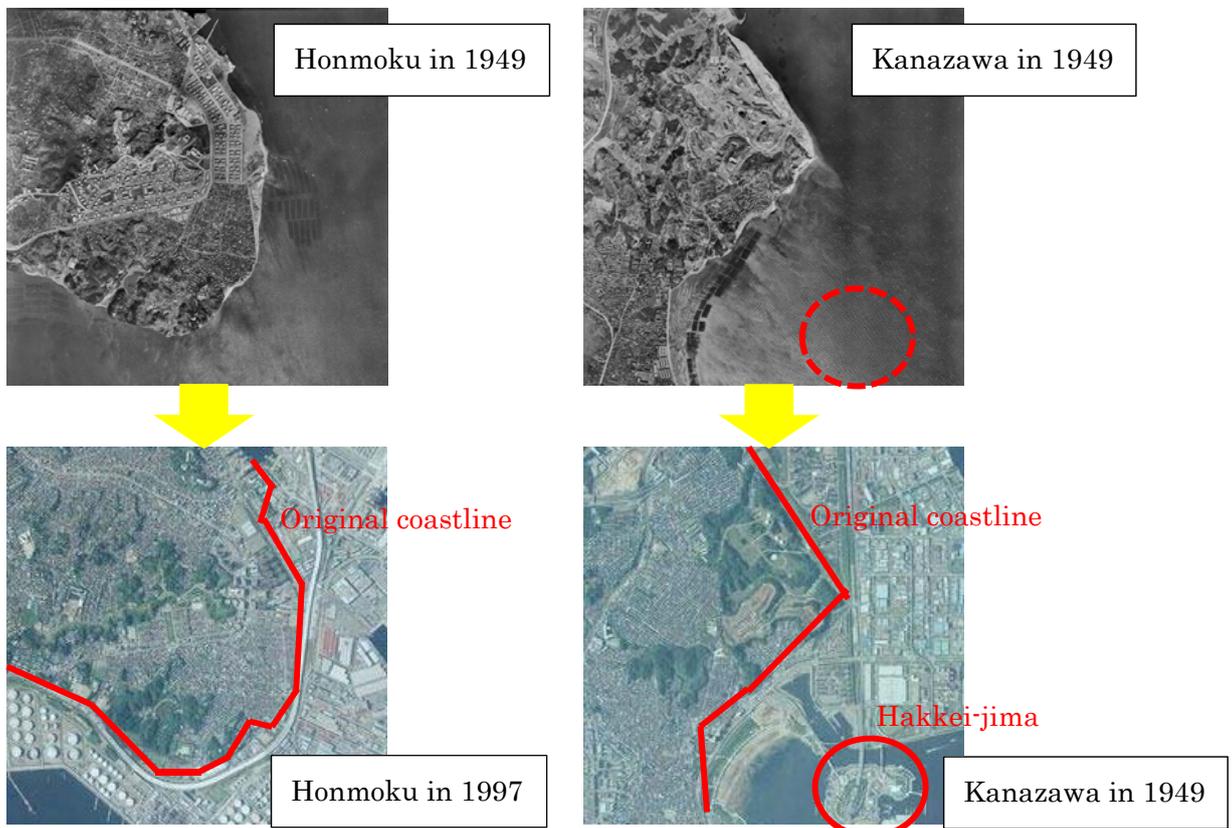
The name of saints in the picture are as follows.

From the left (In parentheses is the name of the artist.)

Jesus-Christ (Mr. Takashi Shimizu), Socrates (Mr. Yuzo Fujikawa), Confucius (Mr. Seibou Kitamura), Sakya-muni (Mr. Kamehiko Tajima), Mirror (Mr. Hotsuma Katori), Shotoku-Taishi (Mr. Fumio Asakura), Kobo-Daishi (Mr. Masuzo Hasegawa), Shinran (Mr. Hideo Hase), Nichiren (Mr. Jitsuzo Hinako)

3 Changes of the Yokohama Sea Shore

At the time of high economic growth, Yokohama bay was reclaimed for an industry area from a fishery area. Changes of landscape are shown in the pictures below. This picture shows that Hakkei-Jima is an artificial island.

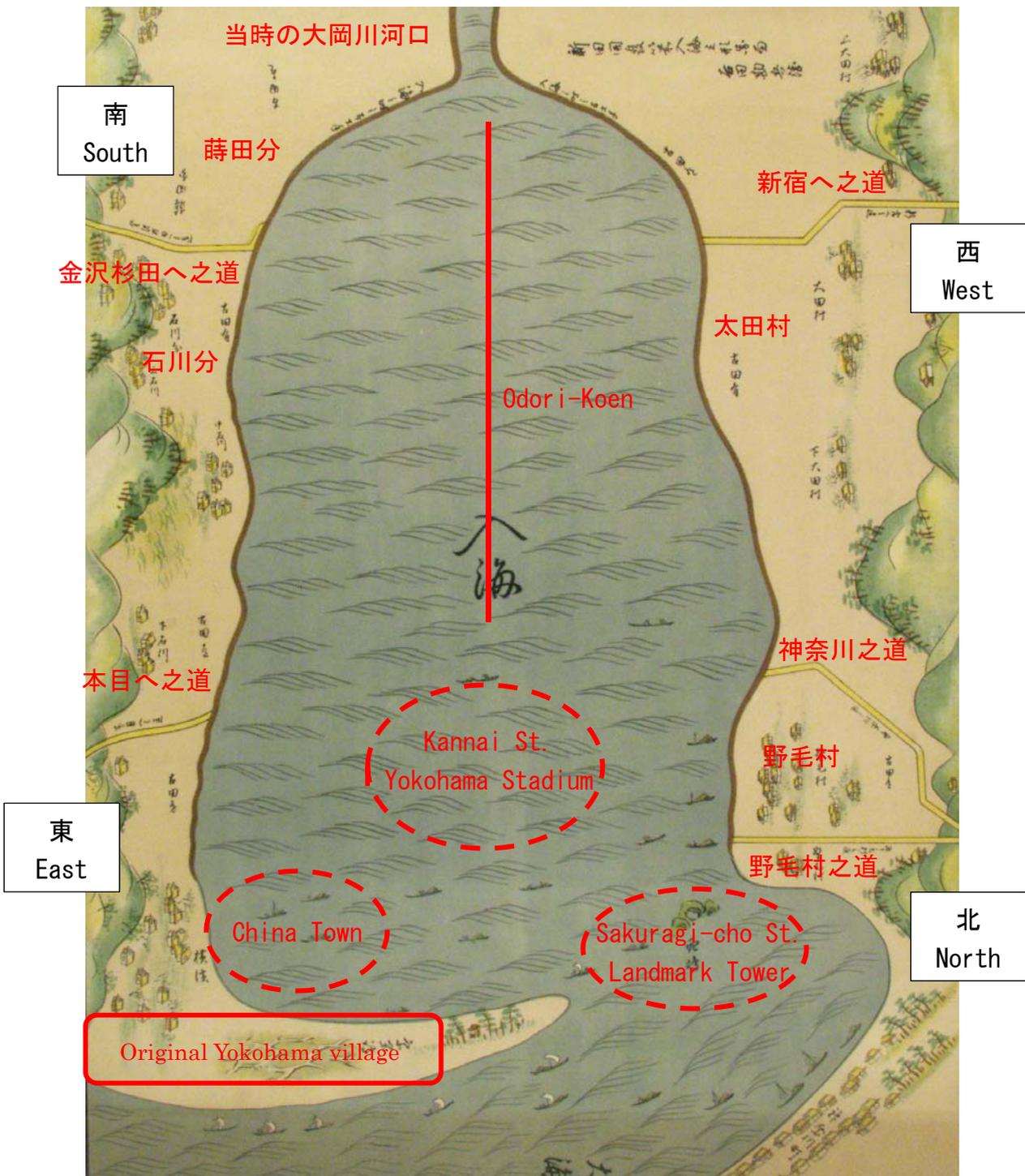


4 Origin of the name Yokohama and new field reclaimed by Mr. Yoshida

The current area surrounded by Maita park, Oooka river and Nakamura river had been a gulf divided by a sandbar from the open sea.

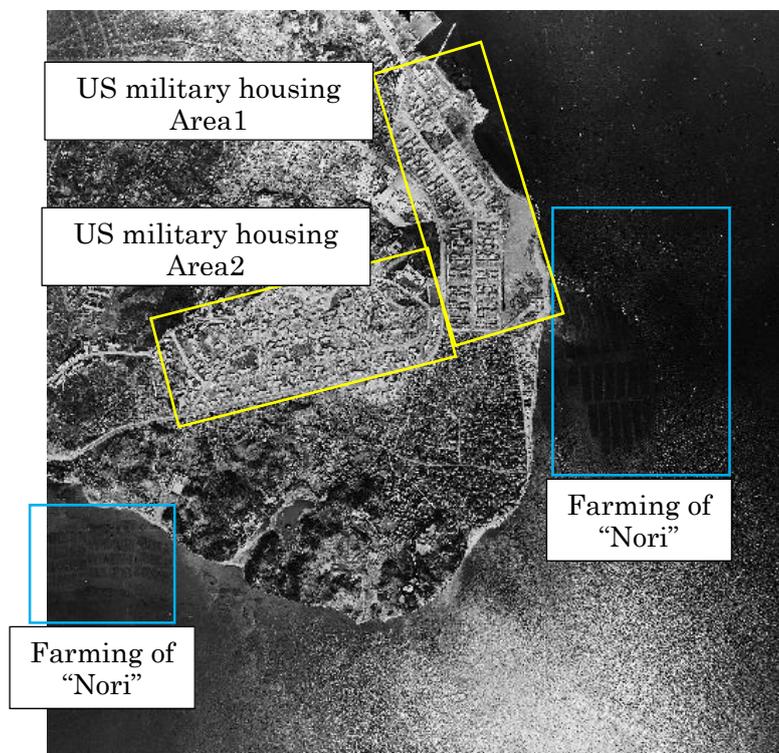
Since the sandbar protruded perpendicularly from the land, it was called Yokohama (The name “Yokohama” means “horizontal beach”, because it protruded horizontally when viewed from the sea).

In a map prepared in the Muromachi era, the area was described as Yokohama Village. In the earlier Edo era, Kanbei Yoshida reclaimed a new field from the gulf. In the late Edo period, when Yokohama was assigned as a treaty port, the field area was developed into a town and progressed to urbanization rapidly. As the town grew, the area of “Yokohama” was expanded.



5 When fishing in the sea around Yokohama was prosperous

On the first floor, fishing tools used in the sea around Yokohama until the 1960's are exhibited. The fishing boat named "Goromaru" which had been used at Honmoku bay is exhibited as well. Once Honmoku was famous for nori seaweed. In winter, nets were cast into the sea and many shelters to dry the seaweed were installed on the beach.



Above : The fishing boat "Goromaru". The white banner indicated the name of the boat. The blue fishermen's banner was hoisted to indicate a rich haul.

Left: Topography of Honmoku in 1949. It shows an extended area requisitioned by the U.S army until 1982 and arrangements of seaweed nets in the shallow sea extended as large as the requisitioned area.

6 Festivals performed in Yokohama

The pictures of traditional festivals held at various places in Yokohama are exhibited on the wall along the stairs to the second floor. At the entrance of the second floor, there are some pictures of "Ouma Nagashi". "Ouma Nagashi" stands for the release of horses made of woven thatch plants to the sea. This has been carried out on the first weekend of August for 450 years in Honmoku. It is designated as an Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Property of Kanagawa prefecture.

7 Old farming tools and tools used by common folk and nostalgic magazines

On the 2nd floor, old farming tools, tools used by common folk, nostalgic magazines and toys from the 1950's to 60's are exhibited. Some goods may handled by visitors.

8 The silk industries in Yokohama

On the 2nd floor, a part of an old Japanese house owned by the village headman from the late Edo era to the early Meiji era was rebuilt. Once in the attic of the house, silkworm culture had been carried out. At the corner of the old Japanese house, the history of the silk trade and the ecology of the silk worm from the late Edo era are exhibited through pictures. Also shown are pictures of Tomitaro Hara (famous for Sankei Hara) and Mitsukage Ono, both from Honmoku. They were two of five major silk traders in Japan.

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