

## Shinagawa Historical Museum Commentary Sheet

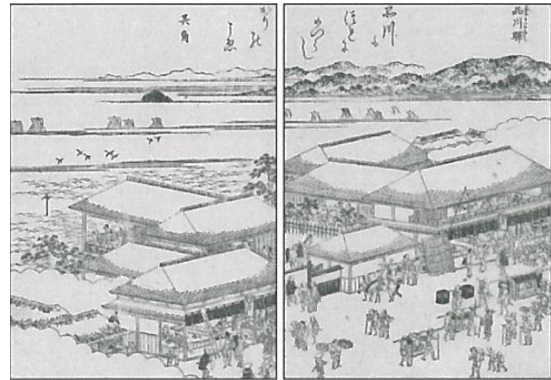
### Shinagawa-shuku (Shinagawa Post Station)

#### Storied Stop along the Tokaido Road

Tokugawa Ieyasu constructed various roads to connect Edo with other towns on the island of Honshu. He also built post stations along these routes. After his victory at the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, Ieyasu began building post stations along the Tokaido Road in early 1601, issued licenses to trade requiring the provision of post horses, and made sure that horses and people were always available for transport. Some post stations were finished later, but all told there were a total of 53 post stations between Edo and Kyoto, each connected by horses and men.

Every day Shinagawa-shuku provided around 100 men and 100 horses to official travelers, and when necessary larger numbers of men and horses were conscripted from nearby government-assigned villages. There were many palanquin bearers and horsemen at post stations, and there was a central office at each post station in charge of the men and horses.

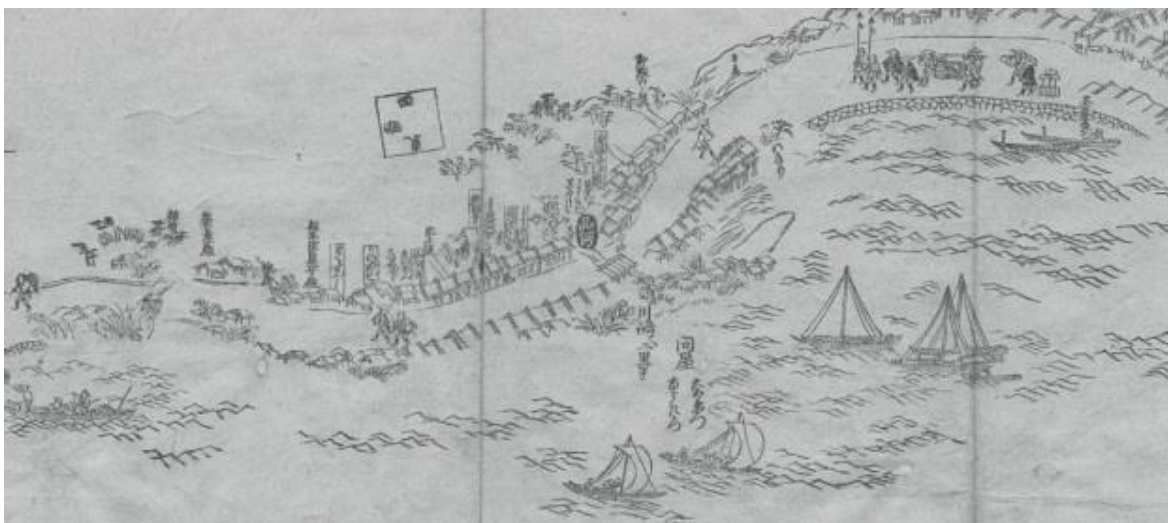
Shinagawa-shuku comprised two separate post stations on the north and south side of the Meguro River (Shinagawa). In 1722, Kachi shinshuku (new post station) was added in the north, bringing the number of post stations to three. The name Kachi shinshuku (Kachi literally means “walking”) represented a new



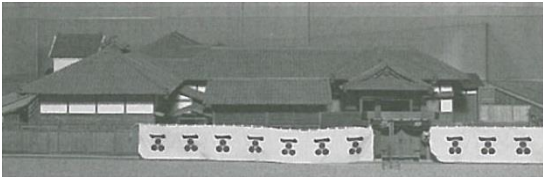
#### Shinagawa-shuku (Shinagawa Post Station)

form of post station where only men were used for transport. The two existing post stations were referred to as the main post stations, while Kachi shinshuku was known as the new post station.

The first post stations (Shinagawa, Itabashi, Senju, and Naito) on the Edo Five Routes, or Tokaido Road, Nikko and Oshu Dochu Road, Koshu Dochu Road, were collectively referred to as the Edo Four Post Stations. Shinagawa-shuku was the only one to be located in a place of scenic beauty near the ocean, and it was the most heavily travelled and bustling of the post stations. As a result, it had a number of traveler accommodations and tea houses as well as a large number of women for entertaining travelers. By 1843 there were 93 traveler accommodations with female prostitutes. This made Shinagawa-shuku abuzz with activity both day and night.



**Tokaido Road**



A model of Shinagawa-shuku Honjin

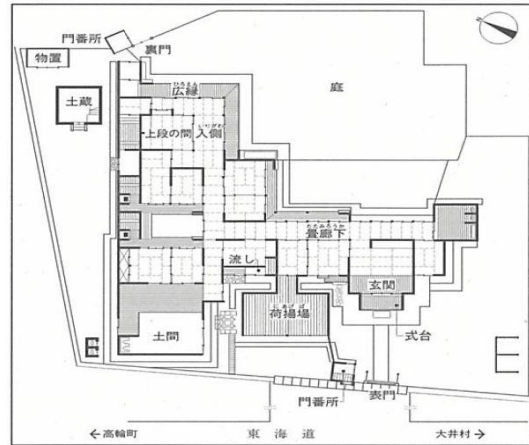
### Lodging Facilities

A post station had a number of different lodging facilities, including Honjin (rest areas and lodgings built for use by samurai and court nobles), Waki-honjin (rest areas and lodgings built for use by general travelers as well as samurai and court nobles), Hatago (facilities for general travelers that also served food), and Kichin-yado (facilities for general travelers that did not serve food). According to a survey conducted on the Edo Five Routes by the Tokugawa shogunate in 1843, there was one Honjin at Kitashinagawa-shuku (north post station) and one Waki-honjin each at the Minamishinagawa and Kachi shinshuku. Honjin were lodgings that only served high ranking officials, such as imperial messengers, court nobles, daimyo, government officials, and high ranking Buddhist priests. Honjin were not open to general travelers. Waki-honjin were constructed for use when no vacancies were available in Honjin. However, there were cases where general travelers, who were prohibited from staying at Honjin, could stay at Waki-honjin. Travelers and holidaymakers would stay at Hatago and rest in tea houses located in each post station. Travelers with provisions who stay in Kichin-yado had to make their own meals or have someone staying there make meals for them. After the start of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the number of Kichin-yado declined as most people stayed in Hatago.

### Shinagawa's Headman



Cherry blossom viewing (As depicted by Utagawa Hiroshige I)



Building plans for Honjin

The title of headman referred to a person in charge of a village's administrative matters. This title was typically given to prominent land owners. Headsmen were assigned to Shinagawa-shuku, as the Kagata family was placed in charge of Minamishinagawa-shuku (South Post Station) and the Udagawa family of Kitashinagawa-shuku. The Oshima family of Ryoshimachi, Minamishinagawa, also belonged to the Minamishinagawa-shuku. The Iida family and another family jointly served as the headsmen of the Kachi shinshuku. The Udagawa family are believed to have moved from Hibiya to Shinagawa in 1457 in conjunction with Ota Dokan's construction of Edo Castle, while the Iida family was a part of the Koizumi family tree, who were the head priests of the Kitashinagawa Inari shrine (current Shinagawa shrine) dedicated to the Kitashinagawa-shuku. Whereas, the Kagata family are descendants of Toriumi, a historical figure who was active in the Minatomachi district of Shinagawa during the middle part of the Warring States period. It is believed that soon thereafter he changed his family name to Kagata.