

Shinagawa in the Modern Era

Birth of Manufacturing

The arrival of manufacturing machinery and techniques from the Western countries was equally important to the cultural development of Shinagawa, as well as the birth of the railway system in Japan. The government-managed Shinagawa Glass Works was constructed in Kita-Shinagawa in 1873 as part of the industrial promotion policies of the government. In 1887, the factory was denationalized by Nishimura Katsuzo and began manufacturing beer bottles and dishes.

Development of the Transportation Network and Urbanization

After the Great Kanto Earthquake* in 1923, the Ebara region, formerly a small farming village on the outskirts of Tokyo, saw a rapid increase in population due to people both from the disaster hit central regions and the more distant rural areas. The opening of train lines, such as the Tokyu Meguro Line, the Ikegami Line, and Oimachi Line, spurred this development. Residential areas including shopping streets and schools, grew along the railway lines.

* The Great Kanto Earthquake: A massive, magnitude 7.9 earthquake on September 1, 1923. It created devastating shockwaves and damage throughout the entire Kanto region.

Shinagawa During Wartime

After the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War* in 1937, the daily lives of both public and private citizens came to be regulated by the wartime system, while they simultaneously struggled with the lack of various resources and even daily goods. As the situation of the war worsened, aerial bombings became more severe. In particular, Ebara District (the present-day area around the western half of Shinagawa City, Tokyo) suffered catastrophic damage in the aerial bombings from May 24 to May 26, 1945.

* The Sino-Japanese War: The war that began with the shooting incident at Lugou Bridge in the western part of Beijing.

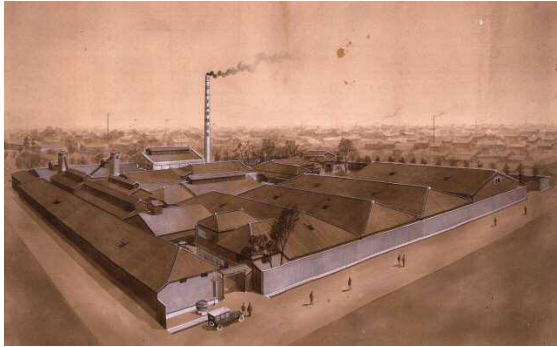
From Recovery to Rapid Growth

The many people who lost their homes in the war cobbled together shelters out of whatever scraps. They started piecing together their new lives while they faced chronic shortages of goods. After the turmoil of the post-war years, people's lives gradually stabilized in the

1950s, and Japan soon entered a period of rapid growth.

In 1962, the metropolitan expressway system was built, and in 1960 the Toei Number 1 Subway Line opened (the Toei Asakusa Line), while at the same time the fishing industry of Tokyo Bay of Shinagawa collapsed as the waters were reclaimed to build new town, industrial manufacturing bases, etc.

1_08_01



The Sendai Miso Factory

Provided by the Yagi Cooperative Sendai Miso Factory

1924

During the Edo Period the Sendai Domain produced own specialized miso at the estate, located in Sendaizaka (present-day Higashi-oi, Shinagawa City, Tokyo). During the Meiji Period (1868–1912) the Yagi Cooperative took over this miso manufacturing.

1_08_02



Sendai Miso Ceramic Jar

Meiji Period

Excavated from the Sendaizaka Archeological Site between 1986 and 1988

A ceramic jar for Sendai miso used by the Yagi Cooperative excavated during an archaeological dig. During the dig, a stone cooking stove from the Edo period and brick cooking stove from the Meiji period were also discovered, providing hints as to how miso was made during those times.

1_08_03



Red Enameled Glass Flower Vase with a Cherry Blossom Pattern

Said to be the work of Oshige Chuzaemon
Meiji Period, Late 19th Century

Shinagawa City Designated Cultural Property
A work of Oshige Chuzaemon from the Satsuma Province (today, Kagoshima Prefecture). Oshige studied glass working at the Shinagawa Glass Works factory, and produced many exquisite pieces such as lamps and dishes.

1_08_04



Glass Pot with Lid

Meiji Period, Late 19th Century

Believed to have been produced at the Shinagawa Glass Works, and used for physics and chemistry.

1_08_05



Fireproof Brick Produced at the Shinagawa Refractories Factory

Meiji Period

Excavated from the Sendaizaka Archeological Site between 1986 and 1988

Shinagawa Refractories was founded in 1887 by Nishimura Katsuzo from Sakura, Shimousa (present-day Sakura City, Chiba Prefecture) inside the Shinagawa Glass Works factory.

1_08_06



Oil Lamp

Used from the Meiji Period to the Taisyo Period

Oil lamps were rapidly adopted during the Meiji Period (1868–1911). They were most widely used between the 1910s and 1920s.

1_08_07



Facial Lotion “Meishoku Bigansui”

Launched in 1885

1_08_08



Toothpaste made by Meiji Shokai

Sold from 1909

At the time, toothpaste was a fine powder.

1_08_09



King – Volume 2, 10th Edition

Published October 1, 1926

Mass market magazines gained rapid popularity starting from the 1920s. In particular, “King”, founded in 1926, sold over 1 million copies.

1_08_10



Weekly Meguro Cinema (Right) and Meguro Cinema Guide No. 1 (Left)

Right: 1925

Left: 1926

The Weekly Meguro Cinema was the program for the Meguro Cinema, which opened in Kamiosaki in 1923 and specialized in Western movies. The Meguro Cinema Guide introduced and explained the films shown at the Meguro Cinema.

1_08_11



Corinthian Bagatelle (Corint Game)

Circa 1934

A game played by rolling a small ball. The ball is launched from the lower-right corner of the board, and then players try to guide it to various holes to score points. Corinthian bagatelle was popular during the 1930s in Japan.

1_08_12



Home-use Film Projector

Showa Period, The early 20th century

Turning paper-based film by hand

1_08_13



Firebomb

The shell of an M69 napalm firebomb dropped on the grounds of the Tosho Public School (Yutakacho 4-24, Shinagawa City, Tokyo) on May 25, 1945.

1_08_14



Ceramic Food Storage Jar

Circa 1943

Produced by the Great Japan Air Defense Ration Company

Excavated at the Oi-kashima Archeological Site in 2004

As all metals were prioritized for the war effort, ceramic jars were used in place of cans.

1_08_15



Air Raid Siren

Showa Period

Turning the handle behind the speaker sounds the siren.

1_08_16



Aikoku Fujinkai Women's Group Sash

Showa Period

The Aikoku Fujinkai was a women's group that cared for wounded soldiers and bereaved families in the war.

1_08_17



Armband for Students Mobilized at a Factory

Circa 1944

Students were mobilized to serve as laborers at military factories. When the year-long mobilization began in 1944, there were many factories that saw students arrive from multiple schools, which led to the use of armbands and badges to differentiate the students.

1_08_18



Gas Mask (Civilian Use)

February 1943

A 1942-model gas mask certified by the Home Ministry. It was distributed to households as part of fire protection gear.

1_08_19



Comfort Bag to Soldiers

Showa Period

These bags were used to deliver letters and goods to soldiers on the front lines.

1_08_20



Duffle Bag

Circa 1945

A canvas bag

1_08_21



Gaiters

Circa 1945

Gaiters were wound about the hem and below the knee on pants to aid movement.

1_08_22



Steel Helmet

Circa 1941

Steel helmets were not only used by soldiers, but also by civilian men at all times for air raid protection.

1_08_23



Air Raid Hood

Circa 1945

A protective hood worn by women and children.

1_08_24



Electric Rice Cooker No. 1

Made by Toshiba in 1955

1955 saw the first development of automatic rice cookers that cooked rice just by flipping a switch.

1_08_25



Micro Television

Produced by Sony

1963

At the time it was the world's smallest and lightest black and white television.

1_08_26



Millimeter Film Camera (Single 8)

Produced by Canon Camera

1965

A small film camera. While the camera did not record sound, it became popular as a way for people to record memories of their daily lives.

1_08_27



Agitating Electric Washing Machine

Produced by Matsushita Electric Industrial
1953

In the latter half of the 1950s, washing machines, black and white televisions and refrigerators came to be considered as essential goods for daily life.