

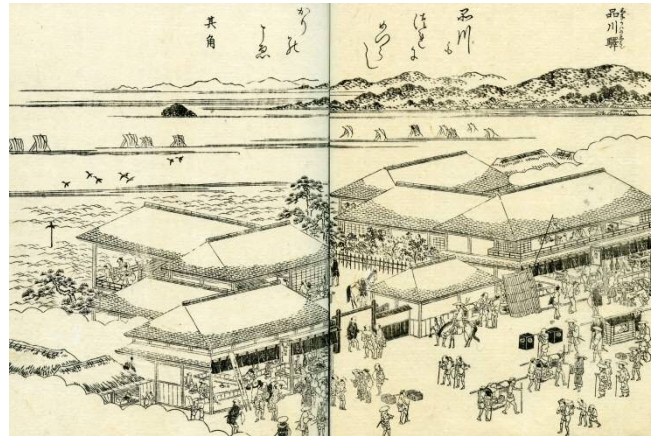
# ●Shinagawa Historical Museum Explanatory Sheet

## Shinagawa Post Station

### The First Post Station on the Tokaido Highway

In 1601, Tokugawa Ieyasu established a series of post stations along the Tokaido Highway which connected Edo with Kyoto and Osaka, and stationed a number of porters and horses at these stations to carry luggage. Each station was required to provide 100 porters and 100 horses a day, and if a greater number of either were required, the station was allowed to conscript the necessary men or horses from the surrounding villages. The luggage was sorted at the *toyaba* station house before being transferred to the next station in a relay fashion.

Shinagawa Station was divided into Kita-Shinagawa Station in the north, and Minami-Shinagawa Station in the south with the Meguro River serving as a border between the two, and in 1722, Kachi-shinshuku station was added on the north side of Kita-Shinagawa Station for a total of three stations. Kachi-shinshuku Station derives its name from the fact that it only provided porters, and not horses, for carrying luggage.



▲ Shinagawa Post Station (From "Topography of Famous Sites in Edo")

As Shinagawa Station was the first post station leaving Edo along the Tokaido Highway, both people leaving Edo and travelling to Edo were guaranteed to pass through it. A large number of people coming and going encouraged the establishment lodges and tea houses. Some lodges hired women to welcome guests, and in 1843, there were a total of 92 such lodges.



▲ Illustration of the Tokaido Highway (Shinagawa) by Ochikochi Doin, illustration by Hishikawa Moronobu

## The Lodging Facilities of the Station

Each post station featured a number of lodges, the *honjin* main inn, the auxiliary *wakihonjin*, the *hatagoya* and the *kichinyado*.

The *honjin* main inn served prominent guests such as *daimyo* lords and aristocrats, and there was one such lodge at Shinagawa Station.

The *wakihonjin* auxiliary inn welcomed guests when the *honjin* main inn could not be used, and there were two lodges at Shinagawa Station.

The *hatagoya* and *kichinyado* lodges primarily served ordinary travelers. *Hatagoya* lodges provided meals, while people were required to bring and cook their own food at *kichinyado* lodges. From the start of the 18th century, the number of *kichinyado* lodges began to decline, and many people used the *hatogoya* lodges.

## The *Nanushi* Chief of the Station

The *nanushi* served as the chief of a village or town, and the role was passed down through the generations in the families of prominent land-owners. There were also *nanushi* chiefs in Shinagawa Station, the Kagata family served as the chief of Minami-Shinagawa Station, and the Udagawa family served as the chief of Kita-Shinagawa Station. Minami-Shinagawa Ryoshimachi Town, part of Minami-Shinagawa Station, was independently led by the Oshima family. The *nanushi* role initially alternated between the Iida family



▲ Map of the *Honjin* Main Inn

and the Namura family at Kachi-shinshuku Station, but eventually the station was led solely by the Iida family.

The Utagawa family is said to have arrived in Shinagawa in 1457, when the architect Oota Dokan was designing Edo Castle. The Udagawa, the Iida, and the Koizumi families were related. The Koizumi family served as the chief priests of Kita-Shinagawa Inari Shrine (present-day Shinagawa Shrine), which enshrined the local deity of Kita-Shinagawa Station.

The roots of the Kagata family go back to the Torinoumi clan, which was prominent in Shinagawa in the latter half of the 16th century. The family later changed its name to Kagata.



▲ Famous Places of Edo, Flower Viewing at Gotenryama, Utagawa Hiroshige I