

●Shinagawa Historical Museum Explanatory Sheet

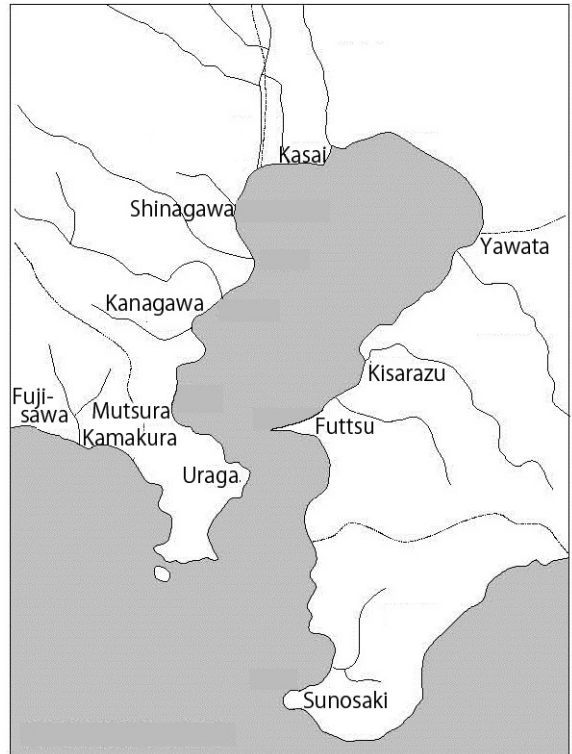
The Prosperity of Shinagawa from the End of the 12th to the Late 16th

Sea Trading on the Japanese Pacific Sea Lanes and Shinagawa

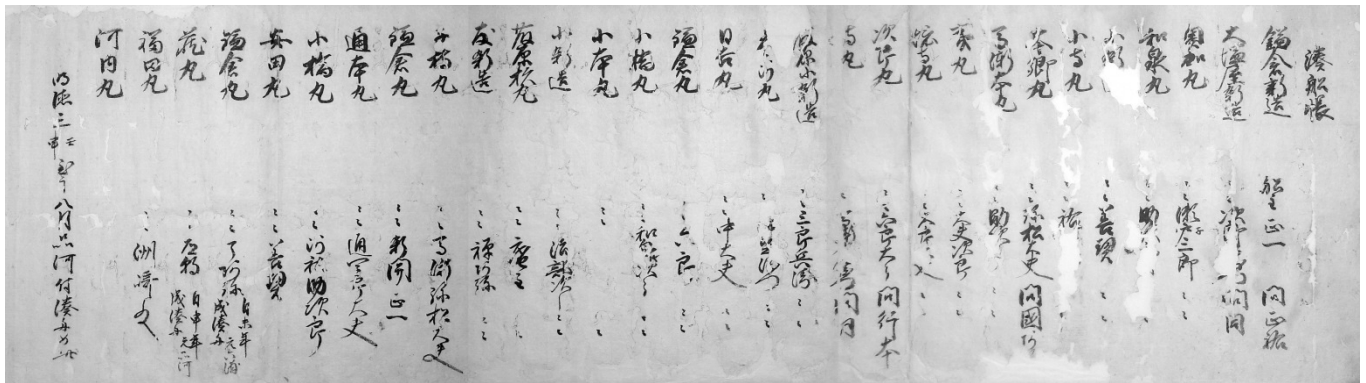
From the end of 12th century to the late 16th century, Shinagawa was a major port town on par with Mutsura and Kanagawa (present-day Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture), and served as an essential hub for transit and trading in the Kanto region.

Shinagawa also thrived as a center of trade for the Pacific sea lanes, Goods from the western Japan passed through Shinagawa to be delivered throughout the region.

Shinagawa charged every ship entering its harbor a port entry tax, and this money was used to build and maintain temples such as Engaku-ji Temple (Kamakura City, Kanagawa Prefecture) and Kanazawa Shomyo-ji Temple (Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture). From the start of the 14th century, sea merchants from the Kumano Region



(currently, the southern part of Wakayama Prefecture and the southern part of Mie Prefecture) such as Suzuki Doin and Enomoto Dorin prospered in Shinagawa.



明徳三年申壬 至于八月品河付湊舟如此

河内丸	藏丸	鎌倉丸	安田丸	小橋丸	通本丸	鎌倉丸	子持丸	友新造	藤原杉丸	小新造	小本丸	小橋丸	鎌倉丸	日吉丸	參河丸	藤原小新造	寺丸	次郎丸	境寺丸	夷丸	馬漸本丸	本郷丸	小寺丸	小新	和泉丸	奧加丸	大塩屋新造	鎌倉新造	湊船帳
洲崎殿	道朝	了阿弥	善契	河祐助次郎	通四郎大夫	新開正一	馬漸弥松大夫	禪阿弥	庵主	治部次郎	和泉次郎	六郎	中大夫	三郎兵衛	三郎兵衛	馬漸口衛門	馬漸口衛門	大次郎	大次郎	大次郎	助次	助次	助次	善契	助次	瀨戸三郎	次郎口衛門	船主正一	湊船帳
	成徳船	自未年 成徳船	元六補																										

▲ A list of captains and sea merchants who landed in Shinagawa, 1392 (Shomyo-ji Temple Collection, housed at the Kanazawa Prefectural Kanazawa-Bunko Museum)

The Town, Temples and Shrines of Shinagawa

During this period, Shinagawa primarily developed in the region between the sea and the banks of the Meguro River. Under the patronage of the Kamakura shogunate government, temples and shrines sprung up in the area, counting samurai and merchants among their worshippers.

Shinagawa became a town where people of many different social classes and walks of life lived together, such as the religious faithful, merchants, craftsmen, fishermen and sea traders.

The temples of Shinagawa were also made up of many different sects of Buddhism, some long-standing

and some newly formed, such as the Zen, the Jodo, the Ji, and the Nichiren sects.

The temples of the same sects with those in kawakura also played a major role, such as Seitoku-ji, Kaian-ji, Kaizo-ji, Honko-ji, Myokoku-ji (present-day Tenmyokoku-ji) and Gangyo-ji. The temples received donations of land one after another, and some, such as Myokoku-ji, grew to a massive scale with numerous buildings.

Gotenyama in Shinagawa was the site of sacrificial and funerary rites praying for happiness in the world to come.



▲ Speculative Map of the Temples of Shinagawa