



Isezaki-chō in Yokohama, 1985.



The Porto underground shopping mall in Yokohama, 1985.



Outdoor *Nō* performance. The main hall of the Kamakura Shrine serves as the backdrop for this solemn and dignified performance in 1983. (Courtesy of the Kamakura City Government)



*Yabusame* – a mounted archery competition held at the Kamakura Hachiman Shrine in 1983. (Courtesy of the Kamakura City Government)

# Preface

Kanagawa Prefecture is located within Japan's premier region and is part of the nation's Pacific Belt, said to be the most advanced industrial zone in the world. Its population exceeds 7.3 million, the third largest after Tokyo and Osaka. With many high-tech industries and research institutes based there, Kanagawa has become Japan's industrial nerve center.

The prefecture is also blessed with natural beauty and a rich historical heritage. Hakone, famous for its scenery, and historic Kamakura, an ancient capital of Japan, are among the nation's most popular tourist spots. Hundreds of thousands of people from overseas visit Kanagawa every year via the port of Yokohama and other points of entry to Japan. Even more Kanagawa residents go overseas.

Society today has become increasingly international and more reliant on world interdependence. Therefore, it is vital for us to endeavor to cross national barriers for better mutual understanding and closer communications at the public level. Even though we may live far apart and have different lifestyles and cultures, true understanding will help strengthen the ties of international friendship.

Geographically and historically, Kanagawa has developed as "Japan's gateway to the rest of the world" and serves to communicate the "heart of Japan" and the "heart of the Orient."

Against this background, I have made it a foremost prefectural policy to promote "people-to-people diplomacy," aimed at making friends all over the world. I am working to implement this policy by encouraging and promoting exchanges not only in the economic

sphere, but also in culture, sports and among individuals. Our freedom and welfare are dependent upon a world without war. Therefore, we must strive to strengthen solidarity with other peoples through broadly-based exchanges and communications to ensure peace.

This book presents the history of one region of Japan. I hope it will facilitate your understanding of Kanagawa Prefecture and contribute to world amity.

February 28, 1985

Kazuji Nagasu  
Governor  
Kanagawa Prefecture

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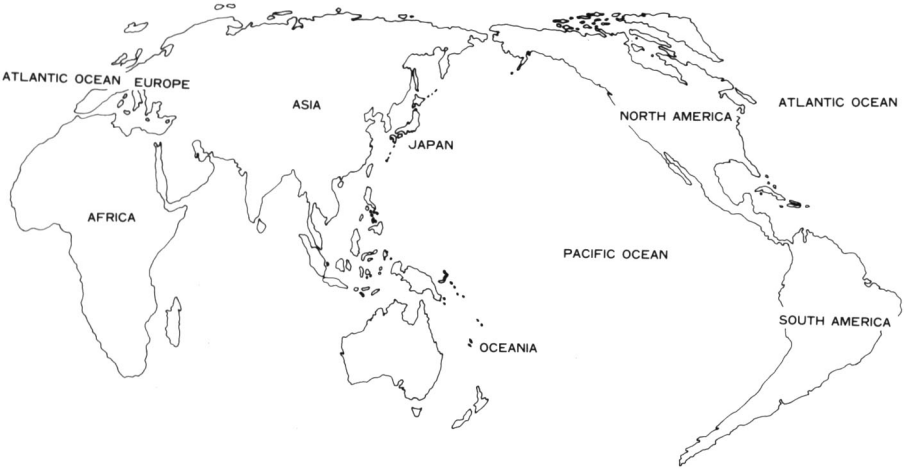
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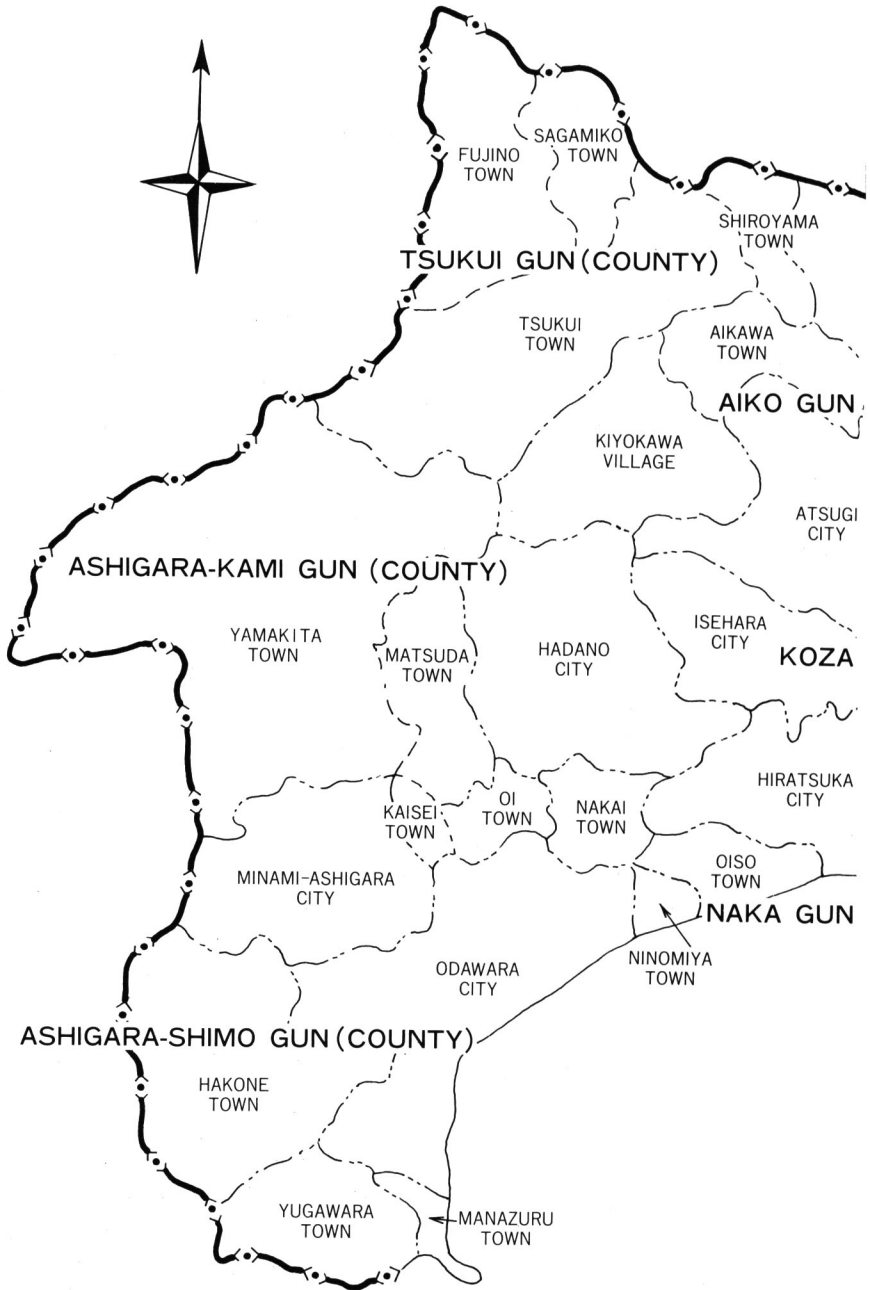
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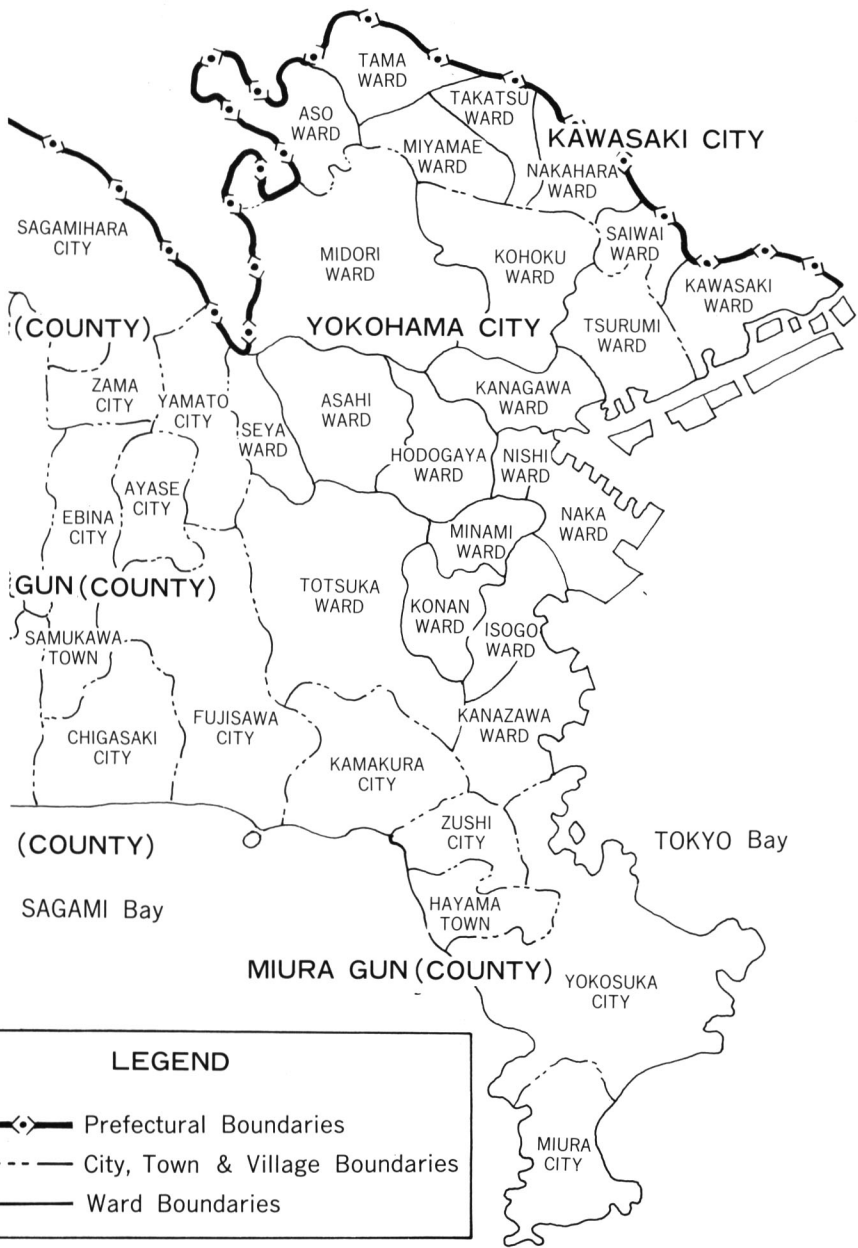


# Map of Japan



# Map of Kanagawa









# Translators' Note

A few words should be said about some of the conventions adopted in translating *The History of Kanagawa*.

The Hepburn system of romanization is used for Japanese terms, including names of persons and places. In rendering personal names, the Japanese practice of placing the surname first has been followed. Japanese custom has also been followed in that major historical figures from the premodern era are often referred to by their given names rather than their surnames (thus Toyotomi Hideyoshi is commonly referred to as Hideyoshi), while figures from the modern era are referred to by surname (thus Itō for Itō Hirobumi).

The names in parenthesis after names of historical places indicate the modern prefecture, district, city, town, or village in which the historical site is located.

The various districts in the Kanagawa region have a long history, dating back to premodern times when they were districts of the two ancient provinces of Sagami and Musashi. Because of this, the names of some districts have changed over time: present-day Kōza district was known in antiquity and the middle ages as Takakura; Aikō district was once known as Ayukawa; Yurugi district was once named Yoroki. In this text, regardless of historical period, the modern pronunciations of district names have been employed.

In most cases, traditional Japanese weights and measures are followed by their metric equivalents the first time they appear. No attempt has been made to convert yen or historical units of currency into any modern Western currency—the changing value of money makes such an effort nearly impossible.

Another problem encountered was that of the traditional Japanese calendar. Until 1872, when Japan adopted the Gregorian calendar, dates were based on a lunar calendar, and years reckoned according to era names. Thus the year 1600 in the Western calendar corresponds to the 5th of the Keichō era (Keichō 5) of the Japanese calendar. The use of era names has continued into the modern era, so that 1985 corresponds to Shōwa 60 in Japan. Throughout the text, years have been given first according to the Western calendar, and then usually followed by their Japanese equivalents, given in parentheses.

The difficulty does not end there, however. Converting from the old lunar calendar to Western-style dates and months requires complex calculations. Rather than converting, upon occasion, when a specific premodern date has been mentioned, we have taken the liberty of treating it as if it were a date reckoned by the Western calendar—resulting in discrepancies. For example, a date such as the fifteenth day of the ninth month of Genroku 1 has been rendered as September 15, 1688, which is not strictly accurate. The kind of discrepancy which can result is indicated by the fact that when the shift from the old lunar calendar to the Gregorian calendar was carried out in 1872, the 3rd day of the 12th month in the old system became January 1 in the new calendar. We hope the reader will permit us this deviation from strict accuracy in the interest of readability.

In translating the names of government institutions, positions, ranks, offices, names of historical incidents, corporate names, and the like, we have tried to use standard accepted translations wherever possible. Frequently, translations of historical terms are followed by a romanization of the Japanese word in italics.

# Foreword

Present-day Kanagawa Prefecture is bounded on the south by Sagami Bay; on the east by Tokyo Bay; separated from the metropolis of Tokyo to the north by the Tama River; and on the west is set off from Yamanashi and Shizuoka Prefectures by the Tanzawa and Hakone mountain ranges. The land area of Kanagawa Prefecture is about 2,400 square kilometers, or approximately 0.63 percent of Japan's total area.

Kanagawa Prefecture was created in 1868, the first year of the Meiji era, though it was not until 1893 that its present boundaries were established. Although it is the fifth smallest prefecture in Japan, it is the third largest in terms of population, home to 6,924,358 persons according to the 1980 census. That same year, the gross income of the citizens of Kanagawa amounted to ¥13.362 billion, placing it among the highest in the country.

In 1967, on the eve of the centenary of the founding of the prefecture, a project was initiated to compile the *Kanagawa kenshi* (The Kanagawa Prefectural History). The project was completed in 1983, with the publication of a 36-volume work. Twenty-one volumes have been devoted to documents and other source materials, seven to a general history of the prefecture, and eight to appendices and supplementary information.

The twenty-one volumes of documents constitute a comprehensive collection of historical texts and records that served as the fundamental source materials in the writing of the seven-volume general history. Together, these 28 volumes form the core of the *Kanagawa kenshi*. The eight volumes of supplements and appendices

provide additional information on Kanagawa's natural environment, folkways and historical figures. The full text of the *Kanagawa kenshi* runs to some 37,000 pages, and the seven-volume general history alone is about 7,000 pages in length. These seven volumes provide a remarkably detailed account of the history of the prefecture, but reading such a lengthy work is not an easy task. The present text is an outline history of Kanagawa Prefecture, intended to make the contents of the seven-volume general history more accessible to the general reader, giving an overview of activities of the people living in the Kanagawa region from ancient times to the present.

The compilation of a historical work of the proportions of the *Kanagawa kenshi* was made possible by the enthusiasm of the prefectural government for the project, the unstinting efforts of the editorial staff, and support and encouragement from people throughout the prefecture. The resulting 36-volume history was written through the cooperation of not only the many individuals on the editorial staff but also a number of other scholars and specialists who were kind enough to devote their time to the project.

The present text, *The History of Kanagawa Prefecture*, is an English translation of *Kanagawa-ken no rekishi*, a digest of the seven-volume general history, written by Takeuchi Rizō with the cooperation of Ōkubo Toshikane, Andō Yoshio, and Kodama Kōta, former editor-in-chief of the *Kanagawa kenshi*.

# THE PREHISTORIC AND ANCIENT PERIODS

## I. Evidence of Human Life

### 1. Earliest Traces of Man

#### **Twenty thousand years ago**

The history of human life on the Japanese archipelago can be traced back tens of thousands of years. At present, the earliest traces of man are thought to be the stone implements discovered in the layer of soil known as the Tachikawa loam bed, which is estimated to have formed ten to thirty thousand years ago. The Tachikawa loam bed was the last of the layers—referred to collectively as the Kantō loam deposits—to be formed when ash, spewed out by the activity of volcanoes such as Mt. Fuji and Mt. Hakone in the southern Kantō region and Mt. Shirane and Mt. Asama in the northern Kantō, was carried by prevailing westerly winds and deposited sometime after the middle of the Pleistocene epoch, some four to five hundred thousand years ago.

Evidence of human life found in this layer of soil is confirmed by the presence there of stone tools. Because it lacked pottery, this period is referred to as the preceramic period, although some, employing archaeological time divisions, refer to it as the paleolithic era. The existence of this preceramic period first became known in 1949 (Shōwa 24) with the discovery by Aizawa Tadahiro of the site at Iwajuku (Gumma Prefecture). A series of discoveries of preceramic period sites followed. Today more than five thousand sites are known from Hokkaidō in the north to Okinawa in the south. Although these sites are spread throughout the country, there is a conspicuous regional variation in their distribution.



Layers of loam deposits and stone groupings at the Teigogō site in Sagami-hara City.

At present approximately two hundred sites from the preceramic period have been reported in Kanagawa Prefecture. More than eighty percent of these are found in the Sagamino highlands, spanning an area which includes the cities of Sagami-hara, Zama, Yamato, Ebina, Ayase and Fujisawa. Yet these sites are found, not in the center of the highlands but along the many valleys carved out by the Sakai River, which forms the eastern border of the plateau, and by the Sagami River, which flows to the west. The Sagamino highlands are one of the areas with the highest distribution of preceramic sites in all of Japan. Furthermore, sites found dotted along the basins of the rivers Meguro, Hikiji, Tade, Ayase, Mekujiri, Uba and Hato indicate that people had migrated along the course of these rivers. From this fact it is inferred that they were predominantly fishermen and greatly dependent on the rivers for their livelihood.

A small number of sites has been found as well on Mt. Hakone, in the towns of Yugawara, Ōiso, and Sagamiko, and in the cities of Odawara, Kamakura, Atsugi, Yokohama, and Kawasaki. Although by no means all of these were found along rivers, some even having been discovered deep in the mountains (e.g. one near the Asahi hills of Mt. Hakone), in general, sites along rivers predominate.

Be that as it may, there is no doubt that people were living throughout almost all of Kanagawa Prefecture, but concentrated in the Sagamino highlands, when the Tachikawa loam bed was formed twenty to thirty thousand years ago. Nor can it be doubted that these people had already passed the stage of scraping out a livelihood with their bare hands and were using implements fashioned from stone. These included chopping tools—extremely primitive implements thought to be used to beat prey to death—as well as flake tools, blades, awls, knife-shaped implements, scrapers and scratchers, chipped from stone such as obsidian, chert, quartzite, shale, and andesite. Most of these tools were used for skinning animals or scaling fish and cutting meat. The stone awl and a stone tool known as a tongued point implement were probably used as a gaff or at other times attached to the end of a lance for spearing fish and game.

### **Over ten thousand years of the preceramic period**

Not all these tools were developed at once, of course. The pre-



Pointed stone tools and knife-shaped implements from  
the Tsukimino site in Yamato City.

(Archaeological Exhibition Hall, Meiji University)



ceramic period lasted for at least ten to twenty thousand years, and advances were made in stone tools with the passage of time. These advances can be divided into roughly three stages. The first dates back thirty thousand years to a time preceding the diffusion of knife-shaped stone tools. The second stage was about twenty thousand years ago when knife-shaped tools of all kinds were extensively used. In the third and last stage, approximately thirteen thousand years ago, knife-shaped tools were eclipsed by thin stone blades known as microliths. The preceramic period sites in Kanagawa Prefecture are believed to have belonged to the second and third of these stages.

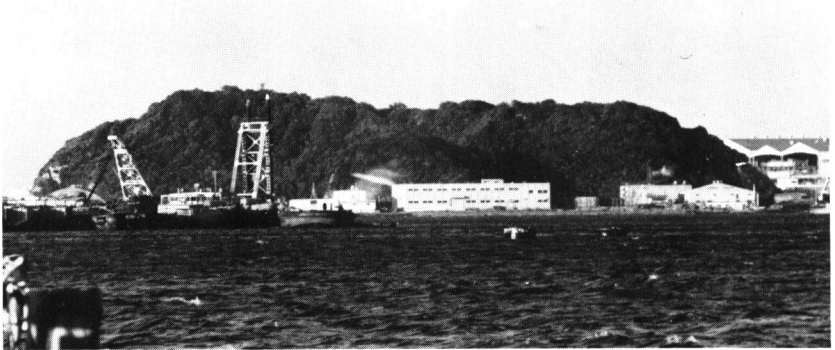
During these periods the flint arrowhead had not as yet appeared, and for the most part life was sustained by killing prey with spears or lances. However, at the Teigogo and Shioda sites in Sagami-hara City, the Tōsenji Temple site in Kanagawa Ward, Yokohama, and elsewhere remains were found which consisted of a large number of fist-sized stones arranged in a pattern. These pebbles were taken from the neighboring river beds, and remains of this kind are called “stone groupings” (*sekigun*). Signs of fire on the stones and the discovery of fragments of charcoal nearby permit the assumption that people of the preceramic period knew how to use fire and prepared their food with heated stones. If, for example, one guts an animal, fills it with heated stones, and buries it in the ground for a while, the result is a relatively efficient method of roasting. It is probable that these preceramic peoples had already discovered a method of cooking which is still used in parts of the world today—roasting by wrapping fish or potatoes in leaves and burying them with roasting stones. But the use of fire led to even further advances, for it is linked to the manufacture of pottery.

### **The appearance of pottery and the bow and arrow**

At the height of the ice age gripping preceramic Japan, the oceans froze and the sea level is said to have dropped by as much as one hundred forty meters. During this period a land bridge connected the Japanese archipelago to the continent of Asia, and huge animals such as the Naumann elephant and the Ōtsuno elk roamed through the mountains and plains, serving as game for the hunters of the preceramic period.



Jōmon pottery excavated at Natsushima.  
(Archaeological Exhibition Hall, Meiji University)



View of Natsushima before land reclamation. Yokosuka City.

But this ice age too came to an end; the glaciers receded, the sea level rose, and Japan, once connected to the mainland, became an archipelago. With the warming climate, the large animals that had thrived in the cold climate retreated northward, and the life of pre-ceramic man underwent an enormous change. One indication of this was the addition of pottery and of bows and arrows to the tools at his disposal. These appeared at approximately the same time, but whether they were first produced in Japan or brought in from elsewhere is not yet clear. A clue may be the shape of the primitive pottery found in Japan: a deep bowl with a pointed base that could be stuck into the ground. Similarities have been noted between this style and pottery shapes found in Siberia.

At first this pottery had impressed patterns made by rolling twisted thread over its surface, or linear-relief decorations formed by winding narrow ropes of clay around the mouth of the pot. Later, however, pottery with cord patterns (*jōmon*) made by rolling a piece of straw-rope over the surface or embellished with complex applied designs in clay became popular. Ceramics from this period are generally referred to as Jōmon pottery.

The appearance of this pottery is thought to have followed the third stage of the preceramic period. In 1957 radioactive carbon datings made at the University of Michigan on oyster shells and charcoal excavated from a site at Natsushima in Yokosuka City gave dates of 9,450 ( $\pm 400$ ) years ago for the shells and 9,240 ( $\pm 500$ ) years ago for the charcoal. Since oyster shells taken from Tokyo Bay and tested at the same time gave readings of zero years, the reliability of these datings is high. The oldest known ceramic ware on earth, Jōmon pottery has astonished academic circles throughout the world.

Pottery found at the Daimaru site, Minami Ward, Yokohama, however, is even older than the Natsushima finds, and the oldest known in Kanagawa Prefecture. Pottery in Kanagawa dates back ten thousand years to the beginning of the Jōmon period. Remains of twisted-thread-pattern pottery typical of the early Jōmon period have been found on isolated islands like the shell mounds at Natsushima (Yokosuka City) and at Nojima (Kanazawa Ward, Yokohama) and the site at Sarushima, Yokosuka, but most fragments have been found on bluffs overlooking the ocean. The distinguishing feature of