





Chapter I

The Beginnings of Kanazawa University

1. It Began with a Vaccination Center

In March 1862, the Kaga Domain gifted a building in Hikoso, Kanazawa, to a group of physicians that included Kurokawa Masayasu (1817-1890), Ota Minori, and Tsuda Junzo, forming the Domain's official Vaccination Center (the site is today believed to be Kengyo Yashiki, in what is now Hikoso 8-chome). This Vaccination Center was relocated to Minami-cho in 1864, and renamed as the Kanazawa Domain Vaccination Center, then in June 1867 it developed into the Utatsuyama Health Care Center.

In 1868, the first year of the new Meiji Period, the Kaga Domain sent Kurokawa and a few others to Nagasaki to investigate setting up a proper system for teaching Western medicine and learning. The human body anatomical model, called a "Kunstliijk", that the university still preserves was purchased at this time. In this way, by 1869 Kurokawa had begun establishing a medical school, which opened in the Otemachi area by the castle in February 1870 as the Kanazawa Medical Institute.



Kengyo Yashiki as seen on the Kinpu Oezu (Great Map of Kanazawa), circa 1844-1854.



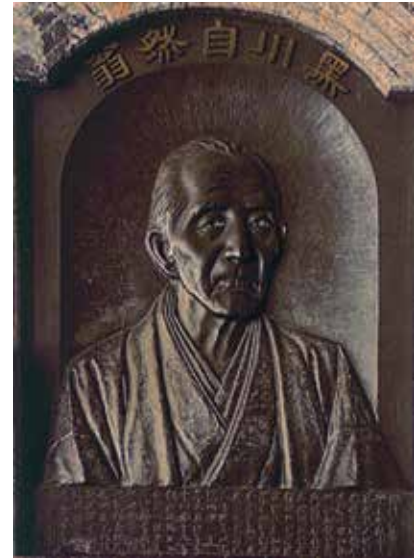
Unveiling ceremony for the commemorative stone marking the site of Kanazawa University's original birthplace (5 November 2011).



"Birthplace of Kanazawa University" stone marker (in front of Hikoso Post Office)



Kanazawa Medical Institute circa 1910. Originally housed in the home of the former domain elder statesman, Tsuda Genba, it was later moved to this building, the current Kenrokuen Park Office. At the time of this photo it was the main building of the Kanazawa Professional School of Medicine.



Statue of Kurokawa Masayasu (entrance hall of School of Medicine Education Hall)

Kurokawa Masayasu, who played a central role during this period, was born in 1817, in the Kaga Domain in what is now Kami'ichi Town, Toyama Prefecture. In 1828, at age 12, he went to Nagasaki to study, where he learned medicine and the Dutch language. Later he became close to people like the Dutch medical scholar Ogata Koan at the Tekijuku School in Osaka and became head student at the Nisshudo School in Edo run by the Dutch Studies scholar Tsuboi Shindo, before, in 1846, at age 30, moving to Kanazawa where he taught medicine to his many pupils. Kurokawa was one of the most important Dutch Studies scholars in the Kaga Domain. After serving as governor of the Medical Institute, Kurokawa retired in 1871 at age 55 and passed away in Tokyo in 1890 at age 74.

Kanazawa Medical Institute later developed into Kanazawa Medical College and then the Faculty of Medicine at Kanazawa University, and today forms the College of Medical, Pharmaceutical and Health Sciences at Kanazawa University. This is the third-oldest faculty of medicine at a national university in Japan, after Nagasaki and Tokyo universities.

If we trace back through time the many streams that have flowed into the modern-day comprehensive Kanazawa University, we can see that the very earliest headwaters started gathering on that distant day in March 1862 when the Vaccination Center was founded.



A child being vaccinated.

2. Gathering the Waters

The lords of the Kaga Domain put a great deal of effort into promoting the arts and academia. In 1854, towards the end of Edo Period, they founded the Soyukan School for Western Studies, which taught subjects like maritime navigation, military science, medicine, and mathematics. The Hikoso Vaccination Center (1862) was the earliest fruit of the medical department in Western Studies.

This Western-style learning found a home throughout the Meiji Period in a number of institutes that would later be merged to form Kanazawa University. The founding of the Fourth Higher Middle School in 1887 was the spur to accelerate the development of middle and higher educational institutes in the city.

In 1949, the Fourth Higher School, Kanazawa Medical College, Kanazawa Medical College Department of Pharmacology, Kanazawa Industrial College, Ishikawa Normal School, Ishikawa Youth Normal School, and Kanazawa Higher Normal School were merged to form the new postwar-style university. Nearly half a century later, in 2008, the university reorganized itself to form three colleges and sixteen schools, the system it uses today.

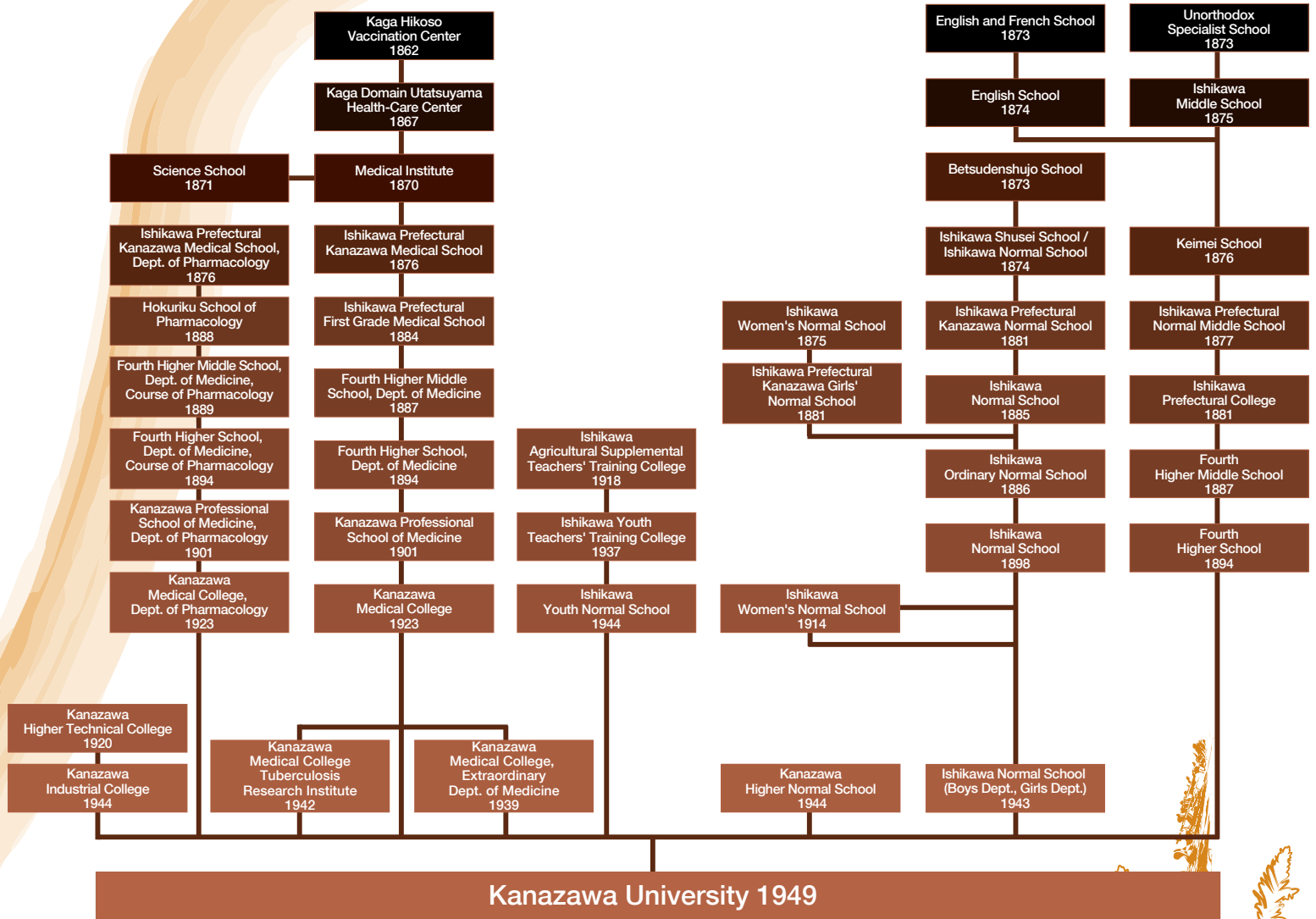


Soyukan School (grounds of the Prefectural Governors' official residence)

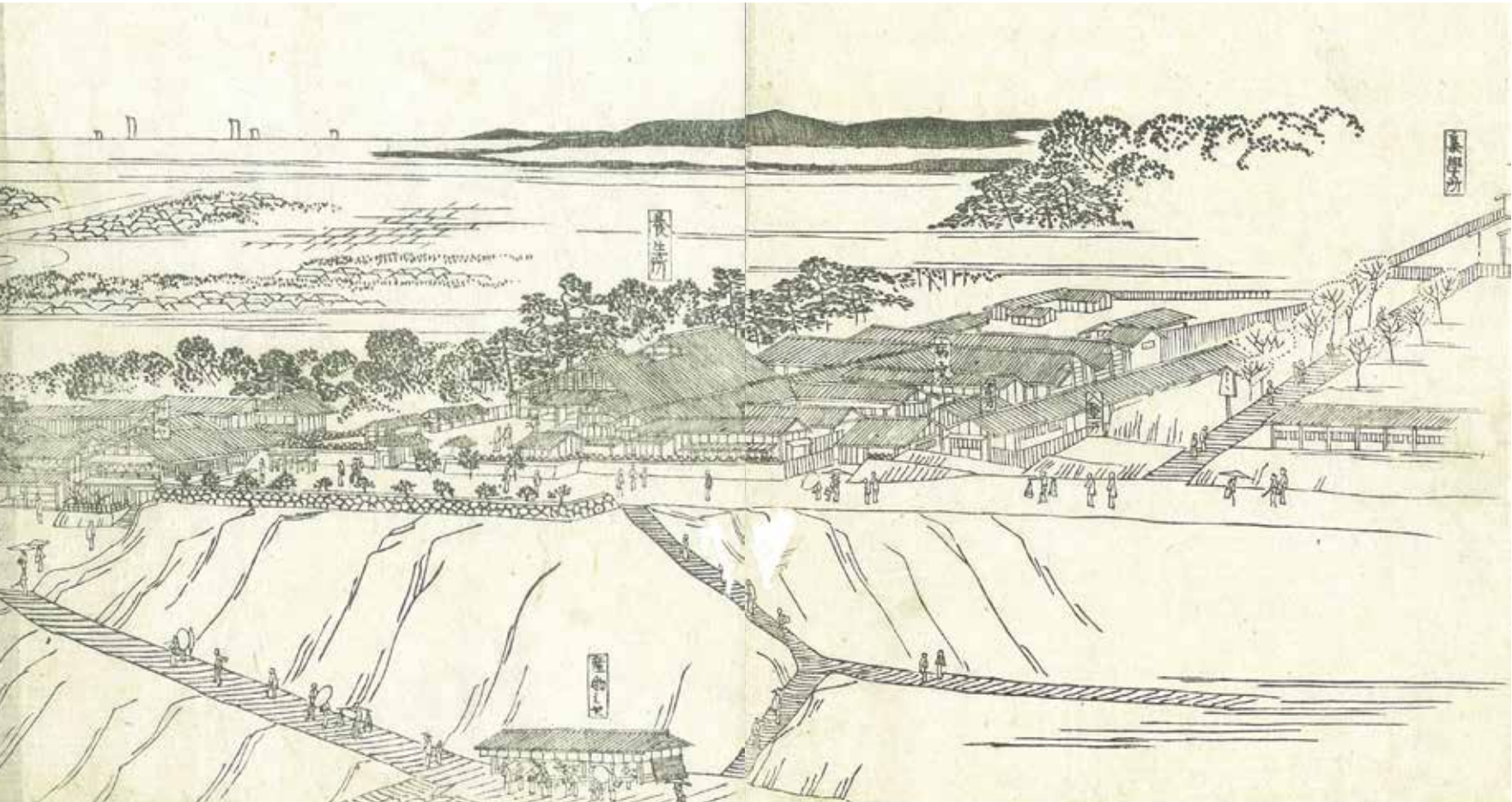


Pupils at Ishikawa Prefecture Technical College (1886). In the back row at the left is the famous Buddhist philosopher Suzuki Daisetz.

Path to the Formation of Kanazawa University



3. Path of the Medical College



Utatsuyama Health-Care Center (from the *Utatsuyama Kaitakuroku* [Record of Utatsuyama Development]).

Carrying on from the 1862 Kaga Domain Vaccination Center, a Western-style hospital, the Utatsuyama Health-care Center, was opened in 1867. Later, Kurokawa Masayasu returned from Nagasaki where he had been studying medical school and hospital systems, and in February 1870 he founded the Kanazawa Medical Institute.

In 1871, a Dutch teacher named P.J.A.Sliuys was appointed to instruct on education and treatment in general. The French-made human body anatomical model, *Kunstlijk*, Kurokawa purchased in Nagasaki was used for anatomy lessons when there were still few chances for real human dissection classes. It was fully restored in 2010 and is now preserved in the Memorial Hall of the School of Medicine.

The Medical Institute later was brought under prefectural control and split, with the treatment department forming Kanazawa Hospital and the education department forming Kanazawa Medical School. In 1888, the education department was transferred to the Department of Medicine at Kanazawa Fourth Higher Middle School, later becoming the Department of Medicine at Kanazawa Fourth Higher School when the latter's name was changed.



Kunstlijk (human body anatomical model)



P.J.A. Slüys

In 1901, the Fourth Higher School's Department of Medicine was made independent to form the Kanazawa Professional School of Medicine. In 1905 the hospital department was split off and relocated to Kodatsuno, with the teaching department following in 1912. In 1922 the hospital department was transferred from prefectural to ministerial control to form the attached hospital. In 1923 Kanazawa Professional School of Medicine became Kanazawa Medical College with an attached hospital and department of pharmacology, and Takayasu Mikito was appointed the first College President.

Kanazawa Medical College was one of the six ministerial-level medical universities in Japan, along with ones in Niigata, Okayama, Chiba, Nagasaki, and Kumamoto. Until the 1949 creation of Kanazawa National University under the new university system, this was the only university in the three Hokuriku prefectures and left an influential legacy in medical training and research.



Front of Kanazawa Professional School of Medicine (later Kanazawa Medical College) immediately after its relocation to Kodatsuno



Surgical operating theatre at Kanazawa Hospital: Students observing a demonstration by Professor Izumi in the late Taisho period (early 1920s).



School Buildings of Department of Pharmacology (the early Showa Period)



Takamine Sei'ichi

4. Pioneering Pharmacology

The history of pharmacology teaching at Kanazawa University starts back in 1867, when the Kaga Domain built the Health Care Center midway up Mt. Utatsuyama. The Health Care Center included an attached pharmacology laboratory, which incorporated an organization called the Seimi-kyoku, which comes from the term “Chemie” for chemicals. Takamine Sei'ichi (father of Takamine Jokichi, famous for his studies on adrenaline) served as the director (known as the Sori), and started teaching chemistry, pharmaceuticals, and other related subjects.

In 1870, the teaching department of the Health Care Center was split off to form Kanazawa Medical Institute. The following year the Physics and Chemistry School was built in Kenrokuen to teach the basics for medicine, and the Seimi-kyoku was folded into it. One theory regarding the opening of the Physics and Chemistry School is that the Dutch teacher P.J.A. Sluys, a professor at the Medical Institute, emphasized the importance of teaching pharmacology. The Physics and Chemistry School was disbanded when the domains were replaced with prefectures, leading to a break in pharmacology education, but it started back up again in the form of the Ishikawa Medical Center Department of Pharmacology in 1876, before becoming the Ishikawa Prefecture Kanazawa Medical School Department of Pharmacology in 1879.



Bust of Oi Gendo



Holterman



Roretz



Yakusen Crest

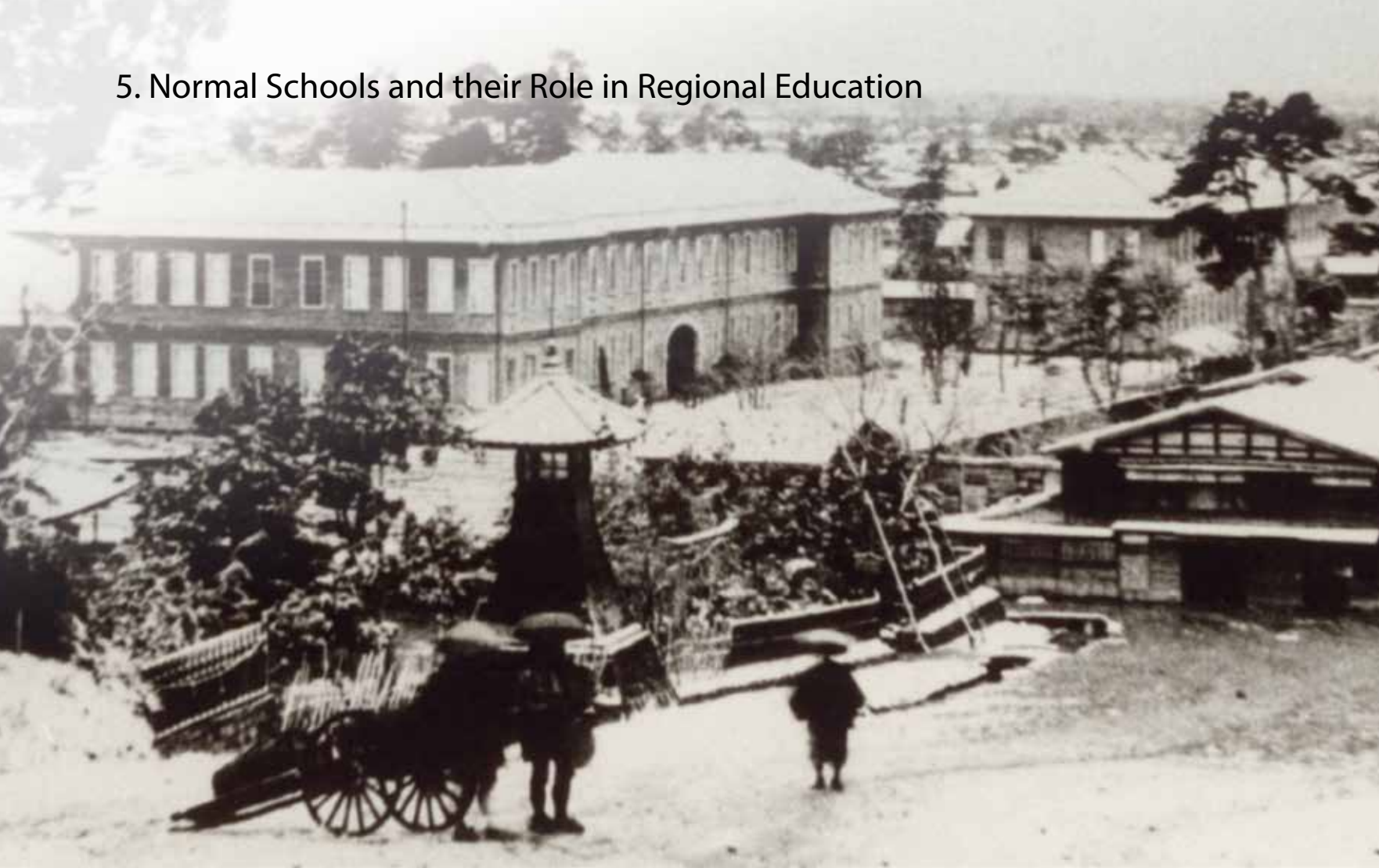
Other Western educators in addition to Slüys during this period included the Dutch Holterman and the Austrian Roretz. In addition, Oi Gendo, an Ishikawa-born teacher at Kanazawa Medical School appointed to act as Roretz's interpreter translated and published the German text *Lehrbuch der Pharmakognosie* which was to become the first textbook on pharmacognosy in Japan, and where the phrase "pharmacognosy" (*shoyakugaku*) first entered the Japanese language.

The Medical Institute eventually became the Department of Medicine of the Fourth Higher Middle School in 1887, but there was no department of pharmacological sciences. Concerned about this, pharmacists in Kanazawa founded the private Hokuriku School of Pharmacology, and were active in calling for the establishment of a proper department. These efforts bore fruit with the 1889 establishment of the Department of Pharmacological Sciences, which grew steadily thereafter. In 1901, it was renamed the Department of Pharmacological Sciences at the Kanazawa Professional School of Medicine, nicknamed *Yakusen* (from the Japanese *Yakugaku Senmon Gakko*) by the locals. After acting as the Attached Specialist Department of Pharmacology at Kanazawa Medical University after the war, it the Faculty of Pharmacological Sciences at Kanazawa University, and remains part of the university to this day.



Experiment in quantitative analysis
(circa late 1920s)

5. Normal Schools and their Role in Regional Education



Overall view of Ishikawa Normal School in the Meiji Period

Education for Japanese citizens after the start of the modern school system in 1872 was supported by the normal schools, which were training facilities for teachers. Normal education in Ishikawa dates back to the Ishikawa Shusei School, which was created as part of the Ishikawa Prefecture English School in the Seisonkaku Villa, Kenrokuen. The Shusei School was originally created as the Bet-sudenshujo, or “learning centre,” in 1873, and in November 1874 was renamed the Ishikawa Prefectural Normal School. The year after, the Ishikawa Prefecture Girls’ Normal School was opened, becoming the first such regional girls’ educational institute in the country. Later, with the demand for teachers, shifting of prefectural boundaries, and the other social changes of the time, the Ishikawa Normal School would follow a complicated path.



Experiments on a farm



Students in the early Showa period at the school gate

Normal schools provided school materials so were not only able to attract talented young people from poorer classes, but graduates were also required to work as teachers for a long time, which provided the prefecture with a wealth of people to support its education. Teachers at the Ishikawa Prefecture Normal School were both prefectural workers and also educational administration instructors, so played a central role in the development of education in the prefecture.

In 1937 the Ishikawa Prefecture Youth Teachers' Training Center was established with the goal of training teachers for vocational youth schools, which were designed to educate young men in business following completion of primary education. In 1944 it became the Ishikawa Youth Normal School. However, the Ishikawa Prefecture Normal School and Ishikawa Prefecture Girls' Normal School were merged in 1943 and became the Ishikawa Normal School under the new system, directly administered by the Ministry of Education.

These schools were then folded into Kanazawa University under the new university system in May 1949, which has continued to play the role of educating teachers.



Trainee teachers undergoing practical classroom training



"Doll Festival" (from *Gishiki Fuzoku Zue*). *Gishiki Fuzoku Zue*, Pictures of Ceremonies and Customs, was a picture book used to teach girls at the Ishikawa Girls' Normal School



Kanazawa Higher Technical College Students on motorbikes

6. History of the Technical College

Kanazawa Higher Technical College (*Koko*), the predecessor of the Faculty of Engineering, was established in 1920, and its first headmaster was Professor Aoto Nobukata. The following April was its first opening ceremony, with a youthful, energetic teaching faculty all under 40, and offering the three departments of civil engineering, mechanical science, and applied chemistry. In March 1924 it graduated 91 people, and at the same time, founded the Kanazawa Kogyo Kai, its alumni association, which remains active to this date.



Overall view of Kanazawa Higher Technical College campus



Aoto Nobukata, First headmaster of Kanazawa Higher Technical College

From 1938, as the war system grew in strength, there was an increase in demand for engineers in military supply-related areas. The school added departments for chemical mechanics, electrical engineering, and electrical communication, and greatly increased its student intake. In addition, the Kanazawa Higher Technical College Defence Force was formed, and student lifestyles and their study environment both became completely militarized. In April 1944 Kanazawa Higher Technical College was renamed Kanazawa Industrial College (*Kosen*), but the students were mobilized to work at army facilities and factories around the country. The school buildings themselves were prepared against bombing by removal of glass from the corridor windows and the wainscoting, air raid trenches were dug around the campus, and the drawing library and lecture theatres were used as evacuation sites for engineering research institutes for the army air force or others.

Following the end of the war, and based on the Ministry of Education's promotional policies for creating the foundation of a peaceful nation, a precision machinery department was opened at Kanazawa Industrial College in 1946, and in 1949 the entire college became the Faculty of Engineering at Kanazawa University.



Kanazawa Higher
Technical College crest



Kanazawa Higher Technical College students working at their machinery

7. Traditions of *Shiko*

The 1886 Higher Middle School Order led to the establishment of five higher middle schools around the country. The Fourth Higher Middle School was built in Kanazawa in 1887, following active lobbying from various regions, to cover District 4 (Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui) of five such nationwide. In 1894 it was re-named the Fourth Higher School (*Shiko*) in accordance with the Higher School Order, and since then, throughout the Taisho and early Showa periods until its incorporation into the new Kanazawa University in 1949, it was the most important and prestigious institute of learning in the Hokuriku region.



Side façade of Fourth Higher School



Front gate and Main Building of *Shiko* in the Meiji Period



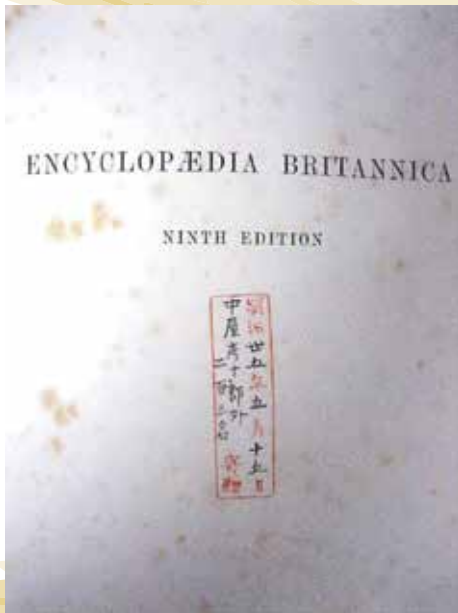
Graduation photo from 1902. Hojo Tokiyuki, Headmaster, in middle of front row. Nishida Kitaro fourth from right, second row.



Campus in 1908



Armillary sphere model used at *Shiko*
(an armillary sphere is used to measure and determine positions of heavenly bodies)



A copy of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* presented by the citizens of Kanazawa to the Fourth Higher Middle School on its opening

Shiko boasted a rich classical tradition of education as one of the most important schools in the country. That tradition might be said to live on to this day in the education and research fields offered at Kanazawa University. This is as the fields of expertise of *Shiko's* teaching faculty had a significant influence on the makeup of departments in the new university. In addition, just as with Kanazawa University today, social contributions were required of *Shiko*, which took the form of lectures for the general public by *Shiko* faculty under the title of *Academic*

Lecture Series for the General Public. Incidentally, its first lectures, back in 1907, were on “Lifestyles and Pastimes of the English,” and “The Story of Electricity.” These lectures were criticized in the paper the next day as “supposedly for the masses, but far too specialist.”

Graduates of *Shiko* were active in a range of areas following their studies at the Imperial Universities or other places, including politics, economics, academics, and culture. Talented young men in the Hokuriku region aimed to get into *Shiko* for its position in the school education system of the time.



“Mr. White’s Animal Charts, Part 1”(detail), one of the educational charts used by the Fourth Higher School

The university library’s collection of 729 of these educational charts used by the Fourth Higher School is the largest in the country, and represents a very valuable collection.

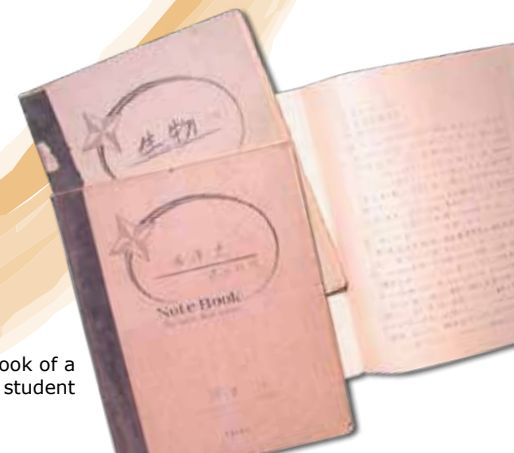


Students enjoying the sun (1933)

8. Life in High School under the old system

More than six decades have already passed since *Shiko* graduated its last students in 1950, yet memories of those days are still passed on. There would still be many elderly men who can recall the days of caps with white stripes, capes, wooden geta clogs and “Fire-Storm” “Downtown-Storm”, levels singing the dormitory song around bonfire or on the street. They were the Fourth Higher School students so beloved by Kanazawa citizens.

The key words defining high schools in the old prewar system are “freedom” and “self-government.” This was most clear at the “number schools,” including the Fourth. The term “self-government” in particular was written up as a framed panel hung over the door at *Shiko's Jishu*, and this panel can be seen today in the Fourth Higher School Memorial Museum which is housed in the old main building of *Shiko*.



Notebook of a
Shiko student



Jishu Dorm's Commemorative Parade (1934)

One famous tradition of the school is transcendental. The idea was to transcend mundane society and aspire to live as a pure spirit.

Shiko students belonged to an alumni organization known as Hokushinkai, or the North Star Association, which was active in a range of areas. The sports clubs were the most famous of all Hokushinkai activities. Clubs such as baseball, judo, and kendo offered daily training, and students actively took on the challenges of rival schools in matches. The matches between other number schools like the Third, Sixth, or Eighth Higher School were known as the Southern Army, and the *Southern Army Song* sung at those times was loved by *Shiko* students almost as much as the dormitory song *Autumn Over the Northern Capital*.

In the Showa period, as the clouds of war started to darken, pressure was applied on socialist research groups, students were mobilized into workforces or were sent to the front, tossed about by the winds of fate. Finally, after the war ended, they were free to enjoy a last twilight before the school was closed down.



Hokushin (North Star; 1942), the special issue about the Rowing Club's tragic accident



Nankagun (Southern Army), the training diary of the *Shiko* Judo Club

9. Nishida Kitaro and Suzuki Daisetz

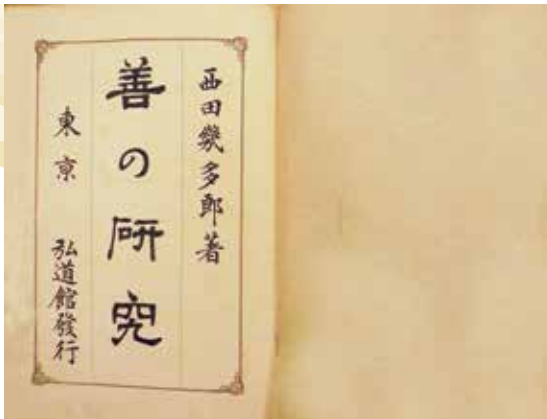


Nishida Kitaro

Many people would no doubt suggest that the most famous graduate of the Fourth Higher School might be Nishida Kitaro. One of the most noted philosophers of Japan since the Meiji period, he is famous as the founder of the Kyoto School. His work, *An Inquiry into the Good*, was required reading for many students in the prewar high schools.

Nishida was born in the village of Unoke (now part of Kahoku City) in 1870, and attended Ishikawa Normal School and then the preparatory course for Ishikawa Specialist School. Then in 1887, as Ishikawa Specialist School was reformed into the Fourth Higher Middle School, he became a first-year student in that preparatory course, before finally attending the Imperial University (the only one at the time was in Tokyo, so this was before it was called Tokyo Imperial University) in 1890.

At the Fourth Higher Middle School he was classmates with Suzuki Daisetz, and one year higher was Matsumoto Bunzaburo, the Buddhist scholar who would later become the Chancellor of Kyoto Imperial University's College of Letters. Kanazawa has been the rich soil that grew these top-class philosophers and Buddhist scholars.



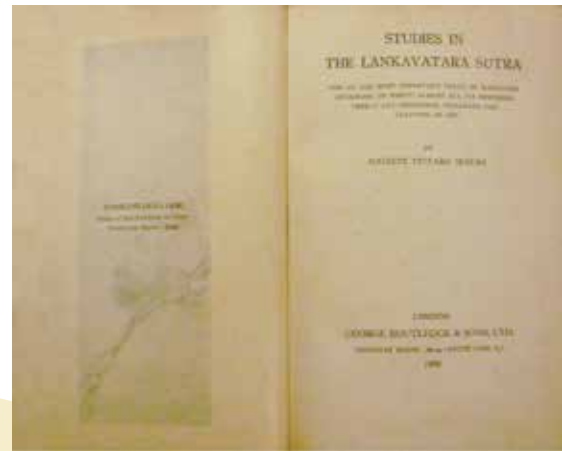
An Inquiry into the Good (1911)

Ishikawa Nishida Kitaro Museum of Philosophy





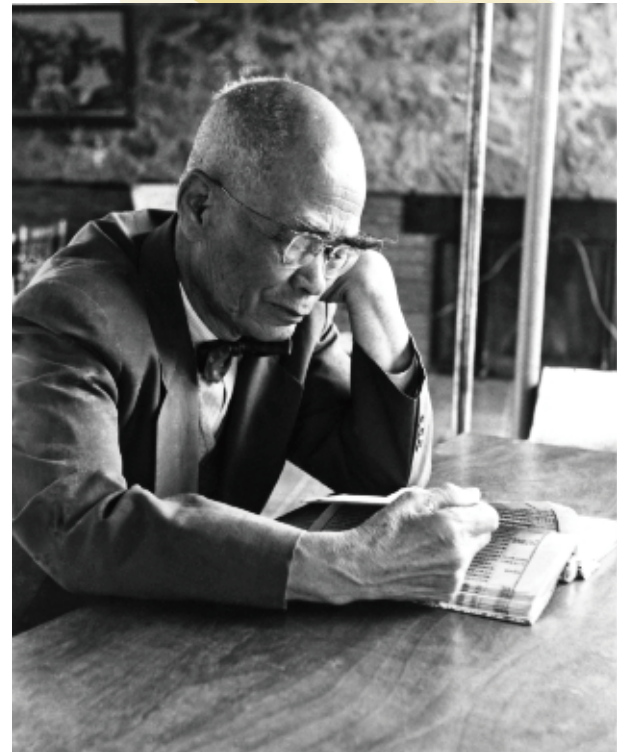
D.T. Suzuki Museum



Studies in the Lankavatara Sutra, which earned Suzuki his doctorate (1930)

Nishida returned to *Shiko* in 1899 when he was appointed a professor there. Later he moved onto the Peers' School, and then took up a post at Kyoto Imperial University. His *An Inquiry into the Good* was written as the result of his ideas from the decade he was teaching at *Shiko*.

Suzuki Daisetz was born the same year as Nishida. He left the Fourth Higher Middle School after one year, and studied in Tokyo, but ended up going to the United States to be able to fully exercise his abilities. While being involved with publishing works on Oriental studies, he also wrote, in English, works on Zen and Mahayana Buddhism. Following his return to Japan, he became a professor at Otani University, where he founded the Eastern Buddhist Society and continued his work on spreading the thought and culture of Japan, especially Zen, to the rest of the world. Daisetz is probably the single most famous Japanese Buddhist scholar worldwide.



Suzuki Daisetz ; He is known world wide as D.T. Suzuki



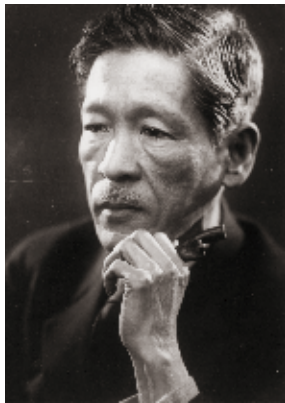
Fourth Higher School Memorial Museum

10. Writers Connected to Kanazawa University

The Fourth Higher School, Kanazawa University's predecessor, created a number of noted authors.

Tokuda Shusei (1872-1943), who, along with Izumi Kyoka and Muro Saisei, is counted as one of the three giants of Kanazawa literature, entered the Fourth Higher Middle School in 1888, later becoming a disciple of Ozaki Koyo, and made his name as one of Japan's most noted "naturalist" authors. Some of his most famous works include *Kabi*, *Tadare*, and *Arakure*.

Inoue Yasushi (1907-1991) graduated from *Shiko* in 1930. In 1950 he was awarded the Akutagawa Prize for his work *The Bullfight*. Known as an author of autobiographies, historical novels, and novels set in the Silk Road, he was also awarded the Order of Cultural Merit in 1976. One famous story about him is how he spent all his time at *Shiko* training in Judo, an experience which has also appeared in his novels.



Tokuda Shusei

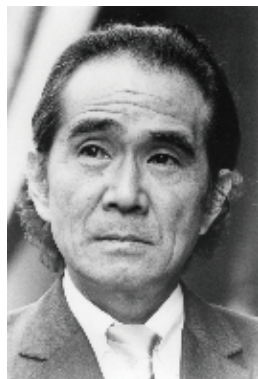


Inoue Yasushi

Nakano Shigeharu (1902-1979) was born in Fukui Prefecture. While at *Shiko* he was involved in editing the Hokushinkai association magazine, which many consider reached its golden age during his tenure. After entering Tokyo Imperial University he was active in proletarian literature, but after his arrest and imprisonment by the Special Higher Police, he was forced to change direction. Following the war, he founded the New Japan Literature Society with Miyamoto Yuriko and others. Expanding his creative efforts into a range of fields, he was also known as an active member of the Japan Communist Party (though he later left it), and one of Japan's most prominent postwar intellectuals.



Nakano Shigeharu



Takahashi Osamu

Takahashi Osamu (1929-) graduated from *Shiko* in 1950, and following his graduation from the University of Tokyo, joined Shochiku as an assistant director, working on Ozu Yasujiro's *Tokyo Story*. He left Shochiku in 1965 to become a fulltime author, with his *Hiden (Arcanum)* winning the Naoki Prize in 1983. Takahashi was one of the last graduates of *Shiko*, and contributed "The Red Brick School Vanished With My Graduation" to *Fifty Years of Kanazawa University in Photos*.

One noted author connected with Kanazawa University after the war is Furui Yoshikichi (1937-). Appointed as an instructor in German Language and Literature in the Faculty of Letters, he moved to Rikkyo University as an assistant professor following his promotion to lecturer. In 1970, after he was awarded the Akutagawa Prize for his work *Yoko*, he retired from his university post to become a fulltime author. He is considered one of the foremost members of the group known as the "introverted generation."



Furui Yoshikichi



Takayasu Mikito



Okamoto Hajime



Kuru Masaru



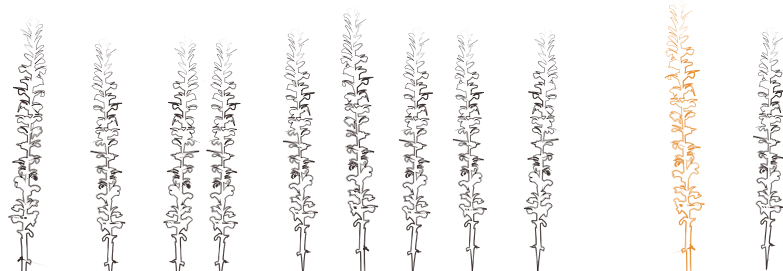
Iwasaki Ken

11. Shining Examples of Prewar Research (I)

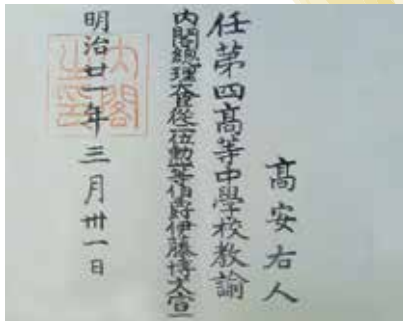
The prewar system Kanazawa Medical College and its forerunner produced some significant research. Here are some examples.

Takayasu Mikito was appointed professor of ophthalmology in the faculty of medicine at the Fourth Higher Middle School in 1888. In 1908 he published an article on the symptoms of what would later be termed Takayasu's Disease (pulseless disease), which made him world famous. While its causes are still unknown, Takayasu's Disease causes inflammation of the aorta and its major branches, leading to problems with the retina, brain, or other areas. It is one of the few diseases named after a Japanese.

Okamoto Hajime graduated from Kanazawa Medical College in 1927. After serving as assistant professor in the pharmacology laboratory, he was appointed professor of the attached Tuberculosis Research Institute in 1941, where he laid the foundations for the development of the Cancer Research Institute. In 1939, he discovered the phenomenon where toxins increase through hemolytic streptococcus introduced into the nuclear RNA (the RNA effect), which met with great praise both in Japan and overseas. This was five years before it was shown that nucleic acids are genetic materials.



Kuru Masaru was appointed as professor of the First Surgical Class at Kanazawa Medical College in 1941, and carried out neurosurgical treatments. He brought about neurodegeneration to relieve the pain of cancer, and conducted post mortem research on those degenerated fibres using microscope-based anatomy. In this way he was able to make important contributions to our understanding of the sensory nervous system and in particular pain transmission pathways in the spinal column and brain.



Written appointment of Takayasu Mikito as teacher of *Shiko* (replica)



The prewar system Kanazawa Medical College (late Taisho period)

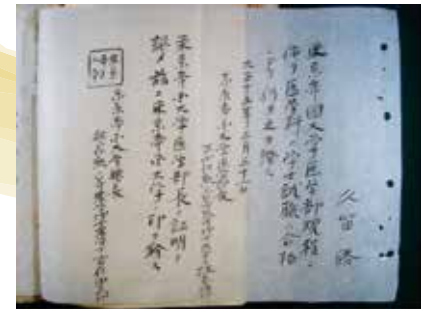


The hemolytic streptococcus studied by Okamoto Hajime

Iwasaki Ken became a professor of chemistry at Kanazawa Medical College in 1933, where he developed a chemical assay method (azotometry) through measuring minute amounts of nitrogen. This research gained him the 1958 Japan Academy Prize.

Asano Michizo, a professor in the pharmacology department, received the Imperial Academy Prize in 1936 for his research *Studies on the Determination of the Posterior Horn Cells relative to the Conduction of Pain and Temperature Sensations*.

In addition, some of the many graduates of Kanazawa Medical College and its forerunners who have gone on to do important work at other universities include Katsurada Fujiro (graduated 1887), who discovered the oriental blood fluke and Iseki Shoei (graduated 1934), who conducted research on blood group antigens, as well as too many others to list here.



Kuru Masaru's Graduation Diploma from the Faculty of Medicine, Tokyo Imperial University (hand-written copy)

12. Shining Examples of Prewar Research (II)

The Fourth Higher School produced a number of noted scholars in the field of natural sciences. Two of the most famous are Kimura Hisashi and Nakaya Ukichiro.

Kimura Hisashi's discovery of the Z-term (aka the Kimura term) stunned the world, demonstrating the high level of modern Japanese scientific technology. When the International Latitude Observatory project started in 1899, Kimura was appointed to be the director of the latitude observatory set up in Mizusawa, Iwate Prefecture (now in Oshu City). Kimura sent his data on the precession of latitude to the German central institute, but as his measurements were so precise, there was a systematic mismatch with the values predicted by the existing formula. Therefore Kimura proposed the addition of a third term, the Z term, to the formula. This work brought him the Imperial Prize of the first Japan Academy Awards and the first Order of Culture. Kimura would introduce tennis and other recreations to Mizusawa, where he was an active member of the local community. He is also featured, as "Doctor Kimura," in Miyazawa Kenji's works.



Kimura Hisashi

Selection from *Matasaburo the Wind Imp* (first version)

(the scene where Doctor Kimura appears)

A voice seemed to say, "It's okay, it's completely dry." Looking, I could see Dr. Kimura and the meteorological technician come out, their racquets swinging. Dr. Kimura was thin, his eyes searching, but I decided I rather liked him, and he was also very good at tennis. As I watched him for a while, it was clear that the technician didn't have a hope; he was dripping with sweat and staggering about. I felt almost sorry for him, so kept an eye out on the ball going back and forth from the rooftop, looking for an opening, and just when Dr. Kimura hit a serve, I leapt out and knocked the ball to the side. The doctor immediately hit another one. That one I got midway and kicked it a tremendously long way. "That's not the way it's supposed to be," the doctor said, but I decided that this was about all I would let him say, so left the observatory station, and arrived here the next day. However, I have a bit longer to go, so today this is all I can tell you. Goodbye." Matasaburo vanished from sight.



Autograph board personally written by Nakaya Ukichiro ("Snowflakes are letters from heaven")

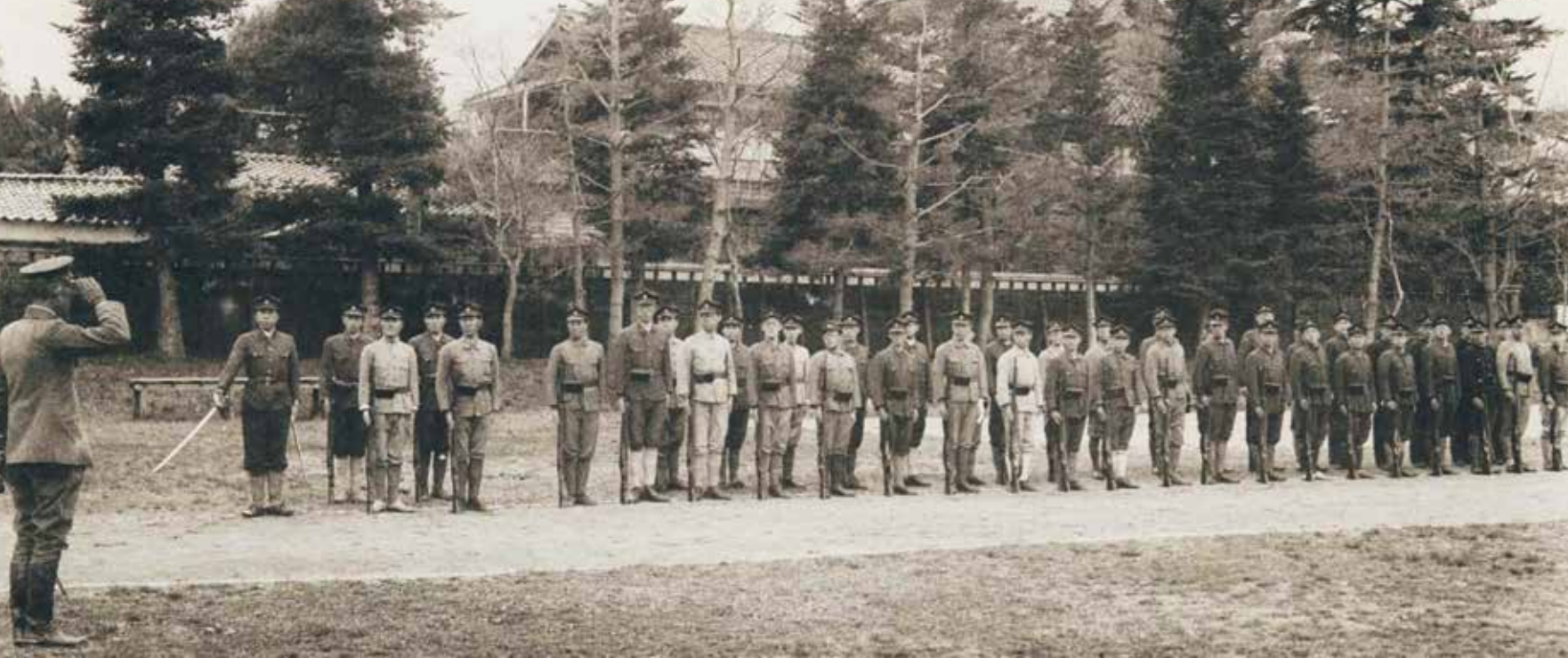


Nakaya Ukichiro



Nakaya Ukichiro Museum of Snow and Ice

Nakaya Ukichiro is famous for his work on snow and ice, but until his appointment at Hokkaido Imperial University he was noted as an up-and-coming nuclear physicist working on long-wavelength X-rays. Following his appointment, he changed to researching snow, based on the idea he should do research suited to the climate of Sapporo. Nakaya started off by observing snow crystals under a range of conditions, and then finally succeeded in creating the world's first artificial snow. He demonstrated the relationship between snow crystal shapes and physical conditions, and was awarded the Imperial Academy Prize for his work. Nakaya wrote a number of popular works, most notably *Yuki (Snow)*, which contains his famous quotation, "Snowflakes are letters from heaven." The roots of his passion for snow might be traced back to his youth in Ishikawa Prefecture, his home.



Medical College students conducting military drills

13. The Schools at War

With the start of the war with China in 1937, and Japan's entry into World War Two in 1941, the country placed even more emphasis on the natural sciences and technology. There were 124 students who started at Kanazawa Higher Technical College in 1937, but that number had grown to 403 three years later. Classrooms, laboratories, and workshops were added, and the land and building areas both doubled from their original sizes. As the war expanded, the central government-controlled Kanazawa Medical University was given an emergency medical course with a four year graduation limit as one measure to ease the shortage of army doctors, which in 1944 became the Department of Medicine, with a large increase in the number of places to 160. Teacher training was also emphasized, as these were the people responsible for educating citizens into imperial subjects, so the Kuragatake Meirindo Training School was established in the Ishikawa Normal School Men's Division in Mt. Kuragatake (now Hakusan City).

However, education and research at these schools faced more and more problems. At the time, the five days per year labour service mobilization that had started as part of the National Spiritual Mobilization Movement ended up becoming a year-long mobilization of labour force by 1944. Science students at schools like Kanazawa Higher Technical College were sent to work in army bases or army supply factories in the Hokuriku, Tokai, and Kanto regions, and medical students at schools like Kanazawa Medical College were dispatched to serve as volunteer medical corps in major hospitals in the region or in factory or mine clinics. In April 1945, classes stopped and new students were merely used as labour force: there was no formal instruction. Students at Kanazawa Higher Normal School, who had remained untargeted by these changes, eventually found themselves working on underground factory construction for army air force arsenals when the war ended.

Students were also sent to the front, and in November 1943, 20,000 students were gathered in the *Shiko* playing grounds for a mass send-off ceremony of all Kanazawa students. They were made to exchange their pens for swords.



Labour mobilization



Kuragatake Meirindo Training School



Ishikawa Normal School students mobilized to work on reclaiming land from Lake Biwa (1944-45)

Departure of students to the front

14. Moves to Establish the Hokuriku Imperial University

The movement to get a general university established in Kanazawa dates back to the Meiji period. In 1907, Sapporo got an Imperial University, followed by Sendai and Fukuoka in 1911, so there was a great deal of desire by locals for an Imperial University in the Hokuriku region. In 1911 a group of lawyers and other local supporters banded together to make a formal resolution for the establishment of the Hokuriku Imperial University, and submission was authorized to the 27th Diet (House of Representatives). However, this resolution was not binding and the Ministry of Education bureaucrats at the time were not enthusiastic.

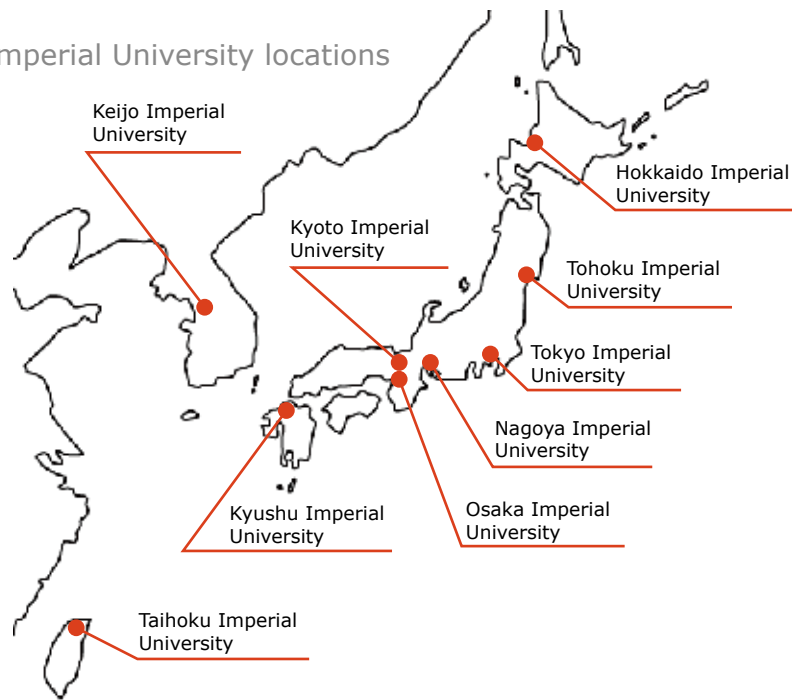
The resolution was later allowed to be submitted to the House of Representatives assembly, and the movement remained active, but it never bore any fruit. In the meantime, Osaka, in 1931, and Nagoya, in 1939, were given Imperial Universities, the last before full-scale war broke out.



Application to establish the Hokuriku University

The situation changed, however, once the war was over and the education system was being reformed. Drawing on the prewar movement to establish a university, from December 1945 to May 1946 Ishikawa Prefecture and Kanazawa City both submitted written opinions in rapid succession calling for a university. The Hokuriku University Establishment Alliance was formed in June 1946.

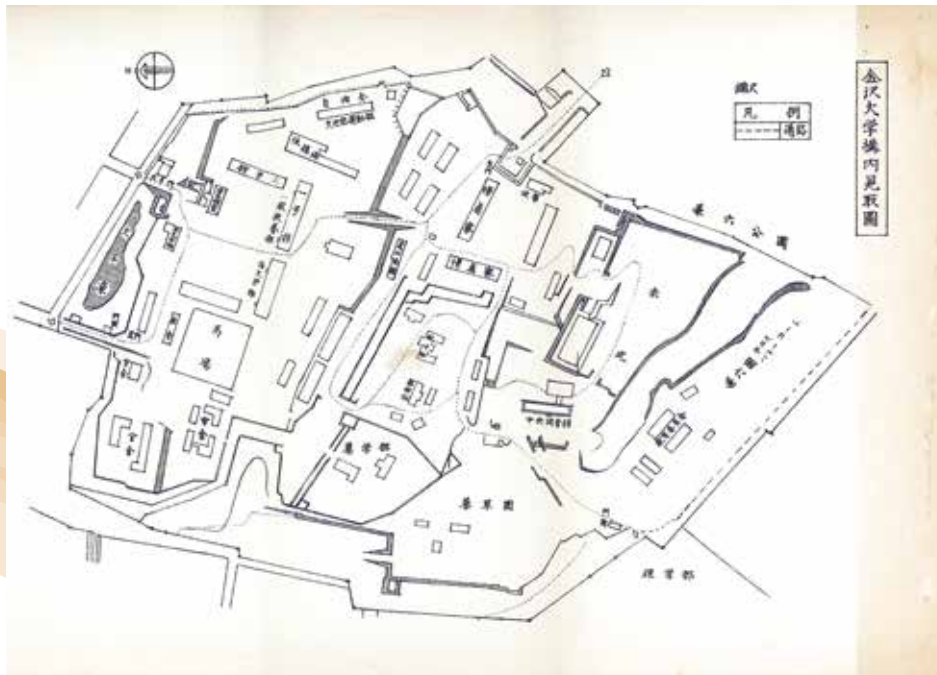
Imperial University locations



Newspaper advertisement for Education Lottery tickets sold to raise funds for establishment

What brought this movement into the realm of the practical was the fact that the Kanazawa Castle site was now vacant and authorized to be used. The Tokai-Hokuriku army command of the Allied Forces, who were responsible for dealing with this matter at the time, held hearings in October 1947 with a range of groups who wished to make use of the castle site, and that December announced that they were permitting its use for the Hokuriku University.

The Ministry of Education presented its policy for one national university per prefecture in June 1948, so the name was changed from Hokuriku University to Kanazawa University, and the Faculty of Fine Arts and the Faculty of Agriculture, which had been part of the initial plan, were dropped at the Ministry's direction to create a university of six faculties under the new system, called Kanazawa University.



Plan of castle campus immediately following opening (in 1950 *Student Handbook*)