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Our Alumni What Are They Doing Now ?

-PREFACE-

When the public evaluates a university, they not only do so in how hard it is enter the university, but in how many able graduates the university has been sending into the world. And now our staff has investigated how Rikkyo graduates do in their field and what they think of Rikkyo now. Furthermore, in this edition we focus our attention on the latest employment condition of Rikkyo graduates because the employment has been the one of the narrow gateways for graduates and even for us undergraduates.



Alumni List

We staff members investigated what field our graduates from Rikkyo are active in and what positions they have. For this investigation, we focussed on 10 high ranking companies (which means they were very popular for the senior undergraduates) as a rough standard and investigated what positions alumni have in the 10 companies. (10 high ranking companies are cited by Japan Economy Press 13/April/1981) Ten high ranking companies for senior undergraduates of public and private universities in Japan are as follows; (cited by investigation of employment consciousness for senior undergraduates by Diamond Big Company)

1. Mitsubishi Corporation
2. Sumitomo Corporation
3. Mitsui & Co., Ltd.
4. Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.
5. C. Ito & Co., Ltd.
6. Suntory Ltd.
7. Japan Travel Bureau
8. The Sumitomo Bank, Ltd.
9. Marubeni Corporation
10. The Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, Ltd.

What positions our alumni have in the 10 companies is as follows:

Sumitomo Corporation: Masanori Kitazawa, manager of San Jose overseas branch office

Mitsui and Co., Ltd.: Seigo Gobashi, president of Europe Mitsui Scandinavia

Seiji Okamoto, (correspondent department) section vice-chief

Tokio Marine and Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.: Takeshi Hiwata, vice-director of the first section of freight business Nobuyuki Orito, (Chiba branch) president of Matsudo branch

The Sumitomo Bank, Ltd.: Shoich Amano, president of Shinbashi branch

Marubeni Corporation: Tsunemitsu Karakizawa, section chief of development and construction

Toshiro Yamaya, vice-director of Seoul branch

Hideaki Ishii, vice-director of Rio de Janeiro

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Questionnaire for Alumni Students

Then, how did former students of Rikkyo Univ. spend their school days? We sent out a questionnaire to a hundred alumni, which is composed of the following five points;

1. The reason why they selected Rikkyo Univ.
2. How did they spend their school days?
3. The atmosphere of the students of their days.
4. If their school life was beneficial to them or not.
5. What do they request the students of today to be?

On the first question. The alumni of the 1950's attribute the reason to the atmosphere of Rikkyo Univ. as a mission school, for example, "free", "attractive". Although that tendency lessened as time passed, it is still the main reason. And there are also the reasons such as "introduced by an acquaintance", or "Rikkyo was the only school which admitted me to enter". Considering those reasons, there seem to have been quite a few students who matriculated with no eagerness for the school.

On the second question. There are many patterns on this question. One is that of the industrious students who thought much of lectures. Another is that of the students who thought much of circle activities and part time jobs. A

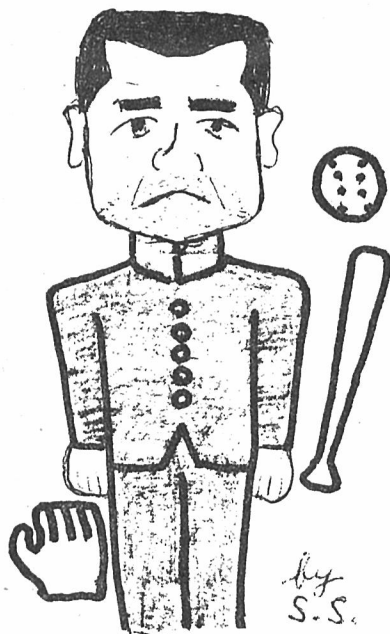
great many students belonged to the former pattern, which is different from the general image. We can find this tendency between departments. The alumni of the science department are almost all in the former pattern and there are less from the economics department.

On the third question. There is a constant atmosphere through the years. In the answers, the most descriptive was "mild", "quiet", and then, "attractive", "sporty". It shows that there is little difference between the students of those days and those of today. Some alumni described "steady", which points to the temper of industrious students who thought much of lectures. On the whole, we can imagine the students of those days living under pretty good conditions.

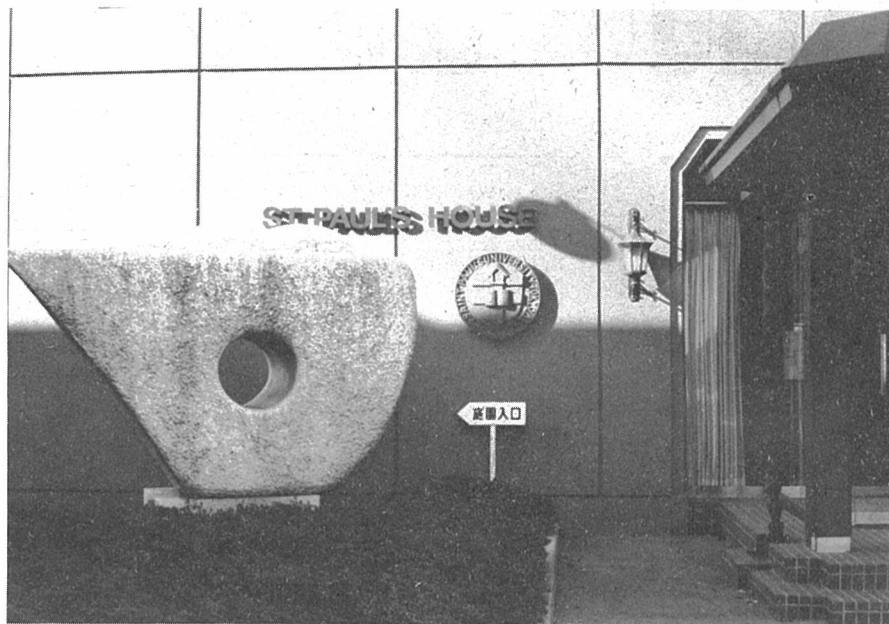
On the fourth question. Most alumni answered "It was beneficial for me." The reason is that the personal relations with professors and other students had a beneficial effect on their life after graduation in public. Their school days are not a time for learning, but a time to develop themselves through many opportunities, they thought, and they found significance in it. But on the other hand, there are many alumni who owe it to learning that their humanities were developed, so we cannot disregard the significance of school days as a time for learning.

On the fifth question. They requested us to esteem the personality as a student of Rikkyo Univ. to become conscious of being a student of a private mission school, and to insist on its peculiarity. They recommend us to do what we want to do, rather than concentrate our whole mind upon study. That is connected to the fourth question, the fact that they consider their school days as a time for developing themselves through personal relations. They are signs of mild thoughts of the alumni of Rikkyo Univ. and their desire to live with composure.

But there is not the weakness of what we call "Rikkyo Boy", if anything the steady and industrious temper.



Alumni Employment Trend



Let us tell you about the employment trend of Rikkyo University alumni. First of all, generally speaking, the number of students having the intention of holding a permanent job increase. And, judging from the change in employment trend in the period from 1975-1979, we cannot deny that the image of Rikkyo as being a school, where most graduates get job with trading companies and financial business is gradually changing. In contrast the number of students getting jobs with supermarkets has trended to increase. The cause is the change in the industrial structure and administration reducing labor. The trend mentioned above is not only true for Rikkyo alumni but is a general tendency.

For reference, here are the employment statistics for 1959.

Manufacturing Industry	19.3%
Wholesale and Retail Business	24.2%
Financial, Insurance, Securities	
Company and Real estate	18.2%
Transport, and Communication	14.2%
Education	5.9%
Service Industry	5.5%
Public officials	9.3%
Agriculture, Forest, Fishing and Mining Industry	0.2%
Construction firm	3.1%
Others	0.1%

By the way, we got the following comments from the placement section.

"A large proportion of the student of Rikkyo University find employment upon graduation. The job offering don't increase very much. But big business have taken a lot of Rikkyo students for many years. It is characteristic of Rikkyo University that many students get a job with a private company. And

as female graduates have better ability than male graduates, they are blessed with more employment opportunities. Socially Rikkyo alumni generally rank high, and annually about 10 Alumni are given government positions. In their place of work, Rikkyo alumni are liable to adapt themselves to their environment and their human relations are generally good. Many of them are said to be gentle and intelligent. Enterprises want to accept the person who is not just study in his appearance but is flexible in his thinking and who can adjust his actions to changes in the circum-

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stances. Many Rikkyo alumni are that way"

By the way, as for the field of education, recently the number of persons who become teachers has tended to decrease. The reason is not in the decline in the quality of examinees but in the sharp increase in the number of applicants for teaching profession from other schools and the abolishment of the system that allows them to take the certificate examination at more than two different prefecture.

Recently, students have a critical eye in their choice of the company they want to work for. In the future, the time will come when student and enterprises will choose each other.

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The interviews with

Two Alumni



MR. SEKIGUCHI

This is an interview with Mr. Hiroshi Sekiguchi about his impressions of Rikkyo University. He is an alumnus of the university and is now active in the field of mass communications.

Profile

Mr. Sekiguchi was born on July 13, 1943. After finishing his studies at Rikkyo Elementary school, Rikkyo Junior High School and Rikkyo Senior High School, he entered the Law Department of Rikkyo University in April 1962. He graduated from the university in March 1966, and is now active as an actor and a master of ceremonies. His hobbies are fishing, playing mahjong and pinball, and so on. His father, Shuji Sano, is also a Rikkyo alumnus.

Q: First of all we want to ask you about life at Rikkyo University while you were a student. What was the temper of the students in those days?

A: It seemed that the kind of docile student peculiar to Rikkyo University was beginning to disappear. The early students of Rikkyo didn't thrust others aside to take their place and that was typical of Rikkyo. I felt that the students of Rikkyo were beginning to lose their harmonious relations and become individualistic.

Q: What was your impression of Rikkyo girls?

A: Well, they had a sense of belonging to the elite by being enrolled at a prestigious university. But they didn't show off like the students of present-day Rikkyo.

Q: Which professor left the strongest impression on you?

A: Professor Ogata did. At any rate he was a very severe professor.

Q: In those days were extracurricular

activities very popular at Rikkyo?

A: When I was a student of Rikkyo High School I belonged to the swimming club, but at the university I didn't belong to any club, although I thought that many of the clubs were very interesting, for example modern jazz, Hawaiian music and Western music.

Q: What kind of social life did the students at Rikkyo have?

A: If a boy or girl were seen walking together on the campus, they were often laughed at. I didn't think that they had the open and frank relationship which the students of Rikkyo have nowadays.

Q: What is your general impression of the students at Rikkyo University now?

A: They are freer and more lively than in my school days. But they also seem to be too selfish and individualistic. This is not limited to students of Rikkyo University. Now our society is affluent and our lives have become luxurious. But I think that this tendency is especially noticeable in students of Rikkyo University. When I was a student, I worked very hard to earn enough money to go skiing and this is a very vivid memory. Recently however it is no longer out of the ordinary for students to go skiing or to play tennis.

Q: What do you expect of Rikkyo University?

A: I want you to work for the prosperity of Rikkyo University. Lately the baseball team has become stronger, but the particular characteristics of Rikkyo University seem to be disappearing. It is meaningless to compete with or to ape Tokyo, Waseda, and Keio Universities.

Q: How about the girls?

A: I think it desirable for women to get jobs after they graduate from high school. It is too trifling that after their graduation they get married, and become virtuous wives as their husbands like. Of course everyone has her way and it would be too general to say so. But, I think, women should insist on their way of living. Though it is difficult for women to live as their wish because of their low social standing, I want them to assert themselves.

After the interview

Mr. Sekiguchi said that the four years at Rikkyo University were useful when he had entered society. He, who wants to act as a member of the case of news show someday, is a cheerful and gentle alumnus as he is seen on television.



PROF. HAYASHI

The editorial staff members of Rikkyo Echo held an interview with Prof. Hayashi, who is an alumnus of Rikkyo University. He was born in Ehime-ken in 1919. In 1941 he entered Rikkyo University to take the history course in the Faculty of Literature. At present he is professor of literature and the president of Historical Science Society at Rikkyo University.

His chief works are "An Outline of Japanese Cultural History" and "The People Image of the Desperate Modern Age".

This is our question and answer meeting with him.

Q: Why did you wish to enter Rikkyo University?

A: I had no clear reason. Since the day of the entrance examination was convenient for me, I entered Rikkyo University.

Q: What were you absorbed in in your school days?

A: Mr. Tsuda who works in Nippon short-wave broadcast and I belonged to the Magazine Club that doesn't exist now. Our club published "Rikkyo Bungaku". I was also absorbed in the

study of history, especially the history of a farming village.

Q: What are some memories of your student life?

A: After all it is having been absorbed in the study of the history of farming. (He took out some ancient manuscripts and showed them.) The atmosphere of those days that was surrounded by war conditions left a deep impression on my mind.

The students of those days tried to live a full life while they were alive or conversely, they grew desperate and led a fast life. Though each manner of life is different, it seems to me that it was a desperate manner of life in bad circumstances during the war. I think that since present students are blessed mentally and materially, they are very very happy. I hope that a more happier time will come.

Q: What do you think of the general image of students at Rikkyo University?

A: Having a good reputation from former times, many of the students at Rikkyo are sons of *petit bourgeois*, who are probably influenced by Christianity to be elegant. It seems to me that they have self-control and never take intense action, and so don't reach the top of the tree, but many of them build very *petit bourgeois* and peaceful homes.

Q: What do you think is the difference in quality between students of these days and students of those days?

A: With respect to only the matter of study, the quality of present students are higher than the quality of students of those days. But a man never is evaluated by his school record. I think that young men themselves change as these days differ from those days in circumstances.

Q: Please tell your proposition to students of Rikkyo as an alumnus of Rikkyo.

A: First of all I hope that students of Rikkyo have some fight in them. They can't engage in bold action. But I think that this is both a weakness and a strength.

Q: Thank you very much.

Prof. Hayashi has very deep, flexible and many-sided thoughts. Through this interview, we were told many things by him. This interview was very significant. We wish him well in his activities.

THE CONCLUSION

This time we considered Rikkyo University bringing the trends of the alumni into focus. We think that you have understood that Rikkyo alumni are not beaten by other universities' alumni in activity. There are not a few students who are far from having love for their university, they have an inferiority complex regarding their university. They are very unhappy.

Perhaps they evaluate their university by merely observing their own outward appearance.

We students ought to recognize that our values are decided not by our university but by our effort. The value of our university is decided by our own effort.

We made this plan because we wanted you to know Rikkyo University itself very well through the knowledge of the activity of Rikkyo alumni and to take pride in your university. We hope that you will turn your eyes to your university itself by reading this item and discovering the value of Rikkyo University.

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Freshmen Looking Ahead

We ask you, what do you expect from Rikkyo?

"Congratulations!" How many times you freshmen have heard it and how many times we senior students have said it when we invite you to join our club! Now, about two months have past since you entered our university, so here is a special edition featuring articles on freshmen. The articles on this page will let freshmen know what thoughts other freshmen have and what senior students, professors and other people want them to be. The articles will make senior students remember their original intentions, which perhaps they have forgotten. First of all, in order to appreciate the opinions of freshmen, we had a round table talk. Here, you can enter into the feelings of these four freshmen. You will make out what they want to do and discover they are full of determination.

Round Table Talk

Students present

Hideki Ogawa
in the education course
Kanehisa Matsushita
in the sociology course
Satoshi Ohtsuka
in the industrial relations course
Miwako Yamagata
in the English literature course



Hideki Ogawa Kanehisa Matsushita
Satoshi Ohtsuka
Miwako Yamagata

Chairman: Please tell me what you want to do especially from now on.

Ogawa: I want to do voluntary work. I want to master *Shuwa*. I have studied it since my high school days, and I intend to master it perfectly by my graduation. And I plan to become a teacher of primary school. I want to be a very humanistic person for that purpose.

Yamagata: I belong to the English Literature course. I am interested in the culture and the language of England and the U.S.A., and I think that I want to study abroad. Having entered the university, I want to meet many kinds of people and to study many kinds of things.

Chairman: It seems that you have great enthusiasm for study in university. Then what do you regard it as?

Ohtsuka: It is natural that we study in university. Therefore I can't regard it as a secondary object.

Chairman: But you were advised to take easy subjects by your seniors.

Ogawa: But I don't follow this advice. It is true I hear what your say, but I reject such a thing.

Chairman: There are many people who think of the special subject vaguely or want to do many things in university life. It's very important for them to take the general education subjects, I think.

Chairman: Now, do you find any difference between the image of Rikkyo University you had before you entered, and the image you have now?

Matsushita: I'm surprised there are many cancelled lectures.

Ohtsuka: So am I. Many professors start lectures some minutes late and finish some minutes early. It is very different from the lectures of the preparatory school I attended.

Chairman: I think when you were high school students, you could feel you were bound together with your classmates. Do you think university students are related to each other? Can we say that though there are many people on campus, each one is obliged to feel alone?

Matsushita: The only time when all classmates gather is for the classes of language study, therefore I feel that the relationship of classmates is disjointed. "You must join a circle", my senior advised me. So, I have understood the meaning of his advice. But I think study by itself is lonely, I am to study by myself.

Ohtsuka: On second thoughts, the relationship of classmates is disjointed, but the chance of making friends is great. I only associated with my friends in my class when I was in high school, but here, I can make friends with anybody I like.

Yamagata: I like the fact that classes in university are not restrained. There are people here I don't normally associate with, but I can associate with them freely from now on.

Chairman: Lastly, after these four years, do you think you will have the self-confidence of keeping up your present passion?

Ogawa: If only we have a consciousness of our aim, I think we can keep it up firmly, even though we meet many lazy people. As I think we grow up mentally by contacts with others, I want to meet with others positively.

Matsushita: My aim may change, but I'm young, I'll find what I want to do.

Ohtsuka: I think four years in university is very long. I think I'll find my future aim by living life to the full everyday.

Yamagata: I'll succeed no matter how difficult it is.

Chairman: You can play or study as you like in university. But, once you do something Rikkyo University should satisfy your desire in that field, whatever it is, equipment, human affairs, environment, and so on. I wish you succeeds in your endeavours.

On Learning

What is a freshman's attitude toward learning and how should he conduct himself after entering the university. We investigated these questions from every angle. As a result we have a conclusion. In short, freshmen don't understand the meaning of learning.

There are not so many students who don't have a will to learn from the moment they enter university. A lot of freshmen think of university as a place where they should study hard. But, the province of learning is so wide that they don't know what to do or how to act. Consequently, a lot of them lose their will to learn.

When we asked some professors about this point, a professor of the economic-department said, "Indeed freshmen study hard, but they don't know how to do it effectively, so they lose their will to learn. I hope that freshmen will do their best without losing the will to learn."

This comment expresses directly their attitude toward learning. We advise that they should take good lessons to improve themselves. When we gathered news materials for this newspaper, some professors deplored the fact that certain students still underlined the name of the era, others resented the fact that a lot of students studied only for the purpose of getting good marks. You, freshmen must think "What is real learning". The most important thing for freshmen's learning is to attend lectures as if they were seminars, and to read books thoroughly and to think for themselves and finally to talk out problems.

The Life of Freshmen

Next, let's think about the life of freshmen.

First of all, it seems that freshmen and freshwomen fall into a dull state because of their intense study for the entrance exam. This continues until high levels, sluggishly. It appears in their manner in lectures and clearly in the attitude to life in general, for example "Pachinko," and Mahjong." And there are many people who think of changing their course and changing their university because they entered the university against their will. (Student Counseling House) People like this cannot find out the significance of the existence of Rikkyo University, and in the end spend their life incompletely and without doing anything.

Moreover, there is no place for these people. Because of mass education, the place students find friends is limited, to some extent, to the lectures they attend. So it is the activity of a particular circle that most students are interested in. There are people who say, "The significance of campus life is found in the activity of the circle." The circle activity, thus, has weight in campus life. So really the study of art and science and the activity of sports that we should aim at, are not the central theme, but human relations and circle activity as a medium of recreation are. These attitudes give the impression of weakness, of elegance and leisure, to the students of other universities.

Students are apt to be lonely despite their freedom and so they join together, and spend their lives pleasantly, cheerfully, by wearing stadium jumpers and carrying tennis rackets. We can understand it, but it results in the loss of individuality. It is doubtful whether this really gives them a meaningful campus life, or not.

The Conclusion

On broadly reviewing all the preceding findings, we observe in what situations the freshmen are, at the stage of their entrance into the university, and that there is a certain "feeling pattern" which they have towards their university. How well we understand now that quite a few freshmen become unwilling to make an effort to learn something meaningful to their whole life during their college days. This is probably in part due to their hesitation about what to do and how to act while at university, and in part to their self-indulgent fancy that a college is like an earthly paradise, which only those who have overcome the hellish torture of entrance examinations are privileged to enjoy. The attitude of such potential college dropouts, naturally enough, threatens to provoke public criticism that they are

totally lacking in moral courage for facing difficulties, because of the fifty-fifty prospect of failure in their attempts.

The general suggestion which almost all Rikkyo professors made for this feature article is, that subject to their complete recognition of themselves in the raw, students should assure themselves again, that a university is the freest educational institution projecting the potentialities of each student into concrete forms of various types.

In conclusion, the chief propositions put forward in this column may as well be summarized as follows: Every freshman is encouraged to set his goal for his study at university as early as possible, without being unduly influenced by his surroundings.

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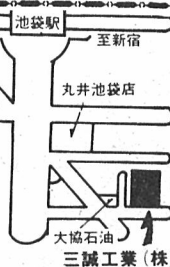
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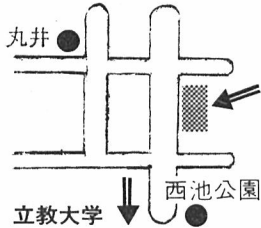


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• IKEBUKURO OMOSHIRO MAP •

- PREFACE -

In this paper we are beginning a series on the history and present status of various areas of Ikebukuro. I believe we have planned an interesting map of the Ikebukuro area in this issue we are going to focus our attention on Rikkyo Avenue, past and present.

First of all, let us take a brief look at history of Ikebukuro. In Edo times, Ikebukuro was a village belonging to the Ikebukuro Village. It was on the first of April in 1903 that a train station was established in Ikebukuro. But by looking at it today we can never imagine what it was like those days. In Ikebukuro Station, there was so little light that they say that they needed paper lanterns after sunset. Ikebukuro was known as a deserted station. But passengers were getting on and off and heading west for Rikkyo University and Toshima Normal School that used to be in the West Gate Park. The population gradually increased and houses were build for them. Woods reached the Gokoku Temple in the east, but in the west there was a field of radishes.

The present "Rikkyo Avenue" was born in the center of such a radish field.

Rikkyo Avenue before and after World War II

In order to learn the past of Rikkyo Avenue, we asked the proprietress (72 years old) of "Sumita hat shop" who has known Rikkyo since 1933, to tell us some of the history of Rikkyo Avenue.

This is what she told us.

First of all, she told us about the prewar Rikkyo Avenue.

Now both sides of Rikkyo Avenue are full of stores or coffee shops which stand tightly in a line, but before World War II, gray tile-roofed houses or shops stood rather neatly along the avenue. To our surprise, almost all of them were tailor shops which sold stand-up collar uniforms to Rikkyo University students, while there are many kind of shops such as coffee shops or eating houses there now.

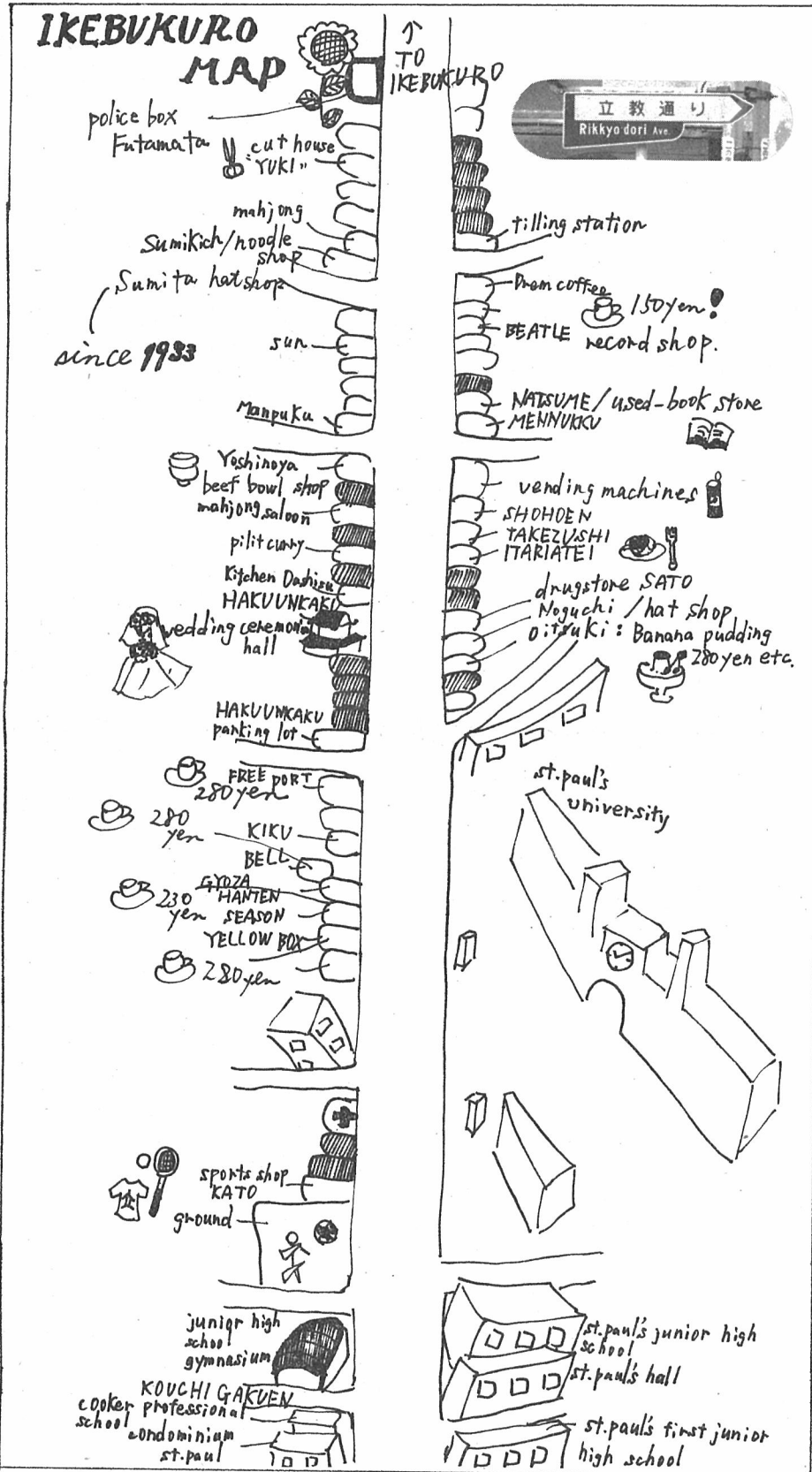
By 1954 the planning of the streets was carried out. There were no crossing where there are crossings now. And it was not until after the war that this avenue was paved. But the name of "Rikkyo Avenue", allegedly, existed at that time.

By the way, around Rikkyo Avenue, there are a lot of mahjong-houses called "Jan-so", one of the most popular haunts among the students now. But about 20 years ago, there were only a few. The billiard saloons, which were also only a few, were in their place then.

Secondly, nowadays coffee shops are the most popular haunts. Now there are about 30 coffee shops on both sides of Rikkyo Avenue, but at that time, there was only one whose name was "Kishino Coffee Ship"—which was near Futamata police box. Now it is closed—. This coffee shop was, of course, the most popular haunt for Rikkyo University students. And in this coffee shop, playing cards was in fashion for killing time. According to Mrs. Sumita, there were only a few Rikkyo University students, so they could do without so many haunts.

Thirdly we asked her about the changing character of Rikkyo University students. Unexpectedly, she seemed to feel that the character of Rikkyo's student has not changed very much from olden days. She described Rikkyo University students as "gentle" or "well-born", and in those days, they were also very stylish with regard to their clothes. She seemed to feel that prewar students were very dignified. They wore tailor-made stand-up collar uniforms. Some of them pulled on gray trousers, and put on school hats. According to her, they put on rounded hats in a preparatory course and college caps (square caps) in the faculty courses in those days.

In a slightly different vein, she also said that she had been asked by them to



pass on messages about substitutes for attendance at classes to other students.

Certainly on this point, we felt that the character of Rikkyo or rather that of all university students has not changed.

Finally we asked her about the most impressive event on Rikkyo Avenue.

Expectedly, she said it was the sight of a championship parade of Tokyo 6 University Baseball League which made the strongest impression on her. After praying in the chapel, the championship baseball team moved somehow or other through Rikkyo Avenue where people made too much of a fuss of them on both sides of the road. Girl's shrill and pretty voices were heard from everywhere. Some of the team members were pulled down from their car. Such a

championship parade was given not only by the baseball team but by other athletic clubs as well. Then, allegedly, eating houses around Rikkyo Avenue were all free at that time.

It is about Mr. Reifsnider that Mrs. Sumita became most emotionally involved. Charles S. Reifsnider is a man who contributed to Rikkyo from 1912 to 1940 as a chancellor of "Rikkyo Gakuin", and the first president of Rikkyo University. When he had to go back to his native land America on account of World War II, a lot of Rikkyo University students stood in a line from Rikkyo to the Futamata police box to see him off. Mr. Reifsnider shuffled along on his right leg supporting himself with a cane. But in spite of that, he

looked back every 2 or 3 steps and waved a farewell to the students.

Reminiscing about how Mr. Reifsnider had slowly progressed down Rikkyo Avenue, Mrs. Sumita's eyes filled with tears.

Here and There Along Rikkyo Avenue

What image do you have when you hear the word "Rikkyo Avenue"?

Probably you are at a loss for an answer.

It has neither many used-book stores and people's restaurants like streets in Waseda, a polished atmosphere like Aoyama Avenue nor tradition like streets in Ochanomizu.

We see buildings to rent, shops and stores on both sides of the avenue from Futamata Police Box as far as Rikkyo University.

And it seems that it doesn't have any special feature.

But this avenue ought to have some color, we, students of Rikkyo have.

It has been concerned with us and watched the course of Rikkyo University.

There are coffee shops where we often assemble and talk together and copy shops which we use especially before examinations.

And among them we see shops which have been kept for a long time for Rikkyo students.

They give us a grand sense of stability.

Passing the University, the atmosphere of the avenue changes completely.

In these parts, we can see a fish shop, a package store, signboards like "Taishu Shokudo St. Paul" and children playing in an alley.

The atmosphere of this part of the street gives us the impression that Rikkyo Avenue in olden days may have been something like this.

Walking along this part of Rikkyo Avenue, would you walk slowly and look around with a freshman's eye?

You may find something new.

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"I'm fond of the atmosphere of Rikkyo"

—The interview with KOASA—



Recently "Rakugo" and "Manzai" have become increasingly popular among young people. It isn't too much to say that it was Mr. Koasa Shunputei who started the boom. Besides playing an active part as a rakugoka, he keeps busy writing essays, acting as a disk jockey and holding concerts. He is now twenty six.

Q: How did you enter the rakugo world?

A: Since I was a child, I have liked listening to rakugo and frequented "Yose". And when I was a junior high school student, I won the championship at an amateur rakugo contest.

Q: Could you tell us your most difficult experience since you became a rakugo player?

A: When I was in the third year of high school, I was preparing for University entrance examinations as well as doing rakugo. I was fatigued with study and work. But I have not had any difficulty as a rakugoka. I'm going to suffer many troubles I've not experienced yet, I suppose.

Q: What do you think of the "Manzai and Rakugo boom"?

A: I hope many fans will remain after the boom is over, but it's very difficult to say.

Q: What do you do on off days?

A: I go to the movies, plays and musical concerts.

Q: Could you tell us about your life in your childhood?

A: I was born in Bunkyo ward, the central part of Tokyo. There were a lot of children to play with, as well as a lot of shrines and parks in my neighborhood. And all the neighbors were friendly and kind. I think my birthplace is the best place to bring up children, and as a rakugoka, I feel happy to have been brought up there.

Q: What sort of child were you in elementary school?

A: Looking at the annual of my elementary school, you'll find one boy apparently different from the others. That is me. (laughter) While others were keeping straight faces, I was putting on a comical expression intentionally. That shows my real character. (laughter)

Q: You are fond of the atmosphere of Rikkyo university, I hear. Why?

A: Because Rikkyo students seem to

be very friendly and cheerful. I'm fond of such a congenial atmosphere.

Q: What is your favorite literary work?

A: I'm fond of almost all the works of Mr. Junichiro-Tanizaki. For example, "Manji" and "Shonen".

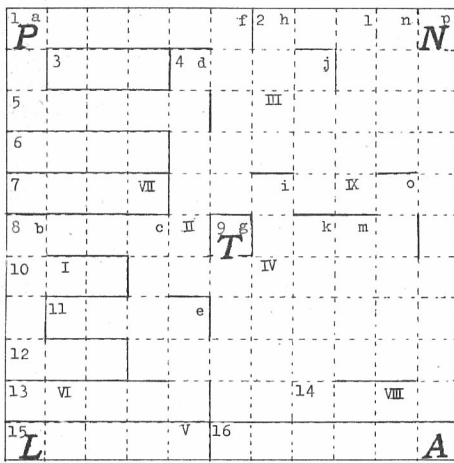
Q: Could you tell us about your future plans?

A: I'd like to try dramas and plays. I hope to do everything: Before I'm thirty, I'm going to do a lot of things as well as rakugo. Mr. Shinshou, a rakugo master, once said to me, "The more you do in addition to rakugo, the more you become willing to devote yourself to rakugo. You'd better try many things while you're young." And I was impressed with his advice. I hope that what I'm doing now will help me very much when I become older.

He ran up to the appointed coffee shop as soon as his performance was over. He answered all of our questions very courteously. He has boldness but on the other hand, he is very sensitive, which must be the chief reason for his popularity.

Cross-word Puzzle

Fill in the blanks and write the letters in order from I to IX. It will make up a single word. Make use of the following hints.



Down

- a the juicy, nearly round fruit of a tree, having a rough stone in it. It is yellowish pink.
- b the plant on which grapes grow.
- c a plant that grows from a bulb. It's flowers are usually large, bell-shaped, and beautiful, and are often divided into six parts.

- d a hollow red or green vegetable that is baked or fried, and may be used in pickles.
- e a plant, grown for its thick, deep red, fleshy foot; its root is Hank's favorite vegetable.
- f an eatable nut, shaped like a human brain, with a rough shell which is easily divided into 2 parts.
- g a type of garden plant that grows from a bulb and has large, showy, colourful, cup-shaped flowers on top of tall stems.
- h plants of a very simple form that live in or near water and are usually very small.
- i a type of small, soft, fleshy, red, yellow, or black round fruit with a stonelike seed in the middle.
- j a small flat green or yellow flowerless plant that grows in a thick furry mass on wet soil, or on a wet surface.
- k a sleep-producing drug made from the seeds of a flower (the white POPPY)
- l a type of tree grown in the Mediterranean countries, which has a small egg-shaped fruit.
- m the red, white, pink, or yellow flower of this bush, which also appears as the national sign of England on coins, stamps, etc.
- n the tall strong hollow stem of any of various grasslike plants that grow in wet places.

- o a type of round white vegetable made up of one skin within another, strong smelling, much used in cooking.
- p any of a family of plants with flowers, related to the potato and including some poisonous plants.

Across

- 1 a flower somewhat like a violet but much larger and often having several colours.
- 2 the nut, or fruit, of an oak tree.
- 3 a small, soft, sweet fruit that grows in warm regions. It is often eaten dried like dates and raisins.
- 4 any of a large family of trees which grow mainly in the tropics, and which are usually very tall with branchless stems and a mass of large leaves at the top.
- 5 a fruit that Shirayukihime ate, a hard round fruit with white juicy flesh and usually a red, green or yellow skin.
- 6 the part that bears the seeds on pine, cedar, fir, and evergreen trees.
- 7 a plant with leaves that are used for medicine, seasoning, or food. Sage, mint, lavender and so on.
- 8 a plant with purple, blue, yellow, or white flowers.
- 9 a plant that has sharp pointed leaves, a kind of hawthorn.
- 10 a climbing plant with evergreen leaves.

- 11 the round, underground bud or stem from which certain plants grow.
- 12 a kind of Ulmus trees, tall and graceful.
- 13 a tree grown for shade, ornament, wood, or sugar.
- 14 staminate plant.
- 15 juicy fruit much like a lemon. It is smaller, greener, and sourer than a lemon; its juice is used for flavouring and in medicine.
- 16 a plant with showy flowers of many colors and varieties.

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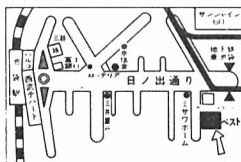


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