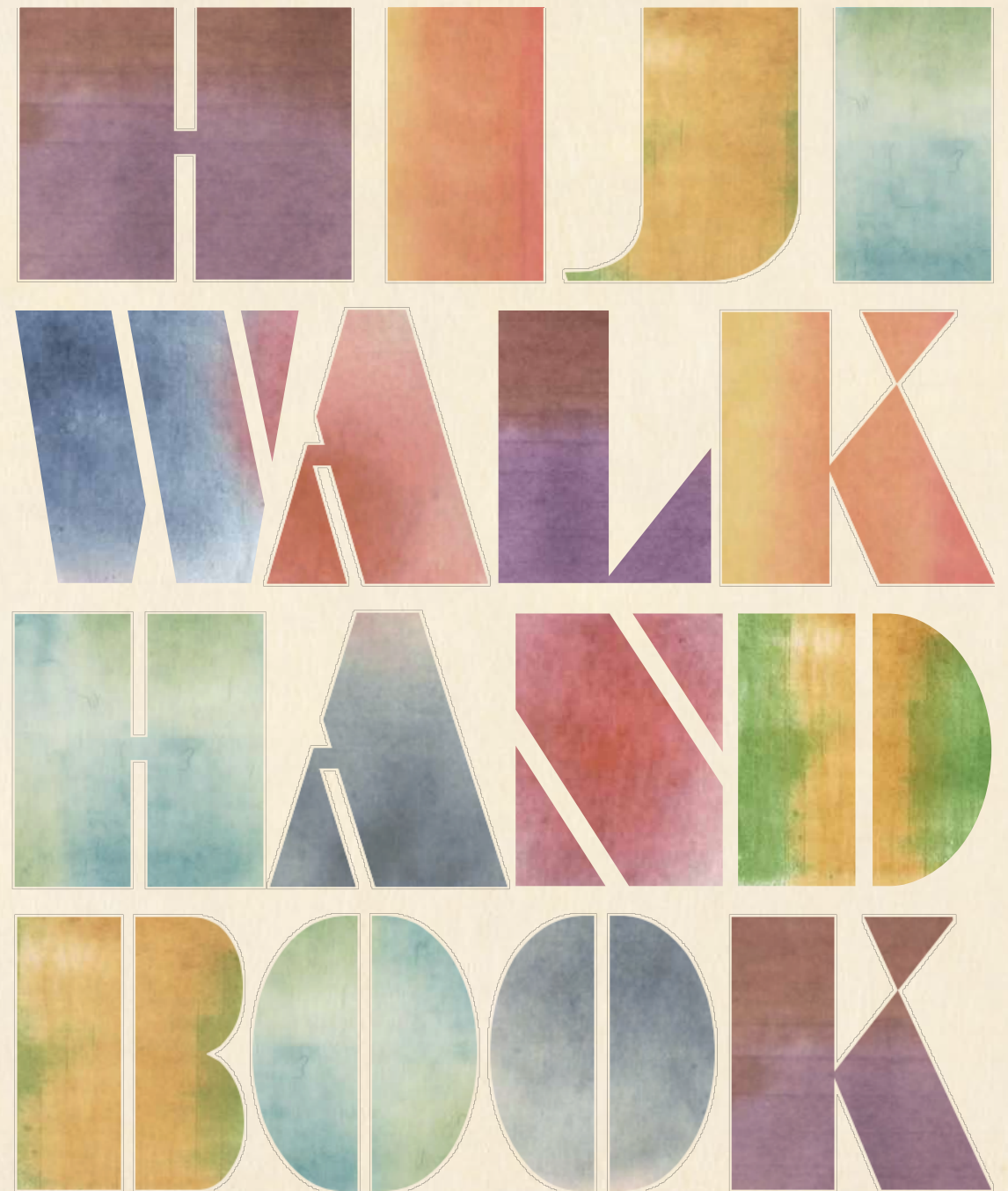




椿(2・3月)  
camellia (February and March)

監修 若松 君子(通訳案内士)&ひじまち歩きガイドの会  
挿絵イラスト 満田 康子(ひじまち歩きガイド)  
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\*挿絵のイラストは城址周辺に咲く花々です。

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Issued by Hiji Town Tourism Association  
March 2019



*Hiji Walk Handbook*





## 日出町の概況

歴史・文化・文教の町日出町は、人口約2万8千人の小さな城下町です。古くは、石器時代からの遺跡が残っています。別府湾に面し日当たりがよく、美しい景色とおいしい水など自然に恵まれています。県都大分市まで車で40分、別府市まで20分、大分空港まで30分と、通勤にも便利です。

産業は、農業・水産業が中心です。農業では、ハウスミカン、紅ハツサク等、水産業では、ちりめん、カレイなどがあります。IC産業も2～3立地しています。有名な麦焼酎の産地でもあります。

## A Brief Introduction to Hiji Town

Hiji is a 400-year old castle town, a town which developed around its castle, and is located on Beppu Bay. We have many historical places and beautiful spots. The town is conveniently located near Oita's major cities and the airport. Oita City, the capital of Oita Prefecture, is about 40 minutes' drive, and Beppu City is about 20 minutes. Also, Oita Airport is about 30 minutes' drive from here.

There are many fresh water springs in Hiji, and the town water supply comes from spring water. Even in the sea near the castle site, there are fresh water springs. The fresh water springs in the sea make the flounder living there very tasty. Flounder which are caught in the Hiji sea are very famous and are called "shiroshita karei." It literally means "below-the-castle flounder." There are several Japanese restaurants which serve "shiroshita karei."

Hiji was one of the few Japanese place names written on a Japanese map issued in Europe in the 16th century. This shows that Hiji was once a major seaport. A Catholic missionary named Francisco Xavier, one of the first missionaries who preached Christianity in Japan, came to Oita in 1551. First he came to Hiji and took a ship from Hiji Port to the city of Oita.





ひじ  
日出城と城下町  
Hiji-machi and Castle town

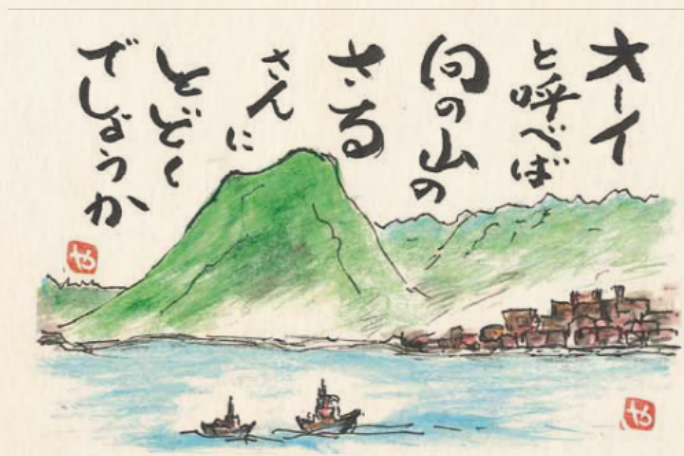


日出町は最近まで日出城やその城下町を中心に発展してきた町です。

日出城は今から約400年前の1602年に、豊臣秀吉の義理の甥になる木下延俊によって造られました。木下延俊は、当初3万石の領地をもらい、日出藩木下家は16代、約270年間続きました。

日出城は、本丸、二の丸、三の丸からなり、本丸には天守をはじめ7つの櫓と藩主と家族の住居の御殿がありました。日出城は明治時代の初めに取り壊されたり、移築されたりして、その後は小学校になっています。

二の丸には日出中学校が建っており、子供達は日出の歴史のと真ん中で勉強しています。



ひじじょうし  
日出城址  
Ruins of Hiji Castle



この城は約400年前に建てられました。日出は小さな藩でしたので、城も小さかったのですが、立派なものでした。入口のカマボコ型の門は日出城の大手門でした。現在は日出小学校の正門になっています。

本丸、二の丸、三の丸という3つの曲輪から成り立っていました。本丸には、天守やその他6つの櫓、それに御殿がありました。櫓などの建造物は残っていませんが、石垣や堀は、建築当初のものです。

Hiji Castle was originally constructed about 400 years ago. This stone gate used to be the main gate of the castle. It is now the gate of Hiji Elementary School

Hiji was a very small domain, so its castle was also small. But it was a good castle and had most of the elements of a typical Japanese castle. Castles in general were originally built as fortresses, so, they have stone walls and moats around them for protection. Some of Hiji Castle's moats and stone walls still remain.



This castle consisted of three quarters; the main compound, the second compound, and the third compound. In the main compound, there was a main castle tower, several other towers, and a palace. Unfortunately, none of the original towers remain on the castle site.

When Japan went through drastic political and social changes called the "Meiji Restoration" in the 1860s and 1870s, most of the castle buildings were demolished. Hiji Elementary School now stands on the site of the main compound of the castle, and Hiji Senior High School is located on the site of the secondary compound.

桜(3・4月)  
cherry blossom (March and April)



1

なりきよ  
成清公園

Monument of Narikiyo Nobue



ここは、成清公園といいます。日出の企業家であった成清信愛を顕彰するために、町内外の有志によって建てられました。

成清信愛は、1916(大正5)年、旧山香町馬上金山などの経営を父博愛から引継ぎました。金山経営のかたわら、金融・経済・社会活動など、様々な分野で、町や県の発展に寄与しました。この記念碑の題字は、大分県出身の元外務大臣の重光葵氏によるものです。

This monument was constructed by a group of volunteers to honor an entrepreneur from Hiji, Narikiyo Nobue. He contributed greatly to the development of Hiji Town and Oita Prefecture in the first half of the 20th century.

Narikiyo Nobue succeeded his father as a gold mine owner in 1916. Besides running the gold mining company, he was involved in setting up banks and public transportation companies in Oita Prefecture. He also built a girls' school in Hiji.

The title of the monument was written by former Foreign Minister Shigemitsu Mamoru from Oita Prefecture. The drawing on the monument shows scenes of gold mine work, such as digging, sorting ore, and carrying them.



オキザリス(夏)  
wood sorrel (summer)

2

たきれん たろう  
瀧廉太郎

Taki Rentaro



これは瀧廉太郎の像です。瀧家は、日出藩の初代から16代までの藩主木下家に仕えました。瀧家の3代、4代、8代は家老をつとめた家柄でした。廉太郎の父吉弘は、明治政府の役人になり、東京へ居を移しました。廉太郎は1879(明治12)年8月24日東京で生まれました。

廉太郎は、父の仕事の関係で、8年間の小学校時代に、5回も転校しています。15才で竹田の小学校を卒業し、東京の音楽学校に入学しました。在学中に音楽学校が募集した中学校唱歌「荒城の月」の詩に曲をつけ有名になります。

優秀なことが認められてドイツに留学します。しかし、入学してわずか2カ月で病気になり日本に帰ってきました。廉太郎は、23才のとき、大分市で亡くなり、今は両親と一諸に先祖の眠る日出町の龍泉寺で永眠しています。不朽の名作「荒城の月」の作曲には、廉太郎が過ごした故郷の日出城、竹田の岡城などがイメージされていると思われます。

This is the statue of Taki Rentaro. He is one of Japan's most famous composers. His major works include "Kojo no tsuki" (The Moon over the Castle Ruins), "Hana" (Flowers), and "Hakone Hachiri", which were originally written for junior high school students in 1901.

He was the eldest son of Taki Yoshihiro, who was a high ranking official of the newly established Meiji Government. Taki's family used to serve the feudal lord of Kinoshita in Hiji-machi as senior retainers for generations.

Rentaro lived in different places in Japan, including Taketa in Oita Prefecture, owing to his father's job. He entered Tokyo Music School in 1894 at the age of 15. In 1901, he entered the Leipzig Conservatory, Germany, to pursue his music studies. However, he fell seriously ill with tuberculosis only two months after he entered the school. So, he had to come back to Japan. He lived in Oita City until he died at the age of 23.

His statues are located in Hiji, Taketa, and Oita.



3

### ほ あし ばん り 帆足万里 Hoashi Banri



この像は、三浦梅園、広瀬淡窓とならぶ江戸時代末期の豊後3賢人の一人とされる帆足万里です。儒学者であり、藩学の教授、家老職等を務めました。万里はオランダ語を独学で習得し、日本や中国の古典、自然科学、経済、医学等、様々な学問を学びました。オランダ語の本から学んだ知識に基づき、8巻からなる自然科学の本などを書きました。家老職を務めた際には、藩の財政再建におおいに寄与しました。家塾・私塾で50年近く教え、教え子は1千人以上おり、その多くは医者になったと言われています。

This statue is Hoashi Banri. He was a politician and scholar in the early 19th century in Hiji. He is one of the most respected historical figures in this town.

He studied various subjects, such as Japanese and Chinese classics, natural sciences, military strategy, and Dutch. He wrote a few books, including eight volumes on natural science based on what he learned from Dutch books.

When he was the chief retainer of the Hiji clan, he carried out a drastic economic reform. He had his private schools, where he taught more than 1000 students in about 50 years. Chidokan, former Hiji Domain school for samurai elites, was established by some of his students.

4

### き もん やぐら 鬼門櫓 Kimon-Yagura



この建物は鬼門櫓といいます。日出城本丸にあった櫓の一つです。この建物はもともと本丸の北東の隅に建っていました。日本では北東の方向は災いが入ってくる方向とされ、これを防ぐため本丸の北東の隅にこの櫓が建てられました。また櫓自体の北東の角を欠く「隅切り」までしています。これは、全国的に見ても珍しい例です。

明治時代の初めに他の櫓と一諸に取り壊され、町内の他の場所に移築されていたものを、2013(平成25)年この場所に再建されました。再建時、壁や土間の制作過程の一部を体験できる催しがありました。

This building is called Kimon-yagura. It means “unlucky corner tower.” This tower was originally located in the northeastern corner of the castle. In Japan, the northeastern direction was thought to be an unlucky direction, so, in order to stop bad luck from coming into the castle, this tower was built there.

This old building was almost ruined, but it was disassembled and rebuilt at the present site. This renovation took about three years and was completed in 2013. It was rebuilt using as much of the original lumber as possible and following traditional Japanese construction methods. The walls are made of a mixture of mud and rice straw, and the floor is hard-packed dirt.

During the reconstruction, parts of the renovation processes were open to the public, so that people could see how castle towers were built with traditional methods. Also, Hiji Town invited volunteers to participate in making part of the walls and the floor, so that they could experience traditional Japanese wall and floor making.

5

### 木下家の家紋 Kinoshita's Family Crest



屋根瓦の端にある模様は、木下家の家紋です。あの模様は、「おもだか」という植物を表しています。おもだかの葉が矢じりのように見えるので、戦勝の象徴とみなされ、「おもだか紋」は多くの武家に用いられました。

木下家には、そのほかに、独楽紋、黒餅紋、三椏紋、菊紋、桐紋という5つの家紋がありました。

The pattern on the end of each roof tile is one of the family crest of the Kinoshita Clan. The pattern represents a plant called “omodaka”, or three leaf arrowhead in English. The “omodaka” crest was used by many samurai families. Its leaf head looks like an arrowhead, so it was regarded as a symbol of winning wars. The Kinoshita Clan had five more crests. Having more than one family crests was common among noble Japanese families.

Family crests have been used in Japan for more than a thousand years, originally only by noble families for identification. Now, almost every family has a crest, and they are used on special ceremonial occasions. People kept creating their own designs, so there are more than 5,000 motifs of flowers, plants, animals, tools, and abstract symbols.



大さざんか(11・12月)  
sasanqua camellia (November and December)



6

ち どう かん  
致道館  
Chidokan



この建物は致道館と言います。日出藩15代木下俊程侯が江戸時代の末期1858年に建てた藩校です。藩校は各藩の藩士の子弟等の教育のための学校で、1860年代に全国で255の藩校がありました。

この藩校「致道館」では、武士の子弟だけでなく、医者や庄屋の子息、神官や僧侶を目指す子ども達が勉強しました。生徒は5クラスに分かれ約250名が学びました。成績の上位50名は、この校舎の2階で寮生活を送りました。学科は、中国の古書、和学、習字、漢文、詩文、算術、天文、地理、歴史などに加え兵学など多くの学問が教えられるとともに、健康づくりや礼儀作法も大切にされました。

大分県に現存する藩校の建物はこの致道館だけで、大分県の文化財に指定されています。

These old wooden structures were the main building of Hiji's "han" school and its gate. They were built in the middle of the 19th century (1858), about 160 years ago. A "han" school was a school which was built by the domain government to educate children of the samurai elite during the Edo Period (1600-1868). By the 1860s there were 255 "han" schools in Japan. This "han" school was called Chido-kan, and it means "school for attaining the way."

Chido-kan accepted not only children of the samurai class but of other social classes. Its students included children of medical doctors and village headmen, and those who wanted to be Buddhist priests or Shinto priests.

Chido-kan is the only "han" school building in Oita Prefecture which still remains. It was renovated in 2015.

7

ひとばしらほこら  
人柱祠

Hitobashira Hokora



この社は、人柱祠と言います。1960(昭和35)年頃、この場所で木製の桶が発見され、その中には人骨が入っていました。この場所は、本丸の南西の隅(裏鬼門)にあたるため、築城の際、生贄の人柱が建てられたのではないかとされています。

This small stone structure is a shrine called "Hitobashira Hokora." Hitobashira Hokora literally means "human sacrifice shrine".

In 1960, a wooden barrel-like coffin was unearthed on this site. It contained human bones. It was presumed that the man in the coffin was a human sacrifice who was buried as an offering in the southwest corner of the castle's main compound when the castle was built.

The directions of southwest and northeast were regarded as bad luck directions in the traditional Japanese feng shui. In order to prevent bad luck from entering through bad luck directions, various measures were taken in town planning and castle building. Offering a human sacrifice was one of the measures. However, often symbols of people were offered. It was extremely unusual that a man was actually offered. In memory of the poor man, this shrine was constructed.

8

ようこくいなり  
暘谷稲荷

Yokoku Inari Shrine



これは暘谷稲荷です。この神社は、17世紀の中頃に木下家の2代目木下俊治によって建てられました。暘谷稲荷神社の言伝えによると、日出城の洞穴に住んでいたキツネが木下家の危機を救ったとのこと。

This is a shrine of the "Inari" faith. Inari is one of the major gods of Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion. In Shinto, Inari is believed to be a god of agriculture, industries and warriors. Inari shrines usually have red "torii" gates and white fox images. Foxes are believed to be messengers of Inari gods.

This shrine was built by the second lord of Hiji, Kinoshita Toshiharu, in the middle of the 17th century. Traditions of the Yokoku Inari Shrine say that a fox which lived in a cave in Hiji Castle saved the Kinoshita clan from a family crisis.



9

## 田吹繁子先生の歌碑

Monument of Tanka by  
Tabuki Shigeko



これは、田吹繁子の歌碑です。

「湯けむりの たちのぼる町 近く見え 城下の海 蒼くすみたり」と書かれています。

田吹繁子は、大分県朝地町出身の20世紀はじめの歌人で、1974(昭和49)年から数年間、日出町で短歌を教えました。

この歌碑は、彼女の門人達によって1982(昭和57)年に建てられました。

On this stone monument, a Tanka composed by Tabuki Shigeko is inscribed. Tanka is one traditional style of Japanese poetry. It consists of five lines of 5, 7, 5, 7, and 7 syllables, respectively. Its English translation reads, "The town where hot spring steam rises is seen so close by, and the sea under the castle is so clear and blue."

Tabuki Shigeko was a 20th century Tanka poet from Oita Prefecture. She taught Tanka composition in Hiji for several years beginning in 1974. This monument was built by her former students in 1981.



つわぶき(11・12月)  
leopard plant (November and December)

10

## 航空母艦「海鷹の碑」

Monument of Aircraft Carrier Kaiyo



こちらは、航空母艦海鷹の碑です。この碑は、海鷹の乗組員により、第2次世界大戦中に犠牲になった仲間の乗組員の追悼のため、また、恒久平和を祈念して建てられた慰霊碑です。

海鷹はもともと南米航路の客船アルゼンチナ丸として建造されました。しかし、太平洋戦争勃発後護衛艦に改造され、海鷹と改名され、輸送艦、護衛艦、訓練標的艦として用いられました。

海鷹が空爆や触雷により破損したため、日出沖に係留中、1945(昭和20)年7月28日、アメリカ軍の空爆を受けました。この攻撃により、約580名の乗組員のうち6名が戦死、40名が負傷しました。

This is a monument to the Kaiyo, a Japanese aircraft carrier. This monument was erected by her former crew in 1982 in commemoration of their fellow crew members who were killed during World War II and as a prayer for the everlasting peace. Kaiyo means "sea hawk."

Originally she was built as an ocean liner between Japan and South America. But after World War II broke out, she was changed into an escort carrier. The ship was used as an aircraft transport, escort carrier, and training ship.

While Kaiyo was moored off Hiji, because it was seriously damaged by air strikes and hitting mines, she was hit by an American air raid on July 28, 1945. During this attack, 6 members out of her 580 person crew were killed.



水仙(1・2・3月)  
narcissus (January - March)



11

たかはまきよし たかぎはるこ  
高浜虚子と高木晴子の  
親子句碑

Stone Monuments of Haiku by  
Takahama Kyoshi and Takagi Haruko



この2基の石碑は、高浜虚子親子の句碑です。向かって右の石碑には、虚子の句、「海中に真清水わきて魚育つ」が書かれています。これは、1920(大正9)年に、日出町の句友に招かれて日出に来たおりに、虚子が詠んだ俳句の中にあつたものです。この句碑は、1952(昭和27)年に建てられました。

向かって左の句碑には、虚子の娘高木晴子の詠んだ俳句が書かれています。彼女は、全国の虚子の句碑を巡る途中、1979(昭和54)年に日出を訪れました。そのおりに、詠んだ句です。「早紅葉やその真清水を汲むとせん」この句碑は、1982(昭和57)年に建てられました。

Here, we can see two stone monuments. On each of them, a haiku poem is written. Haiku is a traditional Japanese short poem. It is made of 3 lines with the lines having 5, 7, 5 syllables and usually has a theme about nature.

The haiku on the right stone was written by a famous haiku poet from early 20th century Japan, Takahama Kyoshi. This poem means "In the sea, fresh water gushes out, which nurtures fish." He wrote this poem in 1920, when he was invited to Hiji by a group of amateur haiku poets. This monument was built in 1952.

On the other monument, a haiku by Kyoshi's daughter is written. Her name is Takagi Haruko. She came to Hiji in 1979, during her tour visiting Kyoshi's haiku monuments in Japan. Her poem means "Early autumnal leaves, floating on the sea, as if to scoop fresh water." This monument was built in 1982.



Making poem monuments has been a popular practice for centuries in Japan.

12

あ の う づ  
日出城の石垣「穴太積み」  
Castle Stone Walls



日出城は初代藩主木下延俊が1601年秋から約1年をかけて築城されたと言われていています。この石垣は、創建当時のもので、400年経っています。石垣は義理の兄の細川忠興の家臣で築城の石積み名人の穴太理右衛門が、70人の石工人夫を指揮して野面積みの一種穴太積みで築いたとされています。

These stone walls are original and about 400 years old. They were constructed using natural stones without any adhesive, such as mortar.

Large stones of different sizes were fitted together, and small cobblestones were filled in behind them. In this way, strong stone walls were built, which could withstand even severe earthquakes.

It is said that this method to make stone walls was developed by a group of stonemasons called "Ano-shu" in the 16th century. Many Japanese castle walls were made by "Ano-shu" stonemasons in the early 17th century.

Hiji Castle stone walls were also made by "Ano-shu" stonemasons between 1601 and 1602.

13

こ だ さぶろう  
小田三郎先生の碑

Monument in Memory of Mr. Koda Saburo



この碑には、「小田三郎先生を偲ぶ」と書かれています。小田先生は、太平洋戦争の時、この日出小学校で教員をしていました。

1945(昭和20)年7月28日の朝、小田先生と児童達は小学校の畑で農作業をしていました。その時、アメリカ軍の空襲がありました。小田先生は子ども達を近くの防空壕に避難誘導しました。子ども達全員の安全を確認し、先生も入ろうとしたとき、入り口で腹部に被弾し、まもなく亡くなりました。37才の生涯でした。

この碑は、1974(昭和49)年に当時の教え子達により、小田先生を偲んで建てられた慰霊碑です。

This stone monument was erected in memory of a teacher named Koda Saburo in 1974. The Japanese words on the monument say, "In memory of Mr. Koda Saburo."

Mr. Koda was killed in an air raid during World War II after saving his students' lives. So, his former students had this monument built in his honor.

Toward the end of World War II, there were several air raids by American warplanes in this region. During the war, Japan had a severe shortage of food, so people used even school grounds as vegetable farms. On the morning of July 28, 1945, Mr. Koda and his schoolchildren were working on the Hiji Elementary School farm. There was another air raid. Mr. Koda led the children to the nearby air raid shelter. After he made sure that all his students were safe in the shelter, he started to enter. He was shot in the stomach and died soon after that. He was 37 years old.



14

げんろく じしょう

## 元禄の時鐘

300 Year Old Bell



この鐘は300年以上前に造られたものです。当時は時計の役目をしていました。響きを良くするために、鑄造する際に金を加えられたと言われています。

第2次世界大戦中、日本は資源不足が深刻で、金物を供出させられました。鐘を含めて、多くの金物が全国から集められました。けれども、幸いなことに、この鐘は供出を免れました。

現在、日出小学校の児童たちが毎朝8時にこの鐘をついています。

This bronze bell is more than 300 years old. What do you think this bell was originally made for? It was to tell the time. So, this bell used to serve as a clock. It was said that gold was added in casting the bell in order to make the sound better.

During World War II, the government required that all metal products be given to the government. So, many metal products, including bells, were collected from around the country. But, fortunately this bell survived.

Now, at 8 o' clock every morning, the children of Hiji Elementary School take turns in striking this bell.



15

にと べいなざう

## 新渡戸稲造と東洋のナポリ

Nitobe Inazo



別府はかつて「東洋のナポリ」と呼ばれました。最初にこの比喩を用いたのは、「武士道」の著者である新渡戸稲造です。

1931(昭和6)年、彼は別府に2か月間滞在しました。別府に滞在中、日出を訪れ、日出城址近くにあった料亭で城下かれいを食しました。彼は城址からの別府湾の眺めを絶賛し、別府を「東洋のナポリ」と称しました。

彼は、日本がますます軍国主義に傾いていることを批判し、軍当局の怒りを買ひ、逃れるために別府に来ていたのです。

Beppu once was dubbed “the Naples of the East.” The person who first used this comparison was Nitobe Inazo, the author of “Bushido.” He stayed in Beppu for about two months around 1931. During his stay in Beppu, he visited Hiji and had a shiroshita-karei dinner at a restaurant located near the castle site. He admired the views of Beppu Bay from the castle site and said that the views were just like Naples and dubbed Beppu “the Naples of the East.”

Why was he visiting Beppu? Because he wanted to get away from the Japanese military authorities. He had provoked their hostility by criticizing Japan's increasing militarism.

16

しろした

## 城下カレイ

Shiroshita-karei



城下カレイは、日出城址の下の海に住むマコカレイのことです。

日出城の近くの海には、ところどころ真水が湧いており、その周りには海水と真水に住むプランクトンが生息しています。これらのプランクトンを食べるカレイは、他地域のカレイに比べて、繊細な味で、泥臭さがありません。

城下カレイは昔から日出地域の名物とされ、江戸時代には、将軍に献上されていました。毎年5月初めに、カレイ祭りが開かれます。

Shiroshita-karei, which literally means “below-the-castle flounder”, is a local name given to marbled flounder which live in the sea under the Hiji Castle site. In the sea near the castle, there are fresh water springs, and around them both sea water and fresh water plankton live. The flounder which live on those plankton have a light and delicate taste and do not have a muddy odor, unlike flounder in other areas.

Shiroshita-karei has been regarded as a local delicacy for hundreds of years. During the Edo period, it was even dedicated to the Shogun as a tribute. The fish was carried to Edo, present day Tokyo, on a ship which was equipped with a fish preserve.

Now every May, the shiroshita-karei Festival is held in Hiji.



17

てきざんそう  
 的山荘  
 Tekizan-so



この建物は、旧山香町にあった馬上金山の開発によって財をなした成清博愛が、1915(大正4)年に建てたものです。的山荘と言います。「的山」とは「鉱山を当てる」という意味です。この簡素ながら贅を尽くした伝統的日本家屋は、現在は日出町の所有であり、料亭として使われています。建物は、国の重要文化財に指定されています。

この場所は、かつては日出城内(三の丸)にありました。博愛は、この地域一帯を購入し、そこに自宅や社員のための社宅を建てました。

庭園は、別府湾や高崎山を借景とした日本庭園で、国の登録記念物となっています。表門からの的山荘の玄関までの石畳の道に沿って、天皇皇后をはじめ皇室の方々が来られた際に植えられた木々が並んでいます。

Tekizan-so, a well-known Japanese restaurant in Hiji, was originally built by a gold mine owner, Narikiyo Hiroe, as his family residence in 1915. This simple but luxurious traditional Japanese-style house, now owned by the town of Hiji, is designated as an important cultural asset by the national government.

The site of Tekizan-so used to be part of Hiji Castle. Narikiyo Hiroe, who made a fortune by successfully developing a gold mine, which was located in a town called Yamaga, a neighboring town of Hiji, purchased an extensive area east of the main castle ground for his residence as well as for his company employees' houses.

In fact, "Tekizan" literally means "to discover a mine" and "so" means a villa. Tekizan-so has a good view of Beppu Bay. In its garden design, Beppu Bay and Mt. Takasaki are used as "borrowed scenery."

Along the paved road from the main gate to the entrance of this restaurant, there are trees which were planted by imperial family members, including the current Emperor and Empress, for it used to be visited by them.

18

こて  
 鏝 絵

Plaster Art "Kote-e"



このレリーフは、「鏝絵」です。日本には約3,000点の鏝絵がありますが、そのうち、約1,000点が大分県にあります。日出町には、30点があります。

鏝絵は、静岡県の入江長八という左官職人が、江戸末期から明治にかけて大成させたしゅくいのレリーフです。鏝絵を日出に紹介したのは、青柳鯉市という地元の左官職人です。彼は鏝絵の技術を入江長八から学び、大分県の他の左官職人に伝えました。

鏝絵は、妻壁や雨戸に多く作られています。鏝絵の図柄は、ふつう吉兆のシンボルです。たとえば、鶴、亀、七福神、うさぎ、鯉、竜などです。

These reliefs on the wall are art works called "kote-e" in Japanese. Kote-e is Japan's traditional plaster art. It literally means "trowel painting". Kote-e is made on a wall by plasterers using trowels. About 3,000 pieces of Kote-e are found in Japan. Of those, about 1,000 are in Oita Prefecture. In Hiji, there are 30 pieces.

Plaster reliefs were made popular by a plasterer named Irie Chohachi from Shizuoka Prefecture in the early 19th century. Kote-e was introduced into Hiji by a local plasterer named Aoyagi Koiichi. He learned plaster art from Irie Chohachi, and spread the skill to other plasterers in Oita Prefecture.

Kote-e works were often made on a gable or a shutter box. Its motifs were usually good-luck symbols, such as cranes, tortoises, gods of good fortune, rabbits, carp, and dragons.