

MINNIBARAKI

Our Forty-second Year

Minneapolis Ibaraki Sister City Association



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Light and Dark

Carol Austermann

Ancient civilizations built bonfires during long winter nights to brighten their dark world. We have electricity to light up our dark world. Even objects that look like candles, wax and flame, are powered by batteries.

Many people continue to power their Christmas displays and now add outside areas for winter activities like sledding, skiing and skating.

Lights are strung on front porches. While children build snowman in front yards, adults grab a beverage of choice and watch from porches.

To the delight of children mythical animals may appear. Many homes look like ginger bread houses outlined in lights.

Ski trails are outlined in white and colored lights. Day and night these lights brighten the world around us and wish everyone a "Happy New Year", the year of the rabbit.

Friends of the Bell of Two Friends

Diamond Friends

*Bill Deef
Michael Rainville
Karl Reinhard*

Platinum Friends

*Jack Sattel and Karen Sontag Sattel
Mary Witkus & Werner Kohler*

Gold Friends

Jessica Manivasager

Silver Friends

*Richard & Marie-Rose Lundgren
Dan Rolf*

Bronze Friends

*Carol Austermann
Sharon Balke
Carter Clapsadle & Julia Baugnet
Richard Kathrine Fournier
Mirja Hanson
Cynthia & Brian Haskell
Jim & Reiko Hoffman
Brenda Langton & Tim Kane
Helene Monsour
Doug & Addona Rivord
James & Norma Solstad
Claire & Paul Spilseth
Richard & Carol Stahl
Vernon Wettternach*

Greeting from IFAI

On October 30th, Ibaraki City held an English Speech Contest for junior and senior high school students.

Due to the influence of Covid-19, it was held for the first time in three years.

16 junior high school students participated and recite the assignment "A glass of milk".

5 high school students participated and recited a free theme that they thought up.

The content of the junior high school students' assignments was heartwarming, and the audience was deeply moved.

The theme of the winning student's speech in the high school division was "The Power of Multilingualism."

The winning students in each division received a wonderful trophy from the City of Minneapolis.

The winner commented "I am very happy to win because the trophy is shining brightly. I will continue to study English hard."

Thank you for providing such a wonderful trophy.



Student who won the Junior High School Division



Student who won the High School Division



Thank you to all who donated to MISCA through the Give to the MAX program last November!

We were able to raise over \$1000 to help fund our programs for the coming year and to also add to our fund for future repairs to the Bell of Two Friends on Nicollet Island.

Upcoming programs and events:

Haiku Contest Awards Ceremony – Sunday, April 23, 2023
Downtown Library – Pohlad Auditorium

Cherry Tree Festival – May 2023

Sister Cities Day – July 2023

Holidazzle - 2022

MISCA again was able to present at the Holidazzle festivities in Loring Park on Saturday, December 17 from noon to 3 pm. This year we had a table in the beer tent/warming house. This was much warmer than the tent we had outside the previous year.

Many people were in the tent – although most of them were more interested in the Vikings football game that was on the two large screen televisions.

However, we did have children and adults stop by our table. Here they were able to learn how to make an origami Christmas tree or try their hand at the chopstick game – moving beans from one plate to another only using chopsticks. Winners received chocolate Pocky Sticks as a prize. Also, Karen Kersting was able to tell two *kamishibai* stories for the children and adults who stopped by.



The Zen Box dining room is now open! A portion of the dining room is set aside for walk ins; seating here is first come first served. Zen Box is still offering takeout delivery and is open Tuesday through Thursday from 5:00 – 9 p.m. and Friday through Saturday from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m.

MINNIBARAKI – Past Issues

Looking for some information from a past issue of MINNIBARAKI?

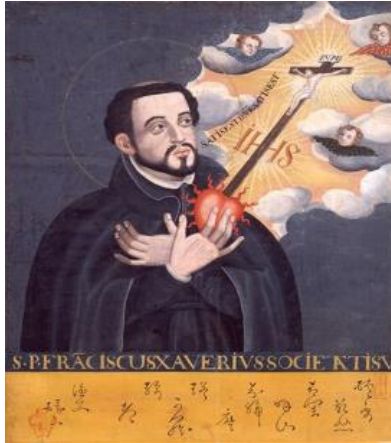
All past and current issues of MINNIBARAKI can be found at the following link (copy and paste into your browser):

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/16FIWH9sgFta1MN8wHlQ1eCFand3iAON8?usp=sharing>

Explore Ibaraki (Part 2) - IIN

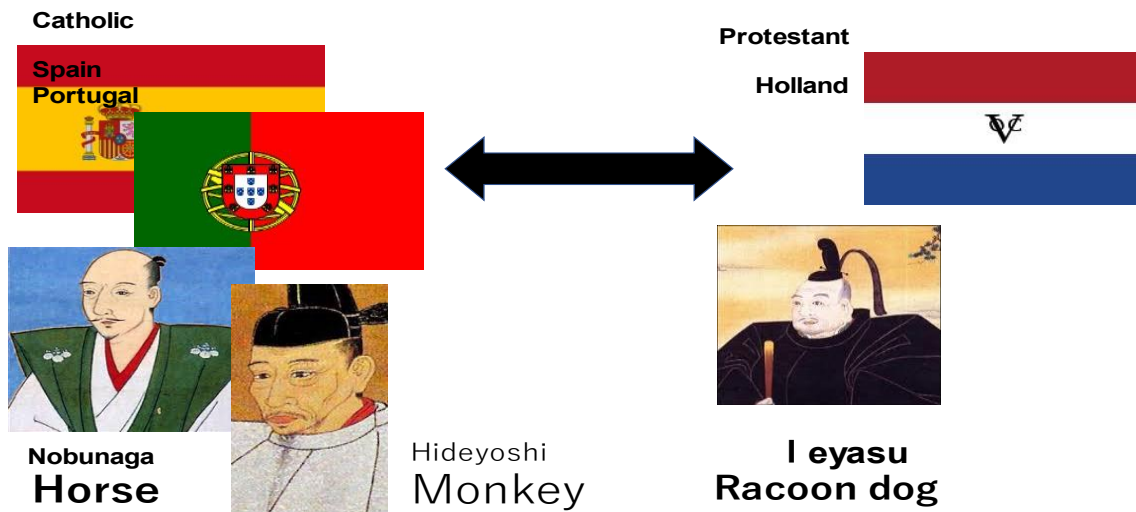
In the northern part of Ibaraki, there is an area called “Hidden Christian Village.”

What is “Hidden Christian Village”? Why did they have to hide their faith? How is the area now? We hope you will have an interest in that area.



In 1549, Christianity was introduced to Japan by Xavier a Jesuit Missionary.

War-lords like Nobunaga and Hideyoshi allowed Spain and Portugal to disseminate the old Christianity or Catholicism in exchange for weapons. On the other hand, Holland, newly-independent from Spain, believed in Protestantism and supported Tokugawa. Tokugawa banned Christianity because the Shogunate was afraid of their power, however, Ieyasu allowed Holland only trade to get cannons for the last war in the 16th Century.



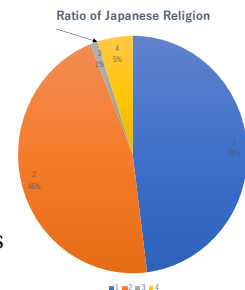
The Christians account for 37% of the population in the world, followed by Muslim. What is the ratio in Japan?

The ratio of Christianity is very low. The Meiji government forced Shintoism as a state religion and people remembered the severe persecution of Christianity in the Edo period.

Ratio of Japanese religion

Christians
1%

2. Buddhists



1. Shintoism

2. The persecution of Christians in the Edo period.

In the 17th C., warlords felt threatened because of the growing power of Christianity. So, the Tokugawa Shogunate used Fumie as a test to identify if people were Christians.

Fumie is a small bronze tablet with the image of Jesus Christ on the cross or the Virgin Mary displayed on it.

If someone stepped on the Fumie, it demonstrated that the person was not a Christian because a Christian never stepped on the image of Jesus or Mary. The reason was the policy in the Tokugawa period to find hidden Christians and wipe out Christianity in Japan. Fumie began in 1628.

During the 17th-19th centuries, lords used bulletin boards called Takafuda at the entrance or center of the village to tell people of rules, regulations, laws, and news. If a person broke the rules, he was considered the worst kind of criminal, and both he and his family were sentenced to heavy punishment, often including the death penalty.

On the Takafuda, you could read notices that stated if one found a missionary or Christian and informed the officials, one would receive 500 silver coins which are worth 3.5 million dollars today. If a person broke the rules, he was considered the worst kind of criminal, and both he and his family were sentenced to heavy punishment, often including the death penalty. But gradually, many Christians began hiding their faith and pretending to adopt Buddhism. Fumie gradually became an annual celebratory event but continued as a cultural event.

For this reason, Fumie lost its original utility as a method of finding Christians because Christians were willing to step on it to save their lives.

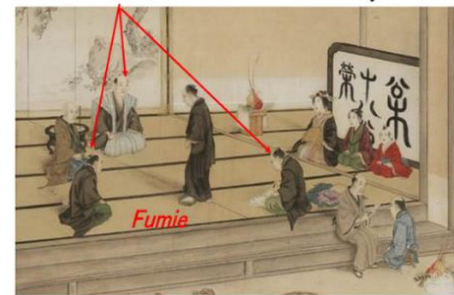
The act of Fumie was abolished in 1858. In 1873, the persecution of Christians shrank, aided by removing these bulletin boards.

The persecution of Christians in the Edo period

What is Fumie?



A man stepping on the Fumie, officials observe him carefully



Bulletin Board



Rewards

- 500 pieces of silver (\$ 3.5million)
: information of a Padre or Father
- 300 pieces of silver (\$2.1million)
: information of a monk

Maruyama Geisha competed in gorgeous kimonos on New Year days



Gradually Fumie lost its original meaning

3. Ukon Takayama, Christian Feudal Lord

Ukon Takayama first met Christianity at the age of 12 in 1564, when he was moved by the sermons of Lorenzo, a Jesuit Pastor, and was baptized at *Sawa Castle* in Nara Prefecture at the urging of his father.

Ukon Takayama succeeded his father as lord of *Takatsuki* 40,000-goku castle in 1573. *Ukon* built more than 20 churches and devoted time developing the castle town.

It is said that at that time, more than 70% of the population of 25,000 were Christians.

After the rebellion of *Murashige Araki* (1578) *Ukon* was given the territory of *Ninchoji Gokasho* by *Nobunaga Oda* for his achievements. *Sen'daiji* and *Simo-otowa* were also included in this area.

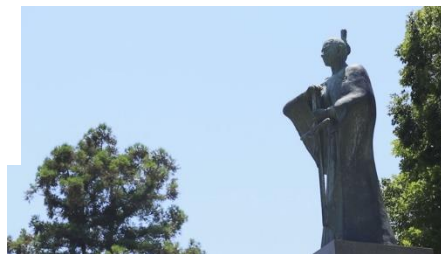
He led many warlords to Christianity, including *Kanbee Kuroda*, *Yukinaga Konishi*, *Toshisada Monomura*. *Tadaoki Hosokawa* and *Toshiie Maeda* were not baptized to Christian but favorable to faith because of his influence.

In addition, he is highly educated as a famous castle person who is said to be a master castle architect who was involved in the design of *Takaoka Castle* and *Kanazawa Castle*, and in the world of tea, he is counted as one of *Sen no Rikyu's* disciples "The seven disciples of *Rikyu*"

Even though he was persecuted many times, such as *Hidetoshi Toyotomi's* sudden ban on Bateria and *Ieyasu's* expulsion from the country, *Ukon* never gave up on being a Christian.

Sen no Rikyu also encouraged *Ukon* to convert, but *Ukon* stubbornly refused to give up his faith,

However, in 1587, when *Hideyoshi Toyotomi* issued "the Edict expelling Jesuit missionaries", he did not renounce his Christian faith, so he was expelled from the village. After that, he was invited by *Toshiie Maeda* of Kaga clan and spent 26 years there.



4. Takayama UKON in the KAGA domain

After leaving Takatsuki castle, UKON gave up his position as a feudal lord and came to the KAGA clan. Kanazawa catholic church stands on the ruins of UKON's mansion.



Traces of Hidden Christians at HONGYOJI temple in NANAJO city.

The KAGA clan increased the number of believers by combining trade and Christianity. Under the shogunate's ban on Christianity, UKON built a monastery and Zeus tower in precinct of this temple for MAEDA family, vassals, and Christian believers. And he made a base for spreading Western knowledge such as religion, medicine, and architecture. The hidden Christian Buddha is still famous. When Christians pray, they spread his hands. At that moment the cross appears on his chest. There are many relics related to Christianity.

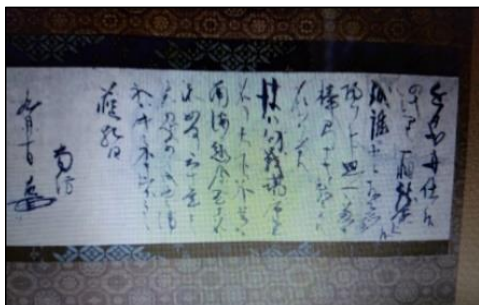


UKON banished to MANILA

He was in the KAGA clan for 26 years.

In 1613, he was banished to MANILA due to the shogunate's ban Christianity. He died the year after that. When leaving HONGYOJI temple, he left a letter of farewell to Japan.

In 2016, the year after the four hundredth anniversary of his death, UKON was beautified by the Vatican as a Catholic martyr.



UKON's statue in an old Japanese village in MANILA

5. Christian Relics Depository



In Sendaiji, the northern part of Ibaraki, 10 families of hidden Christians lived under persecution of Christians. This depository exhibits nearly 70 Christian relics that were secretly preserved for 300 years in those families.

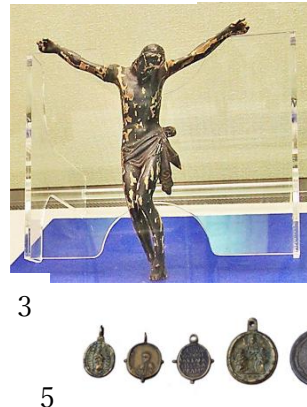
The depository was built in 1987.



This wooden chest was hidden behind a ceiling beam of a Christians' house. For generations, only the first son of the family was informed of its existence along with the order that it should never be opened.

In spite of the hesitation of the hidden Christians' descendants, who feared breaking the family rules, scholars ventured to open this box in 1919, to find many Christian relics packed in it.

The followings are examples of the relics exhibited in the depository.



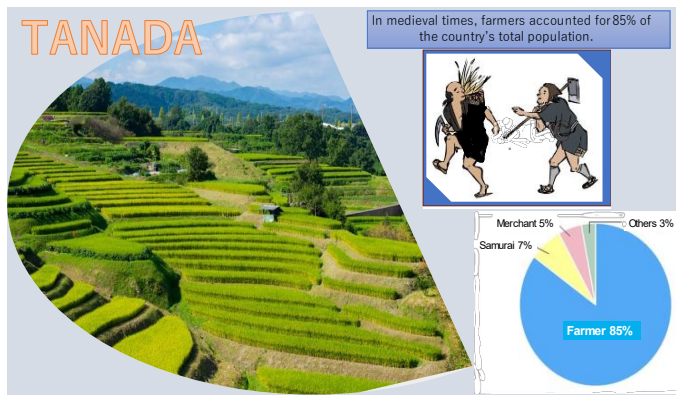
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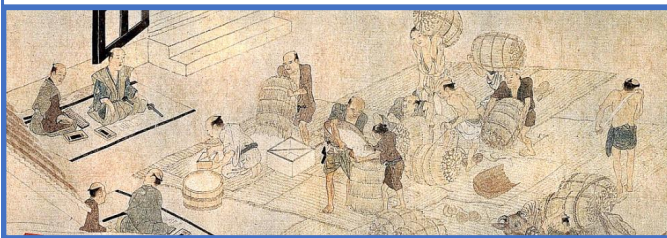
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- 1) Portrait of Francisco Xavier: This portrait is a symbol of introduction of Christianity. Every Japanese history textbook shows this portrait.
- 2) Fifteen Mysteries of Virgin Mary: It shows Virgin Mary's life with joy, with suffering, and with glory. It helped people learn and transmit their faith.
- 3) Wooden statue of Jesus: This statue was packed in a small columnar container. Hands of the statue were taken apart in the container.
- 4) Textbook: This teaches Christian's prayers, rituals, and behavioral principles. Under the ban of Christianity, this textbook was a manual to keep their customs as Christians.
- 5) Medals: These accessories were mental supports for hidden Christians under persecution.

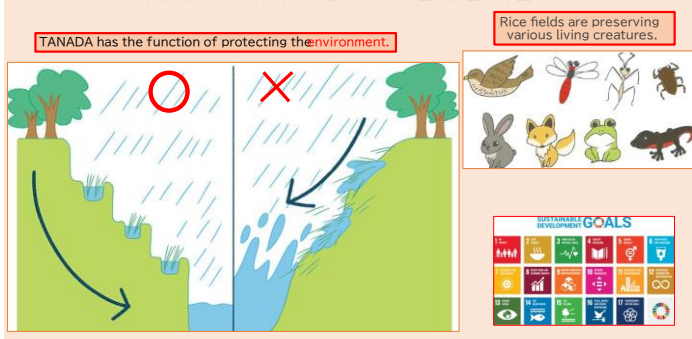
6. Tanada, Original scenery of Japan



This picture shows farmers measuring rice and paying taxes in front of the officials.



Good points of TANADA!



Rice paddies built on the slopes of mountains are called "TANADA" in Japanese and are very ordinary landscapes in Japan. "TANA" means terrace and "Da" means rice field.

By the mid -17th century, when there were no civil wars, the population was growing, then more food was needed. However, Japan is a mountainous country with little arable land, so rice paddies were being built on the slopes of mountains.

In those days, the population of farmers accounted for about 85% of the nation's population.

Rice was treated as a valuable financial resource and served as a way to pay taxes. It was a heavy burden for the farmers. The second picture shows farmers paying taxes by measuring rice in front of the officials.

Autumn brings abundant fruits. Above all, we are filled with great sense of happiness when we eat fresh rice.

Delicious rice is now cooked!

TANADA has the function of protecting the environment. They have great capacity to store rainwater preventing landslides and soil runoff. So, they are called "small dam".

And also, Rice fields preserve and nurture various creatures.

And rice plants absorb carbon dioxide and prevent global warming. This exactly realize the basic philosophy of SDGs!

7. The Ai River Dam and Dam Curry

We'll introduce the history of the Ai River Dam and Dam curry.

The Ai River Dam was finally completed around 50 years after its initial plan.

Based on the concept of "making the area around the dam a new attraction in Ibaraki", the area gives us a lot of fun and healing! They are planning a refreshing space for water and greenery.

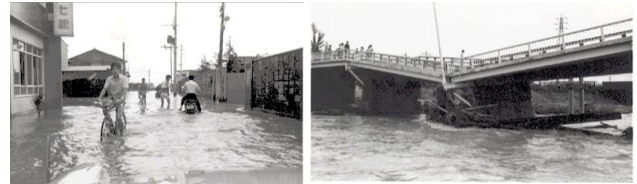
Until now, we have conveyed the charm of the area around the dam through events and dam curry. Dam curry is served at 12 restaurants in the city, and you can enjoy the different tastes at each restaurant.

The Ai River flows through the northern Osaka Prefecture, joins the Kanzaki River, and flows into Osaka Bay. In July 1967 (Showa 42) Torrential rain struck, and the Ai River collapsed near Nonomiya in Ibaraki City. It was severely damaged.

The Ai River Dam was planned as a drastic flood control measure in the Ai River basin in the wake of the heavy rains in the Hokusetsu Torrential rain. However, residents of the submerged area strongly opposed it. It was settled with the provision of alternative housing areas. In 2014 Construction main body started. In 2022 Test flooding has begun. The Ai River Dam is a rare suburban dam in Japan and can be visited in a short time from the urban area. It is attracting attention as a hub base in the northern area of Ibaraki City.

"To the next Ibaraki". This is a message sent out to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the enforcement of Ibaraki city system in 2019 (Heisei 30) "To the next Ibaraki" suggests "next stage of Ibaraki" or "promising Ibaraki."

The phrase on the bottom reads "There is next (次) in Ibaraki (茨木)." How do you like this wordplay?



次なる
茨木へ。



茨木には、次がある。

茨木探訪 Part 2

茨木市北部に「隠れキリシタンの里」と呼ばれる地区があります。

「隠れキリシタンの里とは？」「なぜ彼らは信仰を隠さねばならなかったのか？」

「その地域の現在の様子は？」この地域に関心を持っていただければ嬉しいです。

IIN 野外活動分科会

1. 日本におけるキリスト教の歴史

1549年イエズス会 F.ザビエルが日本にキリスト教を伝えました。

織田信長や豊臣秀吉は武器との交換条件で スペインとポルトガルに対して旧教カトリック教の普及活動を許可しました。一方、スペインから独立したばかりのオランダは新教プロテスタント教であり、徳川家を支えました。徳川家はキリスト教の勢力を恐れてキリスト教を禁じました。しかし家康は16世紀戦国時代の最終戦に備え大砲等武器を入手するためオランダに限り、交易を許可しました。

キリスト教徒は世界人口の37%を占め、次にイスラム教が続きます。日本はどうでしょうか？

日本のキリスト教徒の割合は大変低いです。明治政府による神道の国教化への動きと、江戸時代の厳しいキリスト教弾圧が人々の記憶に焼き付いていることが要因と考えられます。

2. 江戸時代のキリスト教弾圧

17世紀、戦国武将たちはキリスト教の勢力拡大に脅威を感じていました。

そこで、徳川幕府は、人々がキリシタンであるかどうかを見分けるため、「踏絵」を使用したのです。

踏絵とは、十字架上のイエス・キリストや聖母マリアの像が描かれた小さな銅板のことです。

キリシタンはイエスやマリアの像を踏まないで、踏絵を踏めばその人はキリシタンではないことが証明されました。徳川時代に隠れキリシタンを見つけて、日本からキリスト教を一掃しようという政策で、1628年に始まったのです。

17世紀から19世紀にかけて、領主は村の入り口や中心部に高札と呼ばれる掲示板を置き、規則、規制、法律、ニュースなどを伝えました。

規則を破った者は大罪人とみなされ、本人も家族も重い罰を受け、死刑になることもありました。

高札には、宣教師やキリスト教徒を発見して役人に知らせると、現在 350 万円の価値がある銀貨 500 枚がもらえるというようなことが書かれていました。もし、この規則を破れば、大罪人とみなされ、本人も家族も死刑を含む重い処分を受けることになりました。しかし、次第に多くのキリスト教徒が信仰を隠し、仏教を取り入れたふりをするようになり、踏絵は次第に年中行事となったが、文化的な行事としては継続されました。

そのため、キリシタンを見つける手段としての役割を失い、キリシタンは自分の命を守るためなら踏絵を踏んでしまうようになりました。

1858 年、踏絵は廃止された。1873 年、この高札の撤去も手伝って、キリシタン迫害は縮小していきました。

3. キリシタン 大名 高山右近について

高山右近がキリスト教徒に出合ったのは永禄 7 年「1564 年」12 歳の時イエズス会員牧師の

ロレンソの説教に感動して、父の勧めで奈良県の沢城で受洗し、「ジェスト」という洗礼名を受けました。

高山右近は天正元(1573)年 21 歳の時に父の跡を継いで高槻四万石の城主となり、城下町を整備する一方 20 を超える教会を建設し、布教に力を尽くしました。

当時人口 25000 人のうち 7 割強がキリスト教信者であったと言われています。

右近は荒木村重の謀反(1578)の後鎮圧したその功に対して、織田信長より忍頂寺五個荘の地域が領域に与えられた。この中に千提寺や下音羽が入っていました。

彼は黒田官兵衛、小西行長、物村利貞ら多くの武將をキリスト教に導き、細川忠興、前田利家も洗礼は受けませんが、彼の影響で、キリシタンに好意的でした。

又高岡城や金沢城の設計に関わった名築城家と言われた他、文化人としての教養も高く、茶の世界では千利休の弟子、「利休七哲」(千利休の弟子の中でも優れた茶人)の一人に数えられています。

豊臣秀吉からの突然のバテレンの禁止令、家康からの国外追放令と何度も迫害を受けながらも右近はキリシタンである事をやめようとしませんでした。

千利休も右近の身を案じて改宗を勧めましたが、それでも右近は頑なに信仰を捨てませんでした。

しかし 1587 年の豊臣秀吉による「バテレン追放令」発布の時、キリスト教の信仰を捨てなかった為除村、追放されていますが、その後前田利家に招かれて 3 石与えられ 26 年間過ごしています。

4. 加賀藩の高山右近

高槻城を出た後、右近は藩主の地位を放棄し、加賀藩に住まいを移しました。金沢カトリック教会は、右近の邸宅跡地に立っています。

七尾市の本行寺に残された隠れキリシタンの痕跡

加賀藩は貿易とキリスト教を組み合わせることで信者を増やしました。幕府のキリスト教禁止令の下、右近はこの寺院の境内に前田家、家臣、キリスト教信者のため修道院とゼウス塔を建てました。そして、宗教、医学、建築など西洋の知識を広めるための拠点を作りました。

「隠れキリシタン秘仏」は今も有名です。クリスチャンが祈るときは秘仏の手を広げます。すると秘仏の胸に十字架が現れます。他にもキリスト教に関連する多くの遺物があります。

右近のマニラ追放

彼は加賀藩に26年間滞在しましたが、1613年幕府のキリスト教禁止によりマニラに追放されました。彼はその翌年に亡くなりました。本行寺を去る際、日本に別れの手紙を残しています。

マニラの古い日本人村に建てられた右近像

彼の死後400周年の翌年2016年に右近はカトリックの殉教者としてバチカンによって福音に認定されました。

5. キリシタン遺物史料館

茨木市北部の千提寺地区では10家族がキリスト教迫害の時代を隠れキリシタンとして生活していました。この史料館はこれら信者の家族が密かに伝えてきた70近くの遺物を展示しています。この史料館は1987年に建てられました。

この木の櫃はある家の天井の梁に隠されていました。何世代もの間、一家の長子だけが『開けることを禁ず』の命と共にその存在を知らされました。

隠れキリシタンの子孫たちは家訓を破ることを恐れ、櫃を開けることをためらいましたが、学者たちは1919年に「開けずの櫃」を開き、中に多くのキリシタン遺物を発見しました。

史料館で展示されている遺物の一部を紹介します。

1) フランシスコザビエル肖像画：キリスト教伝来の象徴。日本の歴史教科書に必ず載っています。

- 2) マリア十五玄義図：聖母マリアの喜び、苦しみ、栄光を描写。信仰を学び伝える一助となりました。
- 3) 木製キリスト磔刑像：発見時、両手を外した状態で小さな銅筒に入れられていました。
- 4) 切支丹抄物：祈り、儀式、行動原理などの教義本。禁教の時代、信者としての慣習を伝える手引きでた。
- 5) メダイ：これらのメダルは禁教の元にある信者たちの心の支えでした。

6. 棚田、日本の原風景

山の斜面に作られた田んぼは日本語で“棚田”と呼ばれ、日本ではとてもありふれた光景です。“棚とは階段状の”という意味であり、“ダとは田んぼ”という意味です。17世紀半ば、内戦も無く人口が増え、ますます多くの食料を必要としていました。ところが、日本は山がちで耕作地が少なく、どんどん山の斜面に田んぼが作られるようになりました。当時、農民人口は全人口の85パーセントを占めていました。

米は貴重な財源であり、米で税金を納めていました。それは農民にとっては大きな負担となっていました。

二番目の絵は役人の目の前で農民たちが米を測って税金を納めている様子を描いています。

秋は豊かな実りをもたらしてくれます。とりわけ私達は、新米を食べる時、大きな幸福感で満たされるのです。さあ、美味しいご飯が炊きあがりましたよ。

棚田には環境を守るという働きがあります。雨水を溜めて地すべりや土壌の流出を防ぐという大きな能力が棚田にはあります。だから棚田は「小さなダム」と呼ばれています。

また、棚田は様々な生き物を守り育んでいます。そして、稲は二酸化炭素を吸収し、地球温暖化を抑制します。これはまさにSDGsの基本理念を実現しているのです。

7. 安威川ダムとダムカレー

安威川ダムの歴史とダムカレーを紹介します。

安威川ダムは、46年の時を経て遂に完成。「ダム周辺を茨木の新名所に」をコンセプトに、遊びも癒しもいっぱい！水と緑のリフレッシュ空間を計画中。

今まで、ダム周辺の魅力を、イベントやダムカレーで発信してきました。

ダムカレーは、市内12の飲食店で食事が出来、それぞれのお店の味が楽しめます。

安威川は、大阪府北部を流れ、神崎川に合流して 大阪湾に注ぐ河川です。

1967 年（昭和 42 年）7 月 集中豪雨が襲い、安威川は、茨木市野々宮付近で決壊。大被害を受けました

安威川ダムは、北摂豪雨を契機に、安威川流域の抜本的な治水対策として計画されました。

しかし、水没地域の住民は、強硬に反対。代替住宅地の提供で決着しました。

2014 年 本体工事に着手。 2022 年 試験湛水がスタートするに至りました。

安威川ダムは、全国的にも まれな都市近郊型のダムとなり市街地から短時間で訪れることができ、

「茨木市北部地域におけるハブ拠点」として注目されています。

「次なる茨木へ」とは、2018 年（平成 30 年）市制施行 70 周年を記念し発信された市ブランドメッセージです。茨木の未来を見つめるメッセージです。ロゴの下の「茨木には次がある」の言葉遊び、お楽しみ頂けましたでしょうか？

The MINNIBARAKI newsletter is published quarterly (February, May, August and November) by the Minneapolis-Ibaraki Sister City Association.

MINNEAPOLIS IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION

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MINNEAPOLIS- IBARAKI SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION



Upcoming Board Meetings:

March 6 – 6:30 pm Zoom

Board meetings are usually held
via Zoom

If you would like to participate,
please email Karl Reinhard at:

misca.info@gmail.com

Upcoming Events

Haiku Contest

Awards Ceremony

Sunday, April 23 2 pm

Downtown Library

Pohlad Auditorium

Cherry Tree Festival

TBD – A Sunday in May

Please check out or
Facebook page for
additional information