Villages in the Basin of the Ashida River

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The report is divided into the first half ("myō" of the recent times-restoration of place names) and the latter half (restoration of irrigation in the recent times and modern ages). In the first half, the report takes up Io village which was the center of Kuwahara-kata in Ōta-no-shō and attempts are made to restore the place names mentioned in the land survey register of the recent times, i.e., the land survey register of Io village in Kansei period, and to restore "tōmyō" mentioned in the "o-tōmyō" book of Ibara Hachimangu, the village shrine of Io village in the Bunka ~ Kōka periods. This work, at first hand is the restoration of the true picture of the village in the recent times.

As the examples of Nishi-uehara village by the preceding studies show, there are many cases that the names of the recent times inherited the names of the middle ages in some form or other. Through the restoration of place names and other names, considerations are made to the distribution of names, how the trade and commerce were conducted at the market and "watari", and what the shrines, temples and houses were like.

In the latter half, the irrigation customs are restored in the villages on the basin of the Ashida River. Mainly, attempts are made for restoration of the customs mentioned in the survey reports of the Agriculture and Commerce Ministry in Taishō period. Also, the customs of the villages not mentioned in the above survey reports are restored. Investigations are made on the relations, etc. of Sakuwa pond that irrigates Ōta-kata, Hirose sluice that irrigates Nishi-uehara, Yamanokami sluice that irrigates Io Kuwahara, Takagi sluice that irrigates Takagi and Takada (Yorisue), Saibara and Niiya sluices that draw water from the Yatada River and irrigate Honji and Shimotsuya and Kaimura sluice on the other side of the river. Although the complicated irrigation customs in order to distribute water equally were stipulated for these sluices, it is confirmed that in some places there was a difference in strength concerning
the water right. It is thought that such difference occurred when the newly developed lands were discriminated against the existing lands in the process to expand the irrigation channels. Since some of the irrigation facilities having such customs were constructed using a high level of technique and were large-scaled, it is assumed that many of the irrigation facilities in the basin of the Ashida River were expanded in the recent times and modern ages, and thus most of the irrigation facilities constructed in the earlier periods (in the middle ages) were small-scaled.