

Shuinjo(Rakuichi Okirw vermilion-stamped document) issued by Lord Hojo

History of "Boro-ichi"

Boro-ichi is an open air market which was held for the first time 440 years ago, under the name of "Raku-ichi".

In 1578, Lord Ujimasa Hojo of Odawara governing the Kanto area that time, authorized a tax-free market called "Raku-ichi" in Setagaya where the castle town belonged to Lord Kira of Setagaya.

"Raku-ichi" was also called "Rokusai-ichi" as the market was held on the every 1st and 6th of month, six market days a month.

Setagaya was an important waystation along the Soshu-Kaido (Soshu-road) which lay between Edo and Odawara and it was flourished by active interchanges of regional products.

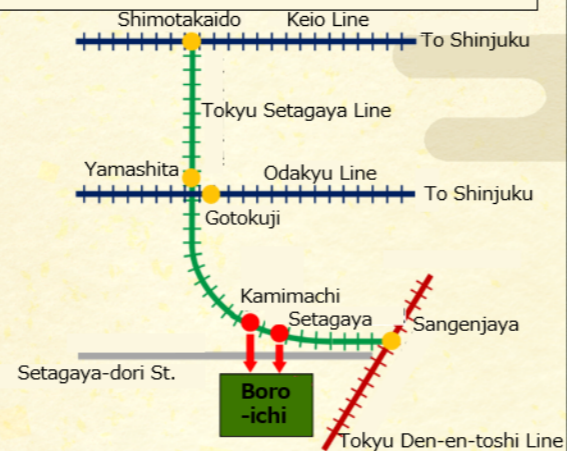
After Odawara Castle fell down and Setagaya Castle was abolished in 1590 and Lord Ieyasu Tokugawa built the Shogunate in Edo, this market lost its liveliness rapidly.

Even when Setagaya lost its function as a waystation, the tradition of this market was kept to provide the needs of neighboring villages, such as used clothes, farming tools and goods used for the New Year, and the market was kept long held on December 15 as the year-end market.

After the Meiji Restoration, this market started to be held on the 15th and 16th of both December and January.

Access

Train : Tokyu Setagaya Line
Setagaya or Kamimachi(3min)
Bus : Tokyu/Odakyu Bus
Setagayaekimae or Kamimachi(1min)



Date : Dec.15th,16th,Jan.15th,16th
Sponser : Boro-ichi Market Preservation Association
Address : 1-23-5,Setagaya,Setagaya-ku
Phone : 03-3439-1108
Supporter : Setagaya City,Community Activities
Division of the Setagaya District
Administration

Setagaya Boro-ichi

世田谷の

ボロ市

草鞋 わらじ

A term known as "Boro-ichi" today was called "Ichimachi" during the Tokugawa Period.

There were stalls selling used rags (boro) and straws to make Japanese style-sandals (waraji).

For farmers, making waraji during the off season was important : it brought them income.

Boro was extremely popular among farmers who wanted craft waraji, because it made them much durable. It was so popular, boro was almost sold out in the morning.

"Boro-ichi" attracted people because it had many different kinds of stalls besides just vendors selling "boro", such as farming tools and daily goods by the middle of the Meiji Era.

In 1990s, there were over 2000 stalls in the market.

However, due to the increased traffic and limited market area, the number of stalls decreased to around 700, and they no longer sold typical market products such as farming tools and used clothes but antiques, foods, toys, accessories, plants, etc instead.

As years have gone by, merchandise at the market have also changed, vintage clothes might be the only item that remain the same since the very beginning. The tradition, is still keeping the market known as "Boro-ichi" very significant in Japanese culture.



Zori

Waraji

About 200,000 people per day, enjoy "Boro-ichi"

Boro-ichi is held on December 15 and 16, and on January 15 and 16 every year, drawing crowds of about 200,000 people per day. From the Edo to the Meiji Era each stall size was about size of a door.

There were stalls selling daily goods, farming tools, goods used for celebrating the New Year, old clothes, sandals, boro, foods, and so on.

Nowadays, there are rows of shops selling practical items, antiques, plants, foods including freshly made rice cake, china wares, etc...



Some of the photos are owned by the Setagaya Musiam of History.

Ichimachi Patrol by the Administrator

In "The Setagaya Kinjiroku Vol.7" (official record), the administrator patrolled to take control and for the safety of Ichimachi once each market since 1795.

Every other year, they patrolled from either, Enkoin Temple to Sakura Elementary School, or from Daikan Yashiki (administrator's residence) to the entrance of Shoinjinja Shrine depending on the market venue.

Administrator's March

Nowadays, this Ichimachi Patrol is held every few years as "Administrator's March" to commemorate how the Boro-ichi started and to celebrate the anniversary of the given Intangible Cultural Asset.



National Important Cultural Property Daikan Yashiki (Setagaya Administrator's Residence of the Edo Period)

In 1633, Lord Iemitsu Tokugawa, the third Shogun of Tokugawa family, granted a part of

the domain of Setagaya to Lord Naotaka Ii of Hikone as a source of revenue for his official residence in Edo.

Lord Ii nominated Ichinojo Oba, who had returned home after Lord Kira, his former master, had been overthrown as the administrator there.

The Oba Family retained their title for 235 years until the Meiji Restoration and used their official residence as both a dwelling and an administrative office.

This official residence with a hipped roof of thatch known as Yosemite Zukuri was rebuilt in 1737. The floor space is about 230m² with an entrance

hall (genkan), an administrative office (yakusho), an ante-room (yakusho-tsuginoma), an administrator's living room (daikan-no-ima), a hara-kiri room (seppuku-no-ma), a village head's office (nanushi-no-tsumesho), and others. In the garden by the side of the residence, there is a sand bar (shirasu) where the administrator interrogated criminals.

