



## 1. St. Aloysius Student Residence: the first residence at Sophia University

From the beginning of Sophia University, there has always been a student dormitory on-campus. The first buildings used as dormitories were the residence that had belonged to Akaboshi Tetsuma and part of the residence that had belonged to Oshima Hisanao. The



This picture shows the former residence of Mister Akaboshi Tetsuma, which served as Sophia's first on-campus student residence.

dormitory life was conducted according to regulations set up by the students themselves, under the direction of some

Jesuit priests. The purpose of the dormitory was to provide opportunities to contribute to the development of each student's character. One of the three founders of Sophia University, Father Henri Boucher, wrote in his diary on April 20, 1913 that the students who have rooms for sleeping in the houses of Akaboshi and Oshima held a residence festival today and that everywhere was filled with the sound of their enthusiastic chattering. Later, in November of that year,



This picture shows the new dormitory called Saint Aloysius Student Residence that was completed in 1932.

Father Joseph Dahlmann wrote in a report to the Jesuit headquarters in Rome that 26 students were living as dorm residents on campus.

When these first dormitories were started, a few students from other universities joined students from Sophia University. If one looks at the name lists of the alumni of Aloysius residence, one will find that a majority of the students attended Sophia University, but there was at least one student from Tokyo Imperial University, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Keio University, Tokyo Keizai University, Nihon University, and Tokyo Institute of Technology. Along with these Japanese students, a few foreign students are also listed: for example, from the University of Bonn and from Cornell University in

New York State.

Because there was some carelessness in the management of the residences, a set of disputes broke out between Sophia students and Tokyo Imperial University students, and between Catholic students and non-Catholic students. As a result, the residences were closed completely for some time. When they were reopened the following year, only Catholic students, especially those who were considering vocations to the priesthood or to religious life, were allowed to enter the dormitories.

In 1925, the former Oshima building was repaired. At that time, there were about thirty students in the dorms. During this period, the Oshima building was known as the south dorm and the old Akaboshi building was called the north dorm. The overall system of student dormitories had been called St. Aloysius Residence, as was recorded on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1920. In a document contained in volume two of the *Collection of Historical Documents Related to Sophia University*, Father Dahlmann explained that the name Saint Aloysius Residence was used for the dormitory at a party to inaugurate a Catholic Students Association involving students from Tokyo Imperial University and Keio University. A year later, in 1926, an article appeared in the *Catholic Times* newspaper with the headline: “Saint Aloysius Student Residence on the Sophia University Campus”.

The construction work for building number 1 began in June of 1930. At about the same time, plans for construction of a new dormitory were advanced; in July of 1932, the



This picture from 1930 shows the dismantling of the former Akaboshi residence, prior to its relocation.

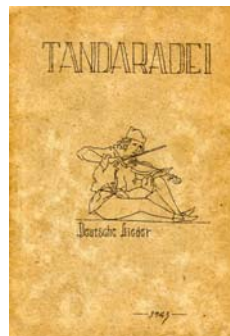
foundation ceremony for this new dormitory was conducted. In order to integrate the plans for this new dormitory with the plans for Building number 1, the architectural drawings of Max Hinder were used. Jesuit Brother Ignatius Gropper supervised the actual construction. The old Akaboshi building was dismantled and moved to a site next to the new school building. From this time, the two student residences had a combined capacity of 40 students. The complex was known as Saint Aloysius Student Residence.

## 2. Living in Saint Aloysius Student Residence

We have an account of life in the residence from Nakajima Sadao, who lived in Saint Aloysius Residence from 1951 until 1955. He reports that students got up at six in the morning and usually served a Mass at either the Kulturheim or at Saint Ignatius Church. From 0730, students had breakfast in the dining room of the new building. The evening meal was available from 1900. Students were not allowed to visit each other's rooms after supper. At 2100, there was a gathering for evening prayer. The students

usually sang a hymn such as *Salve regina coelitum [sic]*. Residence lights were turned out at 2300.

Nakajima continues by explaining that singing in a chorus was a very popular student activity. Every Wednesday evening from 1800, many would gather in the dining room to sing German folk songs or Latin liturgical hymns. The annual dormitory festival was held on the liturgical feast of Saint Aloysius, June 21<sup>st</sup>. Pantomime skits and other events were part of the festival. A group excursion was planned every academic year. In 1948, there was a baseball game against a team of



The residence students often gathered for sing-alongs of German folk music. The 1943 songbook is shown on the left. The picture below was taken during a residence meal, where potato croquettes were often on the menu.

Sophia students who lived in the newly created Kamaboko Housing student residence.

The famous Japanese author Endo Shusaku lived in the Saint Aloysius Residence when he was a student in Sophia's preparatory



We see here the dining room during the Residence Festival in 1951.

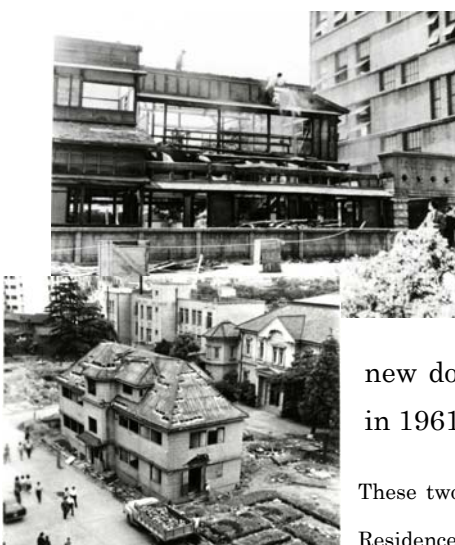


course. The archbishop of Osaka, Ikenaga Jun, and the former Cardinal of Seoul, Kim Sou-hwan in Korean were also Aloysius residents, as was the former president of Japan Airlines, Toshimitsu Matsuo.

### 3. The change from Saint Aloysius Student Residence to the new student dormitory

Saint Aloysius Residence was spared from any damage caused by the Allied bombing raids over Tokyo at the end of the Pacific War. However, a new student dormitory was constructed in 1957, and Aloysius students and students from the Kamaboko House dorm moved together into the new dormitory. The Aloysius Residence buildings were torn down in 1961.

These two pictures show the in-progress demolition of the two parts of the old Aloysius Residence. The above picture is of the former Akaboshi residence, which was taken down in May of 1961. The picture on the right shows the newer part of the Aloysius Residence, taken down in July of 1961.



### The origin of the residence name Aloysius

The name of the Sophia student residence was taken from the first name of a young Jesuit saint, Aloysius Gonzaga (1568-1591). Aloysius can be considered as a model for young men in living a life of faith in God and love of neighbor. Pope Benedict XIII canonized him in 1726. Aloysius was born into a family of Italian nobility in Castiglione, near Mantua. He entered the religious life in a time when the high-class society was quite immoral and decadent, and devoted himself earnestly to a life of love of God and service to others. In 1591, a terrible plague of a disease called the pest spread all over Italy. Aloysius became busy helping to bury the corpses of victims and to care for afflicted patients. He contracted the disease himself and died at the age of 23. The Pope declared him a patron saint of young people. In the annual Catholic calendar of liturgical events, his feast is set for June 21<sup>st</sup>. Every year on that day there is a reunion of graduates who lived in the Aloysius Residence.