

NOTES ON SOME SHRINES DEDICATED TO  
CERTAIN KAMI OR JAPANESE HUMAN  
GODS DURING ACTUAL LIFE TIME :  
MY VIEW VERSUS THAT OF  
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In the T. A. S. J. Dr. Holtom says:—

“There is no evidence that such *kami* ever during actual life-time became the centers of organized cult and received worship at the shrines” (Vol. XLIX, Part II, p. 152. May, 1922).

By this he seems to deny that there exists any single Shintō shrine erected to a special Japanese personage regarded as a *kami* or god while living, even though he is spoken of as a living god (a manifest god). My recent investigation, however, proves quite the contrary, and I have discovered that there are some such shrines here and there in Japan. To cite a few examples out of many:

First, a shrine was erected to Okada Kansens<sup>1</sup> (1740-1816) in 1810, when he was 71 years old, at Kashima<sup>2</sup> village in Tsukuba Gun, Hitachi Province.

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1. 岡田寒泉 . . . . . 2. 鹿島

Second, a shrine of the same kind was erected to Ishikawa-Tadafusa<sup>3</sup> (1755-1836) as a *massha* or shrine attached to the Gozu Tennō Shrine at Annaka<sup>4</sup> in Kōtsuke Province in 1820. Third, Matsuoka-Yorozu<sup>5</sup> (1838-1891) had a shrine called "Ikenushi Reisha<sup>6</sup>" erected to him while living at Ohomura<sup>7</sup> in Iwata<sup>8</sup> Gun, Tōtōmi Province. It was first founded at the beginning of the Meiji Era (1868-1912) and re-built on a larger scale in 1885, and on the latter occasion a Shintō priest worshipfully recited a liturgy before the shrine; and the spring festival of praying for harvest and the festival of thanksgiving for good rice crops in autumn are solemnized at the shrine every year.

Fourth, to the late Prince Matsukata, one of the Japanese elder statesmen in the Meiji-Taishō Eras, a shrine was erected in 1919, when he was eighty-five years old, five years before his death, in the precincts of the Hinokuma<sup>9</sup> Shrine in Kameyama<sup>10</sup> Park, Ōida Prefecture.

Fifth, in the village of Ono<sup>11</sup> in Kami-Ina<sup>12</sup> Gun, Shinano Province, a shrine to Meiji Tennō (1852-1912) was erected, as early as 1894, in the precincts of the Yahiko<sup>13</sup> Shrine.

The above facts themselves will be enough to refute the assertion of Dr. Holtom, and I mention this here simply because I fear that Dr. Holtom's article might mislead the reader from true, correct and exact knowledge of things Japanese.

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| 3. 石川忠房 | 4. 安中  | 5. 松岡萬 | 6. 池主靈神 |
| 7. 於保村  | 8. 磐田  | 9. 日隈  | 10. 龜山  |
| 11. 小野  | 12. 伊那 | 13. 矢彦 |         |