

TOKYO

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Kyū-Furukawa Teien 旧古河庭園

Ky -Furukawa garden in Tokyo's Kita ward presents its most delightful beauty in autumn when the roses are flowering and the Japanese maples together with the Japanese wax tree show off their colorful foliage.

History

The area where Ky -Furukawa garden was built, was very famous for its gardeners living there during the Edo period. They maintained the gardens of the Edo residences and grew and shaped new plants for those.

Even today you can find the one or the other gardener, selling azalea in the neighbourhood.

In the Meiji period Mutsu Munemitsu's residence was built here. When his second son Junkichi was adopted by Furukawa Ichibee, the land went into the possession of the Furukawa family.

In 1917 the third president of the Furukawa Empire and son of Ichibee, Furukawa Toranosuke, led the western style residence and the gardens built on the grounds.

Already in 1926 he and his wife left the place and moved to Ushigome-Ichigayafunagawara machi, which would be between Iidabashi and Ichigaya station today.

During WWII the residence was used by the army and after the war by Japanese and Western forces to come together and discuss the future of the country. In 1956 the garden opened as a public park, after it went into the property of the City of Tokyo. In 1982 the place became recognized as a designated cultural asset and in 2006 was titled as a designated scenic spot.

Kyū-Furukawa Teien

旧古河庭園 "Kyū" means "former" Former - Furukawa - garden

Mutsu Munemitsu

陸奥 宗光 Foreign minister of Japan 1844 - 1897

Furukawa Ichibee

古河 市兵衛 "Copper King" of Japan 1832 - 1903

Furukawa Junkichi

古河 潤吉 1870 - 1905

Furukawa Toranosuke

古河 虎之助 1887 - 1940