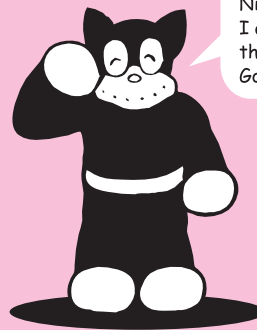


TAGAWA Suiho Chronology

- 1899 TAGAWA Suiho was born on February 10, in Hayashi-cho, Honjo-ward, Tokyo-city (present Tatekawa, Sumida City) His real name was TAKAMIZAWA Nakataro. His parents' home was a household industry of knit goods. Waki, his mother, passed away the next year.
- 1901 His father, Takajiro married again, leaving him with his aunt and father's elder sister's couple. They lived in Matsumura-cho, Fukagawa-ku, (present Fukuzumi, Koto city) Tokyo city.
- 1905 He entered a private primary school in Fukagawa, then was transferred into the Rinkai Public Elementary School. In those days, TAKAMIZAWA Enji, his cousin, sometimes came to his home with an oil paint box to play together. He took a look at his oil paint box, it indeed attracting his interest, and he came to long for oil painting.
- 1922 He entered Nippon Art School and received guidance from SUGIURA Hisui and NAKAGAWA Kigen. He exhibited his works in "Sanka Independent". Since then, he began to depict abstract pictures.
- 1923 He joined "MAVO", an avant-garde art group, and took the name of "TAKAMIZAWA Michinao". The group included MURAYAMA Tomoyoshi, YANASE Masamu and SUMIYA Iwane.
- 1926 He introduced his work of creative *rakugo*, Japanese comic storytelling, to Kodansha Ltd., and it was accepted by them. His pen name was TAKAZAWA Rotei.
- 1928 His first serial comics "Medama -no- Chibichan" began to appear in the boy's magazine "Shonen Kurabu". He used the name of TAGAWA Suiho as a pen name for his comic works. In September, he married with KOBAYASHI Fujiko (a younger sister of KOBAYASHI Hideo, a literary critic.) Her pen name was TAKAMIZAWA Junko.
- 1931 "Private 2nd Class Norakuro" began to appear serially from the New Year's issue of the "Shonen Kurabu". It was initially expected to be carried for one year, but it became so explosively popular that it was published serially throughout 11 years all, and eventually published in book form.
- 1933 "Deko Boko Kurobei" began to be serially carried from the May issue as a separate-volume supplement of the women's magazine "Fujin Kurabu" published by Kodansha Ltd.
- 1934 HASEGAWA Machiko, a cartoonist of "Sazae-san", became a disciple of TAGAWA Suiho. She began to draw serial comics in the girls' magazine "Shojo Kurabu" when she was as early as 16 years old.
- 1941 The prohibition order for drawing comics including "Norakuro" was issued by the Cabinet Information Board for the reason to save on printing paper.
- 1958 "Norakuro's Autobiography" began to be published serially from the October issue of "Maru" published by Ushiosyobo Ltd.. Later, it triggered a revival boom of "Norakuro".
- 1967 "Norakuro's Complete Collection" was published by Kodansha Ltd. All works of "Norakuro" from the 1st issue to the last one were collected in the original form. The appearance of this collection brought about the 2nd "Norakuro" boom.
- 1981 "Kokkei no kozo", the structure of humorousness, was published by Kodansha Ltd. It is a study book, commenting on laugh on the theme of comics and traditional Japanese comic storytelling.
- 1987 He received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, Fourth Class from the government in November.
- 1989 The celebratory party of "TAGAWA Suiho's ninetieth birthday and Otamajakushi's sixtieth anniversary were held just on February 10, his 90th birthday. In August, "Norakuro & the Fire Bird" was displayed in TEZUKA Osamu's Dream World Exhibition. He passed away because of respiratory failure on December 12 in Kitasato University Hospital. His age at death: 90.



How do you do?
Nice to meet you.
I am NORAINU Kurokichi,
the Koto City Cultural
Goodwill Ambassador.

TAGAWA Suiho • Norakuro Museum admission free

Koto City Culture and Community Foundation
Koto City Morishita Culture Center

3-12-17, Morishita, Koto-city, Tokyo, Japan 〒135-0004
TEL.03-5600-8666 FAX.03-5600-8677

<https://www.kcf.or.jp/morishita/josetsu/norakuro>

Opening hours : from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Closed: the 1st & 3rd Monday (open on Monday that falls on a national holiday) and the year-end & New Year holidays from December 29 to January 3.

Transportation Guide



Access

Toei Shinjuku Line/ Oedo Line: 8 minutes from Morishita Station, A6 Exit on foot.

Toei Oedo Line/ Tokyo Metro Hanzomon Line: 8 minutes from Kiyosumi-Shirakawa Station, A2 Exit on foot.

Metropolitan Bus route 門#33 [Kameido Station]⇔[Toyomi Suisan Futou]: 3 minutes from [Takabashi Bus stop] on foot.

Metropolitan Bus route 業 #10 [Tokyo Sky Tree Station]⇔[Shimbashi Station]:

東#20 [Kinshi-cho Station-mae]⇔[Tokyo Station North Exit]: 3 minutes from [Morishita-go-chome] of both routes on foot.

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Koto City Morishita Culture Center
TAGAWA Suiho • Norakuro Museum



"To tell you the truth, all stories of Norakuro was written about myself." (an excerpt from the conversation between TAGAWA Suiho and KOBAYASHI Hideo, his brother-in-law :quoted from the October issue of "Bungeishunju" , 1959).

TAGAWA Suiho (his real name: TAKAMIZAWA Nakataro 1899-1989) spent his life from his childhood to youth in Koto City. Therefore, he is a comic artist in connection with Koto City.

In 1931, he published comics "Private 2nd Class Norakuro" in the boys' magazine "Shonen Kurabu" of the Dai-Nippon Yubenkai or Greater Japan Oratorical Society Kodansha (present Kodansha). It was so tremendously popular that he became a comic artist representative of the early Showa period (before and after 1930).

Comics "Norakuro" is the story of Norakuro, a stray dog without a single dog tie. He joined the armed forces of dogs "Fierce Dog Regiment" and was actively involved in it.

He was Private 2nd Class at the start, then was gradually promoted and finally obtained Captain.

Despite his adversity, he moved up in his life cheerfully, happily and lively. His attitude was affectionately supported by children in those days.

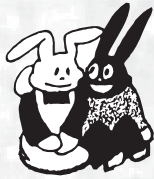
In 1998, his works and mementos including his desk in his study were donated by his bereaved family to Koto City. Therefore, in 1999, "TAGAWA Suiho • Norakuro Museum" was opened in Fukagawa, which he loved throughout his life as well as which had a great influence on his works.



■His daily living

Suiho's workplace is reproduced, including his favorite study desk, tools and library. Any article exhibited here reminds visitors of TAGAWA Suiho.

Late in his life, he energetically acted in hobbies including gardening, sketching and making prints as well as production.



Kurobei & Shiro-chan

■Suiho and Fukagawa

In Fukagawa, where TAGAWA Suiho grew up, remained an atmosphere of shitamachi, traditional shopping and residential districts, in the Edo period. Through photos in those days, Fukagawa in the Meiji and Taisho periods (1868-1926) is introduced.



■Main works

『Norakuro』single volumes' original cartoons

The story of "Norakuro" started with the work of "Private 2nd Class Norakuro" drawn when he was 32 years old in 1931, and ended with the work of "Norakuro Tea-room" in 1980 when he was 81 years old. TAGAWA Suiho loved "Norakuro" and continued to draw "Norakuro" throughout his life.

※Original cartoons will be regularly replaced.

“Norakuro” in landscapes

Late in TAGAWA Suiho's life, "Norakuro" appeared in sketches drawn by him during his journeys. These sketches were finished with scriptures and watercolor paintings.



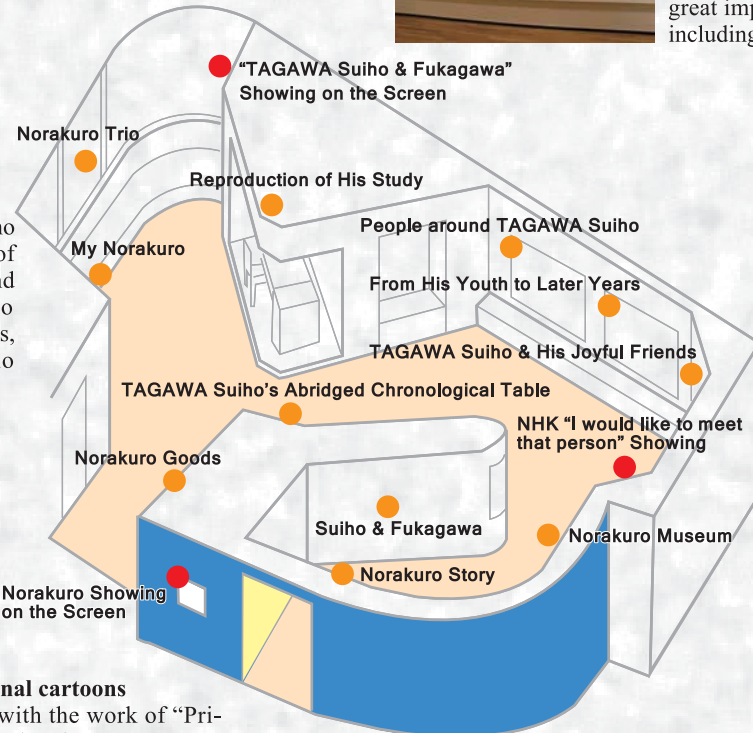
Tako-no-hacchan



■Suiho's career

Through the chronological table and photos, his lifetime, achievements and people who interacted him are introduced. Suiho had a great impact on modern cartoonists including TEZUKA Osamu.

Bull Regimental Commander



■Introduction of his works

Books and original pictures of cartoons are displayed and a part of the story and magazines carrying his works and their period are introduced. Other characters also gather here.



■Norakuro Square

In November, 2010, Norakuro's Square was opened in front of TAGAWA Suiho • Norakuro Museum. It consists of the exhibition of comic materials and reading corner. You can look through "Norakuro" as well as TAGAWA Suiho's writings, works having connection with Suiho, masterpieces, talked-about works, books of comments about comics and picture books.

