

PROCEEDINGS
OF
THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY

CHAPTER I.

Historical Sketch of the Academy

The Imperial Academy was organized in accordance with the *Statute of the Imperial Academy*, promulgated in Imperial Ordinance No. 149, on June 12th, 1906. An organization of similar nature had been in existence since 1879.

The history of the Tōkyō Academy, the immediate predecessor of the Imperial Academy, may be briefly stated as follows.

In 1878, Dr. David Murray, the American adviser to the Department of Education, suggested to the Government the advisability of establishing an academy for the purpose of encouraging the study of science and art, and promoting their wider diffusion. The idea was approved by the Minister of Education, Yorimichi Saigō; and in December of the same year, seven eminent scholars, namely, Amané Nishi, Hiroyuki Katō, Kōhei Kanda, Mamichi Tsuda, Seichoku Nakamura, Yukichi Fukuzawa, and Shūhei Mitsukuri were requested by the Minister to draft the *Statute of the Tōkyō Academy*. In the following January, the Vice-Minister of Education, Fujimaro Tanaka,

nominated the seven scholars above-mentioned as the original members of the Tôkyô Academy.

In April of the next year, the Statute was given definite shape. By it the number of members in the Academy was limited to forty. In January, 1885, the constitution of the Academy was revised by the Minister of Education, Takatô Ôki, with a view to making it more efficient, especially in the promotion of general culture. According to the revised constitution, fifteen of the forty members were to be specially appointed by the Emperor, in order that science and art might have additional dignity in the estimation of the people.*

During the existence of the Tôkyô Academy, nearly six hundred lectures were delivered, and the reports of these lectures were published.

In 1906, on invitation of the Vienna Academy, the Tôkyô Academy joined the International Association of Academies, and in consequence a thorough revision of its constitution became necessary. Accordingly it was re-organized into the present Imperial Academy.

The undertakings of the Imperial Academy since its organization in June, 1906, are herein-after described under the following heads: The enactment of the Statute and Regulations of the Imperial Academy, the election of its members and staff, its admission into the International Association of Academies, the sending of delegates to the meetings of the International Association, communications with the Central Committee for the Investigation of the Brain, the sending of delegates to foreign universities, investigations of the geodetic survey of Tadataka Ino, investigations of materials for the history of Japanese

* It is a well established fact that in ancient times, both in Japan and in China, eminent men of high character and profound learning were highly respected by their emperors. It is not, however, necessary to enlarge upon this fact; it is mentioned here merely in order to point out clearly that from ancient times both learning and morality have been held in high esteem in the East, and that pains have not been spared to encourage men of learning to devote their attention to the moral as well as the intellectual improvement of the people.

mathematics, the reading of papers and reports by the members, the enactment and enforcement of rules for the awarding of prizes, the publication of proceedings, memoirs, etc.

CHAPTER II.

The Object of the Imperial Academy, its Constitution, Work, the Appointment of its Members, Staff, etc.

The object of the Imperial Academy, its constitution, the election of its members, and the character of its work are set forth in the text of the Imperial Academy Statute and the Imperial Academy Regulations, which are given in full below.

The Statute of the Imperial Academy

Imperial Ordinance No. 149 (June 18th, 1906)

- I. The Imperial Academy shall be under the supervision of the Minister of State for Education, and shall have for its object the development of learning and the promotion of culture.
- II. The Members of the Academy shall be appointed by the Emperor from among men of learning on the recommendation of the Academy.
- III. The Academy may elect as Foreign Members such persons of other nationalities as shall have rendered services of special importance to the cause of learning in the Empire.
- IV. The Academy shall be divided into two Sections, to one or the other of which the members shall belong according to the subjects of their respective studies :—

Section I.—Literature and Social Sciences.

Section II.—Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences, and their applications.

- V. The number of members of the Academy shall not exceed sixty.
- VI. The Academy shall hold meetings for the discussion of matters relating to learning and culture.
The meetings shall be of two kinds, general and sectional.
- VII. Each member of the Academy shall present papers or reports on the subject of his study.
- VIII. The Academy may invite from the public essays, designs, or materials relating to matters within its scope.
- IX. The Academy may, with the approval of the Minister of State for Education, undertake researches conjointly with foreign scientific bodies, or may join such bodies as a member thereof.
- X. The Minister of State for Education may ask the opinion of the Academy on matters relating to learning and culture.
- XI. The Academy shall present a report of its affairs at least once a year to the Minister of State for Education.
- XII. The officers of the Academy shall be a President, a Secretary, and two Presidents of Sections.

The President and Secretary shall be elected by vote of the members at a general meeting, and Presidents of Sections at meetings of their respective sections, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

The President, the Secretary, and the Presidents of Sections shall each hold office for three years.

- XIII. The President shall preside over the affairs of the Academy, and take the chair at its general meetings.

In the absence of the President, his place shall be filled by the Secretary.

The Secretary shall manage the affairs of the Academy under the direction of the President.

The Presidents of Sections shall manage the affairs of their respective sections under the direction of the President, and shall take the chair at the sectional meetings.

- XIV. The President, the Secretary, and the Presidents of Sections may receive a pecuniary allowance.
- XV. Annual allowances may be specially granted to members over sixty years of age.
- XVI. The Academy shall have four clerks, who shall be officials of Hannin rank in the Department of State for Education. The clerks shall attend to the routine work of the Academy under the direction of its officers. The clerks may receive a pecuniary allowance.
- XVII. Members intrusted by the Academy with the charge of special investigations may receive a pecuniary allowance.
- XVIII. The Academy may enact its own Regulations, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

The statute of the former Academy was as follows :—

The Tōkyō Academy Statute

Imperial Ordinance No. 264 (Official Gazette, Oct. 25th, 1890)

- I. The Tōkyō Academy is established with the object of exalting the dignity of science and art in order to promote general culture : it shall be under the supervision of the Minister of State for Education.
- II. The Tōkyō Academy shall consist of members elected from among those who are eminent for their high character and profound learning. The number of the members and the manner of their election shall be as follows :—
 - Fifteen members to be specially nominated by the Emperor.
 - Twenty-five members to be elected by the Academy.
 - The election of members by the Academy shall be subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.
 - Membership shall be for life.
- III. Each member of the Tōkyō Academy shall read papers on the subject of his special study, or present reports on matters relating to science and art, and general culture.
- IV. Should the Minister of State for Education put questions on matters relating to science, art, or culture, the Tōkyō Academy shall, after careful examination of the subject, give its opinion in answer to the same ; or should a member have a recommenda-

tion to make, it may, after having been considered by the Academy, be presented to the Minister of State for Education.

- V. A pension of three hundred yen a year may be granted to each member of the Academy who is over sixty years of age, but the number of such members shall be limited to ten.
- VI. The Tōkyō Academy shall have one President and two Secretaries.
The President and the Secretaries shall be elected by the members, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education. They shall hold office for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election.
- VII. The President shall preside over the affairs of the Academy under the supervision of the Minister of State for Education, and shall take the chair at the meetings of the Academy. When the President is absent, he shall appoint one of the Secretaries to take his place.
The Secretaries shall assist the President in the management of the affairs of the Academy.
- VIII. (Cancelled by *Imperial Ordinance No. 59 of 1893*).
- IX. The Tōkyō Academy shall have two clerks, who shall be officials of Hannin rank in the Department of State for Education. The clerks shall attend to the general affairs of the Academy under the direction of the President and the Secretaries.
- X. The Tōkyō Academy may enact its own Regulations, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

Tōkyō Academy Supplementary Statute.

Imperial Ordinance No. 17 (Official Gazette,
March 8th, 1895).

Eminent men of high character and profound learning of other nationalities may be elected Foreign Members of the Tōkyō Academy, subject to the approval of the Minister of State for Education.

Regulations of the Imperial Academy

Adopted July 1st, 1906, and sanctioned by the Minister of State for Education, 4th, *idem*.

Amendments adopted December 12th, 1906, and sanctioned by the Minister of State for Education, 19th, *idem*.

Additions adopted November 12th, 1907, and sanctioned by the Minister of State for Education, 22nd, *idem*.

- I. The number of members of the Imperial Academy shall not exceed thirty in each Section.
- II. Recommendations for appointment to membership shall be made as follows :—

The Section concerned shall first elect candidates by vote; and the three who have obtained the greatest number of votes shall be candidates.

Should a vacancy occur among the candidates, it shall be filled by a by-election.

The Section concerned shall then hold a final election, at which the candidate obtaining votes equal to over two-thirds of the members of the Section shall be regarded as elected, and shall be recommended for membership on the approval of a general meeting.

Should no one obtain the above-mentioned number of votes, another final election shall be held; and should no one then obtain the above-mentioned number of votes, there shall be a reëlection of candidates.

- III. Of an election of candidates, as well as of a recommendation to membership, the President shall give at least three weeks' notice to each member.
- IV. A member may make a recommendation for foreign membership, at a meeting of the Section concerned on having secured the support of five or more members of the same Section.

Art. II., clause 3, and Art. III., shall be applicable in the election of Foreign Members.

- V. The President, the Secretary, and the Presidents of Sections shall be elected by the plurality of votes.

The President, the Secretary, and the Presidents of Sections shall be elected in June, and assume their duties in July.

- VI. All voting shall be by ballot.

A member who is unable to attend an election

through illness or other cause may send his ballot in a sealed letter.

- VII. In the case of Art. II., clause 1, and Art. V., clause 1, should the votes be divided equally, those candidates who are senior in point of age shall be regarded as elected.

- VIII. General meetings shall be called by the President, and Sectional meetings by the Presidents of Sections.

An ordinary general meeting shall be held once every month, the months of August and September excepted.

An extraordinary meeting may be held at the discretion of the President, or on the application of five or more members.

- IX. At either a general or a sectional meeting, a quorum shall consist of one-third of the members resident in Tôkyô.

A majority vote of the members present shall be necessary to pass a resolution.

- X. At either a general or a sectional meeting, the chairman shall have no vote, except in case of a tie, when he shall have the casting-vote.

- XI. The presentation of papers and reports referred to in the Imperial Academy Statute, Art. VII., shall be made at either a general or a sectional meeting.

Papers and reports by those who are not members of the Academy may be presented by a member before a general or a sectional meeting.

Papers and reports may be printed for distribution among individuals, societies, and institutions.

Meetings for the presentation of papers and reports may be open to the public.

- XII. Public lectures may be delivered in accordance with a resolution passed at a general or a sectional meeting.

- XIII. The Sections may enact their own regulations, subject

to the approval of the Academy at a general meeting.

XIV. The holding of a sectional meeting and its resolutions shall be reported to the President of the Academy by the President of the Section.

XV. The President shall report to the members once every year, at a general meeting, a resumé of the affairs of the Academy for the preceding year.

The Presidents of Sections shall present to the President once every year condensed reports of the affairs of their respective Sections for the preceding year.

XVI. In case the President of a Section is unable to attend to his duties, he may depute one of the members of his Section to act for him.

The Regulations of the Tôkyô Academy were as follows :—

Regulations

Adopted November 9^h, 1890, and sanctioned by the Minister of State for Education, 26th, *idem*.

- I. The election of the President and the Secretaries, as well as recommendations to membership, shall be by vote of the members. In case of a tie vote, those older in age shall be regarded as elected.
- II. The President and the Secretary shall be elected in December of each year, and shall assume office in the following January.
- III. The President and the Secretary shall be on equal footing with ordinary members in introducing resolutions, debating, or voting.
When the President or the Secretary takes the chair, he shall have no vote, except a casting-vote in the case of a tie.
- IV. The election of the President and the Secretaries, as well as a recommendation to membership, shall be made by vote of the members resident in Tôkyô. Members unable to attend a meeting shall be allowed to vote by letter.
- V. For recommendation to a membership, the members resident in Tôkyô shall first elect nominees by vote ; and of the three nominees who have obtained the greatest number of votes, another and final election shall be held ; and he who has thus obtained the greatest number of the final votes shall be elected. Should, however, the greatest number of votes be under five, the election shall be cancelled, and a new election shall be held.
- VI. In case a member is not convinced that all the three nominees above-mentioned are qualified, or in case he is unable to judge of their scholarship or character, he may decline to vote.
- VII. Should the number of the members who have declined to vote amount to more than one-third of the members resident in Tôkyô, the election shall be cancelled, and another shall be held.

- VIII. Should a person regarded as elected decline to accept membership, a new election shall be held.
- IX. A resolution at a meeting shall be carried by a majority ; but no decision shall be taken unless over half the members resident in Tôkyô be present.
- X. On the day of a meeting, the lectures may be open to the public.
- XI. At the meeting in January of each year, the retiring President shall give a report of the Academy's affairs for the preceding year.
- XII. The precedence of the members shall be determined by lot twice a year (in January and in July), but a new member shall take the lowest seat during his first season.
- XIII. In ordinary cases the second Sunday of every month (the months of August and September excepted) shall be the day of meeting ; but the day may be altered, or extraordinary meetings may be held, when necessary.
- XIV. The report of lectures and brief reports of the Academy's affairs shall be printed from time to time for both private and public circulation.

CHAPTER III.

Work of the Imperial Academy

I. Meetings

Imperial Academy Statute, Art. VI., provides that "the Imperial Academy shall hold meetings for the discussion of matters relating to learning and culture. The meetings shall be of two kinds, general and sectional." Also Art. VIII., of *the Regulations of the Imperial Academy*, provides that "general meetings shall be called by the President, and sectional meetings by the Presidents of Sections. An ordinary general meeting shall be held once every month, the months of August and September excepted." In accordance with these provisions the Imperial Academy, from the time of its organization in June 1906, up to June 1911, had held fifty-one general meetings, thirty-nine meetings of Section I, and forty-eight of Section II, all for the consideration and discussion of matters relating to learning and culture.