For demographic studies on Tokugawa Japan the *shūmon-aratame-chō* (宗門改帳) is the most fundamental document for use as evidence. These registers are the product of the strict ban on Christianity enforced by the Tokugawa Government, originating with the policy that family temples certify that all persons living in Japan were of the Buddhist faith. As this registration was conducted with regard to all residents, every year in policy, the resulting records are in the nature of a family register, which serves us as the basic data for research in historical demography. A large number of the *shūmon-aratame-chō* give the names, ages, and positions of individuals in their households and note in detail any changes in the households such as births, deaths, marriages, or moves. Occasionally, but only very rarely, the assessed amounts of land (valued in terms of rice) and the number of livestock are also recorded and this is considered the most important material for determining the status of the people at that time. If a long-run time series of these registers exists for a village or town, its value is especially high. Such materials can be used for a basic demographic analysis and also for more sophisticated research, such as family reconstitution. We can also use them for the analysis undertaken in this article.

In a good time series of *shūmon-aratame-chō*, we can observe the entire process from entry to exit of all individuals registered and various behavior on their part recorded together with their familial environment. This information we can gather in sufficient quantity to classify and then test statistically. Family reconstitution is a type of tracing survey, and the demographic data drawn from this analysis are indeed abundant and high in factual reliability, but it concentrates on marriage and birth. Migration, another important aspect of demographic behavior, is scarcely touched upon by family reconstitution. If we trace an individual through every recorded experience in his lifetime from birth to death, however, migration is naturally placed within the sphere of observation.

In this article we will examine migration in Nishijō Village, Ampachi County, in the Province of Mino. This will be combined with a conventional static demographic analysis of the village and family reconstitution. Our object is to show the significance of migration as found in this village. The population treated here is limited to this one village, and though this limitation may substantially restrict the conclusions to be drawn, the study of the years for which national statistics do
not exist would be impossible without gathering individual analyses from different areas.

**NISHIJŌ VILLAGE**

Nishijō Village is a farming village located on the Nōbi Plain in central Japan. During the latter period of the Tokugawa regime this village was ruled by the