

The Musical Things Related to the Residence of *Komai* Planned by W. M. Vories:  
A Focus on Komai Shizue, a Graduate of a Girl's High School  
SAITO Noriko

The purpose of this paper is twofold. First, it will demonstrate how Japanese women who have graduated from girls' high schools live with music. Second, it will present the case of musical practice in the living space.

I surveyed materials (the family newspaper "*Danran*" and many scores collected in Japan and abroad) on *Komai Shizue*. She graduated from a girl's school in Matsuyama and attended Kobe College. Music education at those schools was different from both universal music education in Japan (*Shoka*) and special education to become a musician or music teacher at Tokyo Academy of Music.

After graduation *Shizue* gained considerable experience in the world of music. She taught English and music at several girls' high schools. She took piano lessons in New York twice a week, enjoyed listening to numerous concerts, and collected many scores covering baroque, classical, romantic, and modern music.

After returning from America, Mr. and Mrs. Komai lived in an American home, which was planned by W. M. Vories (1880-1964), who came from America as an English teacher. They furnished the living room with a piano and a bench, which made it possible to have four-hand performances. While she led an active life, for example, she travelled to Tokyo and abroad, served at *Kyofukai* (Japan Christian Women's Organization, 1886-), which included musical programs at regular meetings and congresses, she still enjoyed playing the piano.

In Japan, the existence of pianos at home was often considered a status symbol of the middle class. The case of *Shizue* suggests the self-disciplined musical experiences by alumni of girls' high schools. In this framework I intend to bring further depth and add to existing research about the lifelong learning of western music in Japan.