

---

**On the British Education System  
and  
The State Schools in Cambridge (XV)**

**Minoru SHIGETA\***

In the preceding essay (Vol.XIV), I mentioned the miscellaneous things in which I was much interested. In this essay I will tell you about the rest of the miscellaneous things.

**3) My Small Gift**

As above mentioned, for the final month in England I was terribly busy in packing my belongings, and doing farewell parties with our friends and acquaintances in Cambridge, and in writing letters of my gratitude to them. On 28th of June, I wrote to the persons who I thought helped and encouraged my three children at schools, including the headmaster, the class teacher, of Milton Road Junior School, and the Headmaster, the Pastral Care, Mr. Hunter and the class teacher, of the Manor Community College, and the Deputy Head, Mr. Hjort and the class teacher, of Impington Village College. In the letters, I expressed our gratitude to their kind and friendly teaching to my children and enclosed a cheque £100 to each of the schools as a mark of our appreciation.

By the way, here I will explain the cheque book and cheque guarantee card system in England. As I said in my previous essay (Vol. I), I mentioned the settlement in Cambridge and the opening of a current account, a high cheque interest account and a foreign current account at Midland Bank. When I sent a cheque to the headmasters of the three schools where my three children attended, I used my current account cheque. Though I had the above-mentioned high interest cheque book, I could not use it because it was agreed upon between the bank and me that the cheque book could be used only when I paid for the article which cost more than £200 or sent someone the gift or donation over £200 instead of cash. Now I will tell you about the cheque book and the cheque guarantee card. At the inside of cover of a cheque book, the notes of the bank

---

\* 宇部工業高等専門学校英語教室

are written. Next I will show you a blank cheque and the cheque which I wrote in. As the notes of the bank say, you must write in the amount in words, as well as figures, starting as far as to the left as possible, and try not to leave spaces where other words or figures could be added. Of course, cheques should be made out in sterling. Lastly you must put your signature. In the blank cheque I show you, you will find the two crossing lines in the middle of the cheque. It is the cheque which can be used only by the persons whose names are written in. So, even if you lose your cheque book or are stolen, no one can use it. Moreover, the cheque in which there are two crossing lines can be sent through the post. Therefore, it is very safe and convenient.

A cheque guarantee card is also very important. When you do your shopping and pay for the shopping by cheque, you may be asked to show your cheque card to the salesclerk or shopkeeper. Then it will guarantee that the owner of the card is the person in question. At the same time, by using the cheque card, you can withdraw some money from an automatic bank machine even at night. But the sum of money you can withdraw within the week is agreed upon between the bank and you. As for me, the limitation was £50. So, for example, if your limitation is £30 within the week and you try to withdraw £40, the bank machine will refuse your withdrawing with some messages of refusal. As we have seen, British cheque book and cheque guarantee card system is, indeed, excellent and convenient, and can prevent from loss and stealing.

As I mentioned above, I left England for Paris on 1st of July, 1987. On the same day, my wife received a letter from Mr. Ellis, headmaster of Milton Road Junior School. In the following two pages, I will show you each copy of the notes at the inside of the cheque book, of a blank cheque and of the cheque of my own writing as a small gift, and also of the cheque guarantee card, and of the letter of thanks from the headmaster of Milton Road Junior School.

**For Your Own Protection . . .**

**PLEASE KEEP YOUR CHEQUE BOOK AND CHEQUE GUARANTEE CARD IN SAFE PLACES, BUT NOT TOGETHER. IF EITHER OF THEM IS LOST OR STOLEN, ADVISE YOUR BRANCH IMMEDIATELY AND INFORM THE POLICE.**

Never allow others to use your cheques or credits. 'Open' cheques should not be sent through the post.

You need to exercise care when making out cheques, as we cannot be held responsible for losses due to alterations which cannot be easily detected.

We will send you a new cheque book automatically, so should you change your address, please tell us promptly. This book contains a re-order form for your use, if you have not received a new book before you need it.

**ON CHEQUES OR CREDITS**

Always write in ink and sign alongside any alterations.

**ON CHEQUES**


Write in the amount in words, as well as figures, starting as far to the left as possible. Try not to leave spaces where other words or figures could be added. Cheques should be made out in sterling.

**ON CREDITS**

Check that your receipt and the credit show the same amount paid in.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_ **40-16-08**

Payee \_\_\_\_\_

 **Midland Bank plc**

32 Market Hill Cambridge CB2 3NU

Pay \_\_\_\_\_ or order

Prior Balance £ \_\_\_\_\_


Amount £ \_\_\_\_\_

New Balance £ \_\_\_\_\_

£ \_\_\_\_\_

**M SHIGETA & MRS F SHIGETA**

200126 200126 401608 4285319

 **Midland Bank plc**

32 Market Hill Cambridge CB2 3NU

28th June 1987 **40-16-08**

Pay Milton Road Junior School or order

One Hundred Pounds **£100-00**

Only

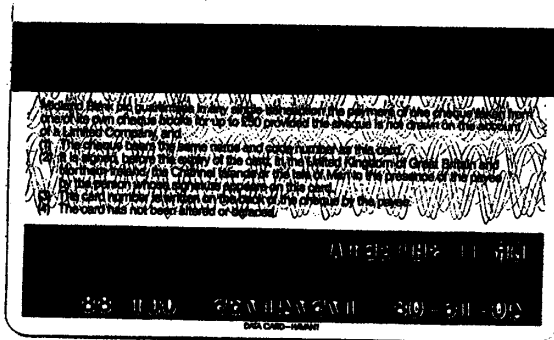
**M SHIGETA & MRS F SHIGETA**

Miriam Shigeta

100144 401608 4285319



obverse



reverse



**Cambridgeshire**  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Headmaster:  
J. R. ELLIS

Milton Road Junior School,  
Cambridge,  
CB4 1UZ

Telephone: Cambridge 359324  
1: Jul: 87

Dear Professor & Mrs Shigeta,

Thank you very much for your letter of 28th June together with your most generous gift. I shall discuss with Mrs Russon the most appropriate purchase or purchases we can make on behalf of the children.

I am naturally very pleased that Ritsuko has so enjoyed her time at the school. I shall attend to the matter of the report & certificate of attendance before the end of term. I look forward to our next meeting.

Yours sincerely,  
John R. Ellis

#### 4) School Photographs

On the same day when I left for Paris, my wife received a school letter about "Group Photographs" taken in school on 5th June. We knew that the individual school photographs had been taken in school during the autumn term last year, though they are not taken at schools in Japan. As they were very curious to us, we decided to buy them. This time my wife also bought the photograph in commemoration of my younger daughter going to Milton Road Junior School. In the photograph, the school children in class P4 and R4 line up together. The person on the right is Mrs. Russon, class teacher of class R4, and the person on the left is Mr. Phipps, class teacher of class P4. Here I will show you a copy of the school letter informing us of group photographs being available, and in the next page, I will also show you the group photographs.

MILTON ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOL

Milton Road  
Cambridge  
1st July 1987

Dear Parents,

GROUP PHOTOGRAPHS

Group photographs were taken in school on 5th June, the resultant photograph accompanies this letter.

The cost of the photograph is £2.50.

PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO "H. TEMPEST LTD." - not to the school as stated in the photographer's notes.

Please return cash or cheque in the envelope provided (unwanted photographs in the original packing) to your child's class teacher by FRIDAY, 10TH JULY.

Yours sincerely,

J. R. ELLIS

Headmaster.



### 5) The Scholar's Report & Certificate of Attendance at Milton Road Junior School

As above-mentioned, I wrote letters expressing our gratitude to the school teachers' kind and friendly teaching to my children and enclosed a cheque £100 to each of the schools as a mark of our appreciation. On that occasion, I asked the school master of Milton Road Junior School to make my daughter's school report. And on my daughter's last day at school, my wife received her school report and certificate after I left Cambridge. It was not the one which I thought was perhaps the same report card as the Japanese one. It was written by Mrs. Russon, class teacher, and at the same time the headmaster's signature was put together. I will show you the school report in the final page.

\*\*\*\*\*

From Vol. VI to this volume, we have seen the general statement of Milton Road Junior School, including the school organization, curriculum, extra curricular activities, P. T. A., school meals, educational visits, and so on, according to the school pamphlet, and the school lessons, including spelling and reading, language, mathematics, science, physical education and project, and school events, including "Mary Rose" Trip to Portsmouth, the Performance of the "Happy Prince," "Discover Industry" Residential Field Trip," and the miscellaneous things, including Transfer to Community College or Secondary School, the Final Term News Letters, My Small Gift, Group Photographs, and the Scholar's Report & Certificate of Attendance at Milton Road Junior School.

Looking back upon the school days when my younger daughter spent at Milton Road Junior School, I keenly feel that she was very happy, as Scholar's Report by Mrs. Russon says, partly because she made every effort to learn a different language from Japanese, partly because she took a full interest in school life, and partly because she perhaps took some happy memories back to Japan. Even now I am sure that she feels yearning for the school days and life in Cambridge, and misses her classmates and the teachers at Milton Road Junior School, and will want to return Cambridge some day or other in the future.

Now I will finish this essay, expressing heartfelt thanks to Mr. Ellis, headmaster, and Mrs. Russon, class teacher and other staff, of Milton Road Junior School, whose generous, kind and friendly teaching helped my younger daughter to learn a different language and to enjoy her school life and mutual understanding

between her classmates and herself, and to take happy memories back to Japan.



## CAMBRIDGESHIRE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

MILTON ROAD JUNIOR SCHOOLScholar's ReportName RITSUKO SHIGETA Class R4 Date July, 1987

Ritsuko has had a pleasing year at school in England.

She needs to be congratulated on the efforts she has made to learn our complicated language! She has made splendid progress. She reads with understanding and exhibits good word comprehension skills. She has gained in confidence and, if encouraged, will converse in English with myself and the children in the class. She is well able to make herself understood and understands verbal and written instructions. She forms English letters clearly and can write sentences, without assistance, in answer to written questions. She has acquired enough confidence to try writing her own stories and factual accounts.

She has taken a full interest in class life and enjoyed taking part in the residential field studies week.

I hope she will take some happy memories back to Japan. I hope she will continue to practise her English and perhaps, one day, she will return. It has been a pleasure

Class Teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Headmaster \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to discuss your child's education please do not hesitate to make an appointment with his/her teacher or with me.

to teach her and I wish her every success in the future.

J.A. Russon.  
CLASS TEACHER.

J.R. ELLIS  
John R. Ellis