

Mrs. Togo Allows the Admiral Only Ten Dollars a Week as Spending Money



Mrs. Tetsu Togo



MRS. TETSUKO TOGO, wife of the admiral who smashed Russia's powerful armadas at Port Arthur and in the Korean straits, is commander in chief of their household at Tokio; commander in chief and keeper of the purse, ruler of the four children, and "boss."

If Admiral Togo decides to celebrate his great victory over the Russian Baltic fleet he will be forced to appeal to Mrs. Togo for funds unless he has saved enough out of his annual allowance of \$500 a year to furnish the banquet for himself and friends.

Mrs. Togo has full charge of the exchequer. She receives her husband's pay, which now amounts to about \$2,500 a year, with an occasional gift as a reward of bravery and merit—so that his total income as hero and central figure of the world is less than \$3,000, and every cent of this income is turned over to his wife, who supplies him with spending money. Out of this income she makes him an allowance approximating \$500 a year, and on the remainder she must educate her four children, maintain her quaint little home, pay servants, and dress herself and her children in a manner worthy the wife and children of the national hero.

Wife Acts as Business Manager.

The fact that Togo's pay is turned over to his wife has revealed to the world the fact that in the best households of Japan the wife is the treasurer and controller—the business manager of the household.

The Japanese household is conducted on an ideal co-operative plan, and Satori Kato, one of the best known Japanese who writes in English, has told the story of the domestic arrangements among the social leaders of Tokio—revealing a glimpse into the home lives of the Samurai.

"The Japanese household of the better class," he writes, "is conducted on the co-operative plan. From the day of their wedding the wife is the treasurer and has absolute charge of the disbursement of funds. The husband turns over the entire income to his wife, who manages it with a skill and with results that would astonish the average woman of Europe or America."

"Admiral Togo, as I happen to know, turns over his entire income, which is less than \$3,000, to his wife, who has shown herself as able in the management of the household finances and the control of the children as her now famous husband has been in warfare."

"She makes him a regular allowance of pocket money—a sum which would seem paltry to an American or European army or naval officer of much lower rank—and with the rest she accomplishes wonders."

"She has educated her four children well, her home is one of the most picturesque, sweet, and tasteful in all Tokio, although extremely unpretentious."

Life Led by the Children.

Miss Chiyō Togo, the admiral's 14 year old daughter, is a little beauty of the strictest Japanese type and one of the central figures in the Peers' school, which she attends. The sons, Hyō and Mioru, are manly boys—one of them being a cadet in the naval school at Tokio, and Arimura, a foster son, is their companion and adviser, being a little their senior.

The Togo family lives in a small, rambling tiled house, inclosed with its big garden by a high board fence—an open gate with two big wooden posts affording an opening.

Mrs. Togo was the daughter of Viscount Kaieda and when she married the young officer she assumed charge of the salary—the less than \$1,200 a year—and her management has enabled them to improve their little home and furnish it in exquisite taste, although with extreme simplicity and with little cost.

There is no trace of luxury in the whole establishment beyond two little American brass beds and one dainty little white bed for Miss Chiyō's room, which are innovations in a Japanese household. The Admiral's room is of severe simplicity, his books and charts being arranged on a severely plain table. The only other sign of luxury consists of the flowers, which are arranged with beautiful taste through the living rooms.

"I saw the inside of the house on one of Admiral Togo's returns to his home, and then the gifts of flowers—simple bunches, mostly of white blossoms—were more lavish than usual."

Incandescent Light on Door Plate.

The house is not noticeable among those of thousands of middle class people in Tokio, and the only outward sign

of pretense is a plate set against the gatepost with the word "Togo" on it and above it a small incandescent electric light which Mrs. Togo caused to be placed there for the convenience of processions that came along the street to shout banners in front of the house. She considered this necessary.

Mrs. Togo does most of her own housework, and employs but one servant to help her in her household duties, and when Admiral Togo is away she calls upon one of his relatives as a protector of the family and general caretaker.

The family keeps no carriage or ricksha, but after the war commenced Mrs. Togo purchased a bicycle for Mioru so that he might ride downtown to get the news from the front, as no correspondence passed between her and her husband except brief greetings sent by messengers during the weary days in front of Port Arthur and the soul trying wait for the arrival of Rojstevsky.

The Togo household—like those of the majority of middle and high class Japanese—is extremely clean—painfully clean almost, being of unpainted wood accented to whiteness at every spot, from kitchen to sleeping rooms, and covered with new and scented matting, tastefully colored at the borders. The cleanliness of these homes accentuates the dirtiness of the poorer houses and the inns.

Togo Family Sleep on the Floor.

The cooking arrangements and washing arrangements are simple but effective—the stoves small and the little lacquered tables low, for as yet few have accepted the European table. Beds, too, are a rarity, sleeping mats and the hard head rests being placed upon the floors in most cases.

While American "spenders" may pity Admiral Togo because his wife holds the purse strings tight, it is only fair to say that his allowance is equivalent to five times that much, perhaps, in the United States. And those women who think Mrs. Togo must suffer because she is forced to do so much on \$2,000 a year should remember that the value of money is geographical. She probably could have got along splendidly if her husband had not suddenly become so famous. Now it will be hard work unless he gets his pay raised.

One can buy land in Tokio for \$20 a front foot in the section where the Togos live—and erect a house like his for \$750, and furnish it beautifully for \$250 more—so, for \$1,000 a nice home could be built and furnished. And, besides,

the cost of living (for a native) in Japan is extremely low, and it is probable that if Mrs. Togo spent \$1,000 a year on the support, clothing, and education of her children the neighbors would have braided her as extravagant.

Rarely Entertain Their Friends.

Besides, Japanese women seldom entertain. They have few women friends and receive only a few visits, and those usually from close relatives. The woman is a chattel in Japan, and her husband does not approve of her having women friends—or men friends either.

Besides, the Japanese woman is never thrown into a flurry and forced to hurry the girl off to the corner grocery for canned soups when her husband brings home an unexpected guest for dinner, because he never brings any guests except on the rarest of occasions. Usually no Japanese man will take his own friends into his home. He invites them to dine with him, but stipulates, either openly or by innuendo, that they are to dine at a club or hotel. If a close friend is invited, he may request to be taken to the home, and on rare occasions may be taken. In those cases the woman of the household remains to extend greeting and then disappears—never expecting or being expected to sit at the board with her husband and friends.

The dishes that are served are inexpensive and their preparation requires little time—the rice being boiled (or steam boiled) already, and the other dishes usually prepared in advance.

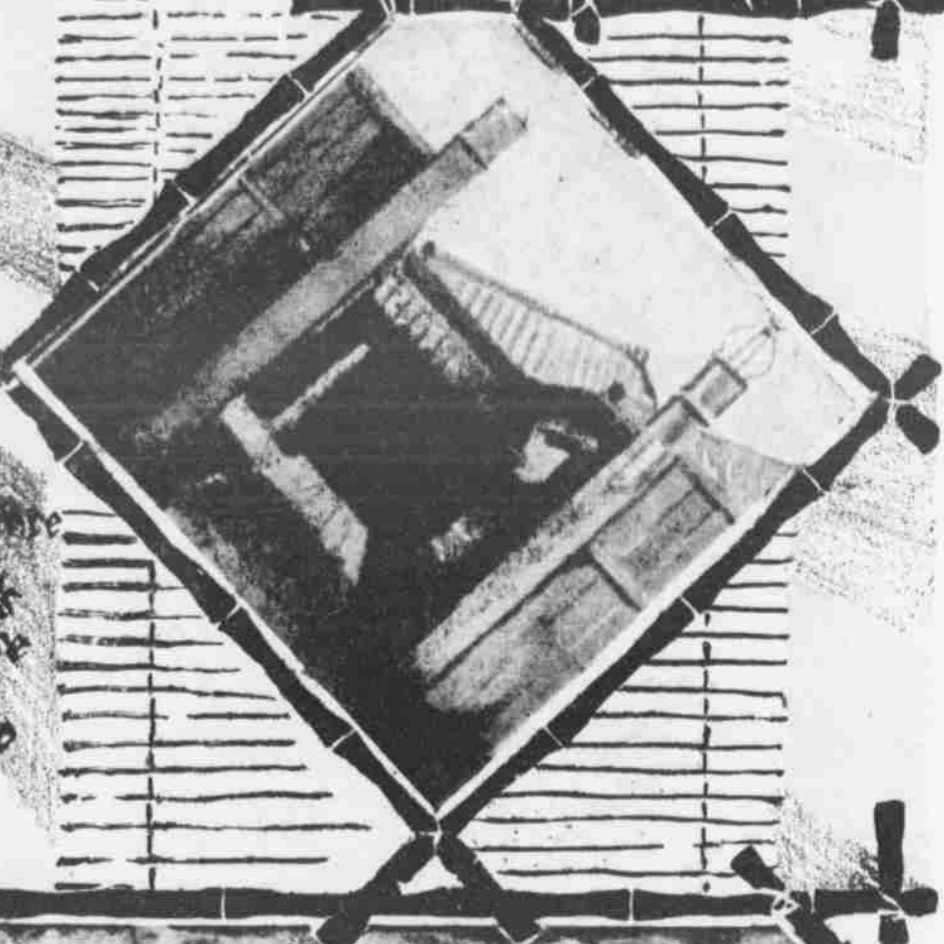
Neither has washday many terrors for the Japanese wife, for the garments worn are easily washed, and in the majority of cases few in number.

So, while Mrs. Togo certainly is having a hard time now to finance the household of a famous husband, she probably has a little money laid by, saved during the years that her household expenses were far below even the \$2,000 allotted to her.

The admiral is probably having a harder time getting along on his \$500, but then he is at sea, with expenses paid most of the time, and can retrench—after giving big banquets in return for honors showered upon him—by going to sea again until his allowance accumulates.



Admiral Togo's Children



Tokio



Admiral Togo on his bridge in heavy weather (Drawn by J. Begg)