

## **Sericulture in Shirakawa-go**

Records indicate that by the middle of the eighteenth century, the villages along the Sho River were noted for their sericulture, or silkworm raising, throughout the surrounding Hida area (the northern part of present-day Gifu Prefecture). Shirakawa-go appears frequently in these records, suggesting that the township had by that time made a name for itself as a leading producer of raw silk. This renown was due to the high quality of Shirakawa silk, which became an in-demand commodity both in Hida and in the powerful Kaga domain on the Sea of Japan coast (today's Toyama and Ishikawa Prefectures).