

Kogu Shrine: *Keiroki*

The *Keiroki* is a stone monument erected in 1846 by the magistrate (head of the local government) of Miyazaki to teach the history of the site it stands on. The text carved into the stone states that this was the location of the palace of Jimmu, from which he headed east to establish a government in present-day Nara Prefecture and proclaim himself the first emperor of Japan. The *Keiroki* cites the fact that the site has never suffered much earthquake damage as proof of its association with the divine founder of the nation.

The monument can be seen as a product of the intellectual currents of its time, which saw the revival of emperor worship and renewed interest in the ancient myths of Japan. This movement, which in its academic form was called Kokugaku (“National Learning”), flourished in Miyazaki, where a school was founded to teach the tenets of Kokugaku to the public. Local history was reinterpreted in the context of mythology, and sites such as that described in the *Keiroki* were occasionally turned into formal places of worship. The monument stands on the former site of Kogu Shrine, which is now located nearby and enshrines Emperor Jimmu, his wife, and two of their sons as Shinto deities.