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# The Ryukyuanist

The International Society for Ryukyuan Studies

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Newsletter No. 33

Summer 1996

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This issue is the first to be published with our new publisher, Ms. Emiko Utsumi, who has replaced Mr. Shinichi Kyan as Executive Director of Okinawa Labor and Economic Research Institute. Ms. Utsumi enriches *The Ryukyuanist* with her background in constitutional law and labor law, as well as her abiding interest in peace. Regarding the future of *The Ryukyuanist*, Ms. Utsumi is fully supportive, and remarks that "because it is imperative for those of us entering the 21st century to be capable of observing phenomena from more than one point of view--to have both a global and local perspective--*The Ryukyuanist* is of particular value as it presents perspectives on and from Okinawa, ones which are presented directly to the world without being filtered through Japanese governmental channels or agents."

We cannot, however, proceed with this issue without first mentioning the valuable past contribution of Mr. Kyan and his staff, whose efforts, beginning with issue number seven, formed much of the foundation of this

newsletter. We certainly hope that, time allowing, he will continue to be involved in the nurture of *The Ryukyuanist*, and will contribute his valuable advice and suggestions for unceasing improvements (*kaizen*).

The focal article in this issue is contributed by Milton Takei, who received a master's degree in political science from the University of Oregon in Eugene. The reader will notice that his essay is not only timely but is also up-to-date in terms of citation of electronic references (email and internet addresses). In fact, spurred by his contribution, we are introducing in this issue a new section, "Electronic Bulletin Board" where we will post electronic addresses, such as were included in Mr. Takei's article.

Also in this issue is another new section, "Forthcoming publications," where we hope to announce works in press or soon to be released, along with the name of a contact person for those interested in obtaining more information. This advance announcement is of particular value for the publication and dissemination of limited-budget and limited-edition publications, such as the one announced here by Prof. Shunro Sonoda of the University of Kagoshima whose research provides exciting possibilities for uncovering the ethnohistory of the people of the Ryukyus.

Finally, as always, we are grateful to present our regular section devoted to publications received, and to have news to share with members.

### How "Pacific" are the Ryukyus?

The poster on my wall shows the Pacific Ocean as half the globe, being protected by a pair of hands. It reads,

*If it is safe:*

*--Dump it in Tokyo*

*--Test it in Paris*

*--Store it in Washington*

*But keep my Pacific Nuclear-free.*

The slogans on the poster have been adopted by the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement (NFIP) to protest proposals by Japan to dump nuclear waste in the Pacific, nuclear tests by France in Tahiti-Polynesia (also known as "French" Polynesia), and the deployment of nuclear weapons by the United States in various parts of the Pacific. (A picture of demonstrators carrying the poster can be found in David Robie, *Tu Galala*, Pluto Press, Australia, 1992, p.49.) The hemisphere shown in the poster does not seem to include the Ryukyu Islands--should it?

Looking first at the northern hemisphere spread of the Pacific, we might notice that the Ryukyus are perhaps akin to Hawai'i in political status in that both groups of islands once constituted independent states. Hawai'i and Okinawa are both in strategic locations, and as a result are the sites of key US military bases. Considering the distance that separates Hawai'i from California, it is obvious that Hawai'i is part of the Pacific. Hawai'i Governor Benjamin J. Cayetano's 11 October 1995 proclamation of Nuclear Free Week in Hawaii contains the prologue "WHEREAS, the people of Hawaii--conscious of their interrelatedness and solidarity with all Pacific peoples, communities and nations--cannot remain silent when such actions [France's nuclear tests] threaten the health and well-being of our Pacific neighbors..." The proclamation's reference to "the people of Hawaii" must surely refer to all of the diverse ethnic groups that inhabit Hawai'i.

Those born and raised in Hawai'i are bound to have a feeling that Hawai'i is different from the rest of the United States, and this could not simply be the result of tourist industry propaganda. One contributing factor may be language. Besides having claim to its own, native Hawaiian language, Hawai'i has another, hybrid language: Hawai'i Creole English, known to the local people as "pidgin." People continue to speak pidgin, which has been surprisingly resistant to being eliminated by standard English. The persistence of pidgin is surely in part the result of a sense of pride or group solidarity.

Nevertheless, people in Hawaii also tend to have a consciousness of belonging to a larger group, of being "American." If they are asked on the Mainland (the Continental US) how long they have been in "the States," they are likely to deliver a quick reminder that Hawai'i is after all part of the United States. This consciousness, however, is currently being challenged by the sovereignty movement in Hawai'i (for an internet address and email see EBB#1). One current proposal would give Native Hawaiians a status similar to that of Native American nations, who retain some sovereignty dating back to the days when the US Government made treaties with them. Another approach would restore Hawai'i as an independent country (see EBB#2). I suspect that, in a comparable fashion, the dual identity of being both "Okinawan" and "Japanese" sits more easily with some people than with others.

Such a dual identity is part of the heritage of people who are the descendents of colonial rule. Though the colonial powers have been late in leaving the Pacific, independence has nonetheless come to a number of countries, mostly in the southern hemisphere: Western Samoa (1962), Nauru (1968), Fiji (1970), Tonga (1970), Papua New Guinea (1975), the Solomon Islands (1978), Tuvalu (1978), Kiribati (1979), and Vanuatu (1980).

The Ryukyus and Hawai'i also have in common the fact that as independent countries, either of them alone would have a population greater than any of these more southern countries, excepting Papua New Guinea.

Looking now, therefore, at that portion of the Pacific, and returning to the topic of the poster-view of the world as presented by the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement, we might start with consideration of Fiji. Clearly the NFIP felt close to Fiji Prime Minister Timoci Bavadra, who was overthrown by a military coup in 1987. At the time there was speculation that the United States had engineered the coup because of Bavadra's anti-nuclear stance. Later analysis, however, pointed to conflicts within Fiji as the cause. Similarly, Vanuatu's 1991 election was another blow to the NFIP as its ally, the Vanuaaku Pati (Party), which has split into three parts, allowed their electoral enemies to gain the prime minister's post even though as one party, or even as a coalition, they should have enough support to control the government.

There are also other parts of the Pacific that remain under colonialism, or have a political status that constitutes less than complete independence. For example, the Polynesian island of Rapanui (Easter Island), which was annexed by Chile in 1888, even today plays host to a contingent of police from the "Conti" (Mainland Chile) whose number is peculiarly larger than seems necessary for the protection of the islanders and their famous statues.

Back again to the northern hemisphere, the islands of Micronesia, formerly administered by Japan under a League of Nations mandate, became a United Nations trust territory under the United States after World War II. That trust territory subsequently has been divided into four parts: the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (with a status like that of Puerto Rico), the

Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia. Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia are tied to the US through what is called a Compact of Free Association, which perhaps in the 1800s would have been called a US protectorate over these countries.

The Compact met the most resistance in Palau, where the constitution contains a clause forbidding storage of nuclear weapons without the approval of a three-fourth majority by referendum. Because of Palau's strategic location, the US had wished to retain, under the Compact, the option of building military bases there. In my opinion, behind the resistance to the Compact lay strong opposition to scarce land being taken up by any bases, though there is no doubting the validity of the islanders' anti-nuclear sentiment. By contrast, comparatively nearby Guam, in the Mariana Islands, remains a US possession which was never included as part of the Trust Territory, for which reason B-52 bombers easily took off from Guam to bomb Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. [Editor's comment: the Chamorro in Guam, however, persist in agitating for a return of their native lands and the abolition of military installations.]

Further to the east, the Marshall Islands were the site of US nuclear tests which contaminated both the islands and the islanders who were caught in the fallout. There have been charges that the US used the islanders as guinea pigs to determine the effects of radiation on humans, but the US is not the only nation to have been accused of such foul play: in the southern hemisphere Britain conducted atomic tests on Aboriginal land in Australia, and on Christmas Island in Kiribati.

From personal experience I recall all too clearly the night during my childhood in Hawai'i when the US test on Kalama Island (Johnston Island), 1,300 kilometers away, lit up one

third of the sky as if it were bright day, with the light slowly fading away over perhaps a twenty-minute period. Today, there is controversy over the facility there for incinerating US chemical weapons which formerly were stored in Germany. (One could add to the poster, "if it is safe, burn it in Berlin.")

But perhaps the clearest link between independence and the anti-nuclear issue, however, is to be found in Tahiti-Polynesia where the Tavini Party had vowed to stop France's nuclear tests through achieving independence, in a manner reminiscent of how France was forced to move its test site to the Pacific when its colonial rule in Algeria came to an end. The conclusion of France's tests, however, has not put an end to pro-independence activities: in the 1996 elections for territorial assembly, the Tavini Party gained ten of the forty-one seats, up from its previous total of four in 1991.

Kanaky (New Caledonia), yet another colony of France, is in the latter stages of a ten-year transition period leading up to a 1998 plebiscite to determine the political status of the territory. The situation in Kanaky is noteworthy because of the large minority of white settlers there, and the Melanesians themselves are not in the majority either. Consequently, immigrants from France's other colonies in Polynesia along with their descendants would make up the swing vote, except for the fact that it is not appropriate to think of all the members of an ethnic group as having the same political allegiance. Though in the past, the Whites and Polynesians have tended to be anti-independence, many by now may have changed their outlook. The future there depends on whether it is possible for the different parties to negotiate a consensus agreement that would lead to independence.

The rebellion of the island of Bougainville that began in 1988 and continues as of this writing (summer 1996) may represent the

first guerrilla war touched off by environmental destruction. The offending company was Bougainville Copper Ltd., operator of the Panguna Copper Mine, a mine which during its operation had supplied about 17 percent of Papua New Guinea's internally-generated government revenue (Douglas Oliver, *Black Islanders*, University of Hawai'i Press, 1991, p.121). However, the mine should not be regarded as the only cause of the rebellion, as Bougainville nationalism predates dissatisfaction with the mine. In 1990, the leaders of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army issued a unilateral declaration of independence from Papua New Guinea. If the division of revenues from the mine were the major issue at stake, the rebellion would surely not have lasted this long: a conviction that the mine should remain closed and/or a desire for Bougainville independence must be motivating the insurgents.

On the topic of less-than-peaceful transitions, no description of Pacific Island politics would be complete without mention of Indonesia's occupation of East Timor and West Papua (Western New Guinea), but a few lines could not possibly do justice in conveying the immense suffering and loss of life that has resulted from that occupation. Though guerrilla activity in both territories may be at a low level, it is of considerable import that anti-Indonesia attitudes persist among the civilian population.

How do the Ryukyus fit into this picture of the Pacific Islands? Ryukyu Islanders can no doubt see similarities between their situation and that of some Pacific Island territories. But I suspect that in the case of both the Ryukyus and Hawai'i, people's attitudes and awareness are very much in the process of formation. It is therefore important for people to acquire greater knowledge about these areas so that they can have informed discussion as they seek to determine their

own role in the future. The question of how "Pacific" the Ryukyus are is a question which is properly answered by the people there. [Address for the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement: Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, 83 Amy Street, Torak, Private Mail Bag, Suva, Fiji, Tel: +679 304 649, Fax: +679 304 755; see EBB#3 for email.]

Milton Takei

### Publications (XX)

We gratefully acknowledge the gift of the following publications:

APO (Art Produce Okinawa). 1996. *Edge*, inaugural issue (Spring), edited by NAKAZATO Isao. Naha. 102pp. Content: Japanese text, photos, illustrations. Despite the title or the name of the publisher, this is a Japanese-language periodical. Numerous "middle-aged" Okinawans got together and looked for ways to turn themselves on, resulting in this new magazine. It is filled with essays critical of everything (art, life, world affairs, etc.) in every conceivable manner, ranging from serious to frivolous. Language is freely bent to fit the fancies of the writers (see, for instance, how the publisher's name reads) rejecting regular rules of speech and writing. But sympathetic readers will no doubt feel the heartbeat of tormented Okinawa desperately struggling to make a point about something.

Chicago Okinawa Kyokai. 1996. *Newsletter*, vol. 2.1 (February). The current president is Ms Linda H. ASATO. An early June appreciation and farewell party was being planned by the Okinawa Kyokai for their former president, Mr. Takashi KAKAZU who would be leaving Chicago with his family.

*GAIKO Forum*, No. 87 (December 1995). "Okinawa in Postwar Diplomatic History" by CHIBA Kazuo. Text in Japanese. A Ministry

of Foreign Affairs official reminisces on US-Japanese negotiations for reversion of Okinawa. The *GAIKO Forum* is published every month by Mr. KASUYA Kazuki, former editor-in-chief of the Chuo Koron, with editorial cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Subscription: ¥7,800 a year.

Hosei University Institute of Okinawan Studies. 1996. *Okinawa bunka kenkyū* (Studies in Okinawan Culture), vol. 22. Tokyo. 712pp. In honor of memories of the late Professor NAKASONE Seizen, 1907-1995. Contains numerous short in-memorial essays and 12 scholarly papers on languages, *Omoro*, and other topics. A photograph and a short biographical chronicle of Professor Nakasone are also included.

----. 1995. *Ryūkyū no hōgen* (Dialects of Ryukyu), vol. 20. In honor of memories of the late Professor HATTORI Shiro, 1908-1995. Contains ten scholarly papers and the late Professor Hattori's photograph and biographical chronicle. Professor Hattori was a fellow of the Institute from the time of its establishment.

International Research Center for Japanese Studies. 1995. *Nichibunken Newsletter*, No. 22 (December). 8pp. Message of the new director general, KAWAI Hayao. Why is "international" in the center's name? Professor Kawai says: "Instead of saying that Japanese culture is unique and therefore cannot be understood by people from other countries, we should endeavor to clarify its special features, examining them against a universal context to see where they are located within this range...."

*Jikatabi* (semi-monthly publication of the labor union, Zennichi Jiro Kensetsu Ippan). In the past several months, almost every issue has contained extensive reports on events related to the US military bases in Okinawa, Okinawans' anti-base movements,

- Japanese responses, meetings, rallies, marches, etc. The April 20 issue reports on a mass meeting of 90,000 held in Tokyo's Koto-ku Kamedo Central Park. Participants came from Okinawa and many parts of Japan. Mr. HOKAMA Yutaka, 77, spoke as Okinawa's representative. "Jikatabi" is traditional Japanese foot wear usually worn by outdoor manual workers.
- KAKAZU, Hiroshi. 1994. *Sustainable Development of Small Island Economies*. Boulder, San Francisco, Oxford: Westview Press. xii, 228pp. Recognizing many vulnerabilities of small island economies, Professor Kakazu searches for ways by which these economies may attain self-reliant, sustainable development. He rationalizes these economies' chronic trade deficits by a theory of "rent seeking." The affirmative tone with which the theory is proposed may be comforting to the policy-makers of island economies; however, in the empirical studies of some of the successful ones (Hawai'i, Micronesia, Ryukyu Islands, and Singapore), the author seems to revert to orthodox criteria of self-reliance and sustainability such as current account balance and domestic economic growth.
- KAKAZU Hiroshi. 1995. *Kokkyō wo koeru ajia, seichō no sankaku chitai* (Asia Overcoming Borders. Growth Triangle). Tokyo: Toyo Keizai Shinposha. 196pp.
- (ed.) 1995. *Ajia no sentaku* (Options for Asia in Search of Global Symbiosis). Tokyo: Simul Press. 239pp.
- OGAWA Kazuhisa. 1996. *Yamatonchu no taizai* (Great Crimes of the Japanese). Tokyo: Shogakkan. 190pp. ¥1,100. The author is an expert on international politics, military affairs, and crisis management. This book is about principles of Japanese diplomacy and defense policy, reformulated with the help of perspectives that have emerged from the "Okinawa problem."
- Hence the use of the Okinawan name for the Japanese, *yamatonchu* (more correctly, *yamatunchu*). The author himself is a Yamatonchu.
- Okinawa International University, Institute of General Industrial Research. 1995. *Transactions of the Institute of General Industrial Research* (March). 210pp. Articles by members of three project teams: China and East Asia, industrial management studies, and island studies. Parts of reports on island studies are in English, written by Professors Karen LUPARDUS and Teruyuki HIGA.
- . 1995. *Journal of General Industrial Research*, vol. 2 (March). 172pp. Table of contents in English, text in Japanese except for "A Statistical Approach to Women's Labor in Okinawa, Japan" by Professors Karen LUPARDUS and Teruyuki HIGA. Other articles concern models of demand, interdependence between China and Taiwan, development policies for Okinawa's smaller islands, diffusion of industrialization, project appraisal and decision-making, and development of Okinawa's information systems.
- . 1995. *Journal of General Industrial Research*, vol. 3 (June). 148pp. Major articles, all in Japanese, are on trade policy of Indonesia, corrosion of aluminum, producers' rice price, creativity, advertising, golf championship, organizational theory, and tourism. Professor Karen LUPARDUS contributes a shorter essay in English: "The 60-40 Principle and Status of Females in Education in Japan."
- WWW. Numerous Web sites with home pages on Okinawa/Ryukyu are available, one of which is hosted by Ms. KIKUKAWA Naomi, and included in the new "Electronic Bulletin Board" section introduced here in *The Ryukyuanist* (see EBB#4).

### Forthcoming Publications

We are hoping that this section will become an active and valuable part of *The R*. Here we announce in-press and anticipated publications, along with the name and contact numbers of the person(s) responsible for submitting the information. Please contact them for additional or updated information.

From and by Greg SMITS at Eastern Washington University (EBB#5): (1) "The Intersection of Politics and Thought in Ryukyuan Confucianism: Sai On's Uses of QUAN," *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies*, Dec. 1996 (56:2). (2) "*Sai On no gakutō to shisō: toku ni bukkyō, shaka ron o chūshin to shite*" (Sai On's academic affiliations and thought, with emphasis on his theories regarding Sakyamuni and Buddhism), scheduled to appear in *Okinawa bunka kenkyū*, March 1997. (3) "Unspeakable Things: Sai On's Ambivalent Critique of Buddhism and Language," possibly to appear in 1997 in *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies*.

From Shunro SONODA (Department of Virology, Faculty of Medicine, Kagoshima University, Tel: +81-992-75-5281, Fax: 81-992-65-8164; EBB#6): *Ethnic and anthropological aspects of HTLV-I related diseases—ethnoepidemiology of cancer* (in English). Dr. Sonoda is editor of the volume with contributions from the US, Germany, and Sweden. This is a limited edition concerning a retrovirus which is endemic in Okinawa, Kyushu, and Shikoku, and a few other parts of the world.

### Members' news

We are pleased to see that the program for the 48th annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies, held in mid April in Honolulu this year, displays a number of names of persons on the mailing list of *The Ryukyuanist*. There were three sessions dealing directly with matters Okinawan. Sessions #151 and #174 comprised parts 1 and 2 of "Okinawa as Critical Space: Perspectives

on Japan from its Periphery," chaired respectively by Michael MOLASKY and Gregory SMITS, who also presented papers in addition to those presented by Alan S. CHRISTY, Ichiro TOMIYAMA, Linda ANGST, and Yoshinobu OTA, with Takashi FUJITANI and Marilyn IVY serving as discussants. Session #219, on "...the Material Culture of Ryukyu," was chaired by Koji TAIRA, with presentations by ASATO Susumi, TOMIYAMA Kazuyuki, and Amanda Mayer STINCHECUM, with Josef KREINER and Laurel KENDALL serving as discussants. In session #57, "Imperial Images in Okinawa" was presented by Steve RABSON, who served also as discussant for session #11. Readers of *The Ryukyuanist* were also in seven other sessions: as chair, Carol GLUCK (#70, #600), and as discussants Takie Sugiyama LEBRA (#103), Jeffrey E. HANES (#32), Eric J. GANGLOFF (#152), Leon SERAFIM (#200), and Patrick BEILLEVAIRE (#655).

In mid June, a very successful ninth annual meeting of the Association of Japanese Business Studies was held in Nagoya. The annual meeting next year is to be held in Washington, D.C. For more information, contact Allan BIRD by post at 1111 Fernwood Drive, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, by fax at (805) 756-1473, or use email (see EBB#7). *The R's* editor, Koji TAIRA, was a past president of AJBS.

Prof. Teruyuki HIGA, of Okinawa International University, has been contributing a series of essays in Japanese which appear regularly in the "Karajishi" column of *Okinwa Times*. The essays concern his observations and studies at Malta and Northern Ireland, often with reference to Okinawa. While in Malta, on June 12 he presented conditions in Okinawa as part of the session on "Women's Participation in the Labour Market" for the international conference, People Mean Business: Developing a Human Resources Agenda for the Mediterranean.

Prof. Dr. Joseph KREINER has returned to Germany after eight years as Direktor of the Phillip-Franz-von-Siebold-Stiftung Deutsches Institut für Japanstudien in Tokyo. For the past two years he has actively supported Ryukyuan studies (see *The R*, no. 30) and we hope that as Professor-Direktor of the Japanologisches Seminar at the Universität Bonn he will continue to expand and share his interest in the Ryukyus. Looking forward to a strengthening of Okinawa's ties with Germany, we wish Dr. Kreiner the best as he returns to his regular post.

#### Announcement

We are in the process of consolidating our listing of readers in order to handle more

efficiently and economically the publication and distribution of *The Ryukyuanist*. Please drop us a post card as soon as you can, giving us your name, address, phone, fax, email, etc. Better yet, put the information in an envelope with a subscription, but please write "The R" in parentheses following the addressee's name. Recently a number of posted issues have been returned to us marked as undeliverable. Postage is a significant portion of the cost of this newsletter, so please inform us if you change your address or don't receive your copy. You will save us funds if you contact us promptly. Our list of readers is not used for any purposes other than postal delivery of *The Ryukyuanist*, and "members' news" items, such as in this issue.

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#### Electronic Bulletin Board (EBB)

The angle brackets form a frame and are not part of the electronic address.

From the article by Milton TAKEI <miltont@efn.org>

EBB#1: <<http://www.hawaii-nation.org>> and <exec@hawaii-nation.org>

EBB#2: <<http://www.ohana.com/sovereignty>> and <plaenui@i-one.com>

EBB#3: Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement <pcrc@pactok.peg.apc.org>

From the publications section:

EBB#4: <<http://www.yosemite.cc.ca.us/~naomi/okinawa.html>>

From the forthcoming publications and members' news sections:

EBB#5: Greg SMITS <gsmits@ewu.edu>

EBB#6: Shunro SONODA <sonoda@med5.kufm.kagoshima-u.ac.jp>

EBB#7: Allan BIRD, for AJBS <abird@tuba.aix.calpoly.edu>

For submissions, inquiries, etc. regarding *The Ryukyuanist*:

EBB#8: Koji TAIRA <k-taira@uiuc.edu> (Note change since previous issue)

EBB#9: Karen LUPARDUS <lupardus@okiu.ac.jp>

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*The Ryukyuanist* is a quarterly newsletter on developments in Ryukyuan/Okinawan studies. Editors: Koji Taira and Karen Lupardus. Publisher: Emiko Utsumi, Okinawa Labor and Economic Research Institute. Annual subscriptions: institutions, US \$20 (Japan ¥2,000); individuals, US \$10 (Japan ¥1,000); special rate for students, US \$5 (Japan ¥500). Subscriptions are payable to Emiko Utsumi, Okinawa Labor and Economic Research Institute, 1-1 Higashimachi, Naha, Okinawa, Japan 900; or to Koji Taira, Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, University of Illinois, 504 E. Armory Ave., Champaign, IL 61820.

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