

The Ryukyuanist

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Nineteen ninety-nine was a bumper crop year for English-language publications in Ryukyuan/Okinawan studies. Three whole books, in three different fields, have come to our attention. In history, Gregory Smits, **Visions of Ryukyu: Identity and Ideology in Early Modern Thought and Politics** (Honolulu: The University of Hawaii Press). In anthropology/ethnography, Susan Sered, **Women of the Sacred Groves: Divine Priestesses of Okinawa** (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press). In political science, Chalmers Johnson, ed., **Okinawa: Cold War Island** (Cardiff, CA: Japan Policy Research Institute).

On the heels of **Okinawa**, Chalmers Johnson had published another book: **Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire** (Markham, Ontario: Fitzhenry & Whiteside), in which Okinawa is prominently featured. Ever since the Too-Shocking-to-Name incident of September 1995, Professor Johnson, president of the Japan Policy Research Institute in San Diego, CA, has sponsored and published a number of articles with special reference to the U.S. military bases in Okinawa and the policies of the U.S. and Japanese governments toward Okinawa in the Institute's publications, **Critique and Occasional Papers**.

We are also alerted to two forthcoming books: Steve Rabson and Michael S. Molasky, eds., **Southern Exposure: Modern Japanese Literature from Okinawa** (Honolulu: The University of Hawaii Press) and Josef Kreiner, ed. **Ryukyu in the History of East Asia, Asia and the World** (Bonn, Germany: The University of Bonn Japanzentrum).

A Ryukyuan/Okinawan studies panel was presented at the 52nd annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies, San Diego, CA, March 9-12, 2000: **Okinawa Champuru: The Local and the Global in the Cultural Politics of Identity**, chaired by Linda Isako Angst, Earlham College. Panelists and topics were James E. Roberson on pop music; Linda Isako Angst on tourism and the U.S. bases; Christopher Nelson on Fujiki Hayato, the storyteller; and Masamichi S. Inoue on Henoko and the heliport controversy. Discussant: Yoshinobu Ota, anthropologist with Kyushu University.

At another panel, Gregory Smits gave a paper on politics of medicine in the Ryukyu Kingdom.

An innovative poster session was presented by Gerald A. Figal: "**Caves and Graves: Or, How the Battle of Okinawa Almost Ruined Our Vacation.**" The poster is derived from a forthcoming article, "**Waging Peace on Okinawa,**" in **Critical Asian Studies** (formerly **The Bulletin of Concerned Asian Scholars**). Gerald A. Figal is with the University of Delaware.

The Year 2000 is the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the University of the Ryukyus (Ryudai). **The Ryukyuanist** is fortunate to be able to celebrate this important juncture of Ryudai's history with an essay by Professor Yoshio Shimoji. The essay recalls how Ryudai, now a flourishing institution of higher learning, struggled with unbelievable hardships and obstacles in its early years. Professor Shimoji is with the Department of Languages and Cultures, University of the Ryukyus.

The University of the Ryukyus: Early Days

by
Yoshio Shimoji

On May 22, this year, the University of the Ryukyus, or Ryudai, will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its foundation, presumably with pomp and circumstance. Ryudai was established by the U.S. Military Government (MG) of the Ryukyu Islands in May 1950 in the chaotic aftermath of World War II.

The vestiges of the fierce fighting of five years earlier were visible everywhere, and the people, still suffering from traumatic memories of the war, were struggling to earn a day-to-day livelihood under greatly reduced living conditions.

Starting as a miniature institution under these circumstances, it was often derided as an "8-millimeter university," by analogy with a small-scale home movie. Today's Ryudai boasts a lush, extensive campus with modern halls and buildings neatly laid out in its area of 252.73 acres. It is located on the crests of a hilly area of central Okinawa, commanding a splendid view of Nakagusuku Bay and the Pacific Ocean.

Six faculties constitute the university at present: Law and Letters, Education, Medicine, Science, Engineering, and Agriculture, Medicine having been added after the reversion and nationalization. The six graduate schools affiliated with these faculties offer advanced degree programs in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Education, Medicine, Health Sciences, Engineering and Science, and Agriculture. In addition, there are sixteen research and

education facilities.

At the time of writing this article, 893 members are listed on the teaching staff and 936 on the administrative staff. The student enrollment numbers about 8,000 including some 200 overseas students from twenty-eight countries. To the present, Ryudai has signed academic exchange agreements with fifteen overseas universities, including Michigan State University in the United States, the University of Canberra in Australia, and Chulalongkorn University in Thailand. Further expansion may be expected in the future.

However, the road from Ryudai's humble origins to its present growth and expansion has not always been so smooth and straight as one may imagine. In truth, it has been full of twists and turns, especially in the earlier years of its history. What follows is a brief review of Ryudai's fledgling period: how it came into being and what its aims and policies were.

Before Ryudai

Postwar education in Okinawa started spontaneously at a time of refugee camps in the north. Military operations were still proceeding on the battle fronts. Teachers and able volunteers who had survived the war and escaped serious injury were the ones to be credited with this initial endeavor.

When the refugees were allowed to return to their 'home' anywhere between several months and two years after the end of the war, they found their old villages and towns reduced to rubbles. Sometimes whole areas were fenced off to make room for the occupation army's camps and

stations.

Everything started from ground zero, and education was no exception. On August 15, 1945, the day Japan surrendered unconditionally to the Allied Powers, an estimated 100 representatives from all over the Ryukyu Islands gathered at Ishikawa in northern Okinawa to discuss the possibility of establishing a governing body for the civilian population. At the time Okinawa was directly ruled by the United States' military government (MG).

The Okinawa Advisory Council or Shijunkai came into being as a result of this meeting. Fifteen members were elected on August 20. Koshin Shikiya was selected president of the council. (Shikiya later became Ryudai's first president.) Education was always a major topic at the meetings of Shijunkai.

Teacher training was the most urgent business to be undertaken because of the sheer lack of qualified individuals resulting from the deaths of many of them during the war. In order to meet this need, in January 1946, the Education School or Bunkyo Gakkō was established at Gushikawa in central Okinawa in order to meet this need. In a few months, its Foreign Language Department was upgraded as the Okinawa Foreign Language School. The objective was to train and provide acutely needed translators and interpreters for the U.S. armed forces and MG as well as the civilian sectors.

Students were admitted through examinations, provided that they could prove middle school graduation (notionally on a par with postwar high school graduation) or an equivalent or higher education. Classes were conducted in quonset huts vacated by the U.S. Army.

The opening of these schools

was mostly due to Atsuo Yamashiro, chairman of the Education Committee of Shijunkai. In April 1946, Shijunkai was replaced by the Okinawa Civilian Administration (OCA) with Shikiya as governor of Okinawa [Gunto]. Yamashiro continued to serve as the director of the Education Department of the new administration.

Aspiring to a university

It gradually became apparent among educators and administrators that there should be a college-level institution above these schools and the newly started high schools which would soon be sending their graduates out into society. The most avid supporter of this idea was Yamashiro himself, who took every opportunity to voice his opinion on the urgency of establishing a university.

In fact, the idea of founding an institution of higher learning was nothing new in postwar Okinawa. The Prefectural Assembly adopted a resolution in 1936, and made a proposal in 1939, to the effect that "in order for Okinawa-Ken to develop, it is most urgent that talents be cultivated by establishing an institution of higher learning on the basis of egalitarian principles."

In 1943, a similar request was filed with the Ministry of Education by the prefectural government. By that time, however, the prospect of war close to home loomed ahead and the plan to establish a college-level institution fizzled out.

Yamashiro advanced his initial plan to MG's director of Information and Education Department, Col. J. C. Stuart. At first, Stuart was dubious, but at Yamashiro's insistence he promised to take the matter into consideration. In about September 1947, Stuart told

Yamashiro that a junior college could start on April 1, 1948 and requested a report on a possible site of the college and persons available for the faculty posts. Soon afterwards, Stuart was assigned to another post in the United States. The project was continued by his successor, Arthur E. Mead, who developed it into a more concrete form.

Aside from all this, the Okinawa Relief and Rehabilitation League of Hawaii was trying to help Okinawa to recover from the ravages of war and, as part of their relief efforts, began a fund-raising campaign for the establishment of a university in Okinawa. In the October 10, 1947 issue of the *Uruma Shimpo*, they announced a plan to establish Okinawa University, emphasizing that education was pivotal in the reconstruction of Okinawa.

In the following year, 1948, they set the plan in motion by granting scholarships to five high school graduates to study at the University of Hawaii in the hope that upon graduation they would join the faculty of the new university in Okinawa.

These events stimulated public opinion and culminated in the formation of the "Establish-a-University-in-Okinawa" Association by high school students and their parents or guardians. The leaders of the All Okinawa Federation of High School Student Councils even petitioned MG to take immediate action and raised a sum of 85,575 B-yen (\$ = 50 B-yen).

Giving birth to Ryudai

In response to this groundswell of public opinion, MG worked out a plan and forwarded it to General Headquarters (GHQ) in Tokyo for final approval, which was given in 1948. The Deputy Military Governor then publicly announced a definite scheme for establishing a university.

In December 1948, Brig. Gen. John H. Weckerling, Chief of the Ryukyu Section, Far East Command, visited Okinawa and, together with Mead and Yamashiro, inspected the ruins of Shuri Castle to assess the area as a possible site. It had been the target of concentrated fire and bombardment because the headquarters of the defending Japanese forces had been located there.

They inspected other sites as well, but all agreed that Shuri was the most appropriate location for the new university. Shuri Castle had not only been center stage for Ryukyuan government, but it had also represented the cultural and scholarly heritage of Ryukyu Kingdom over several centuries. The three men hoped the new university would function likewise.

Construction began in June 1949, with a building fund in the order of \$47,066 appropriated by the United States government. By the end of that year, most of the planned structures were complete.

In February 1950, Brig. Gen. H. S. Sherman, deputy military governor, appointed Genshu Asato, then director of Adult Education of OCA, as acting president of the new university on condition that his term of appointment would be no longer than six months or until a permanent appointment was decided.

Asato had no previous experience in university planning or administration so that, as he later recounted, there were no bounds to his anxiety when he undertook to shape academic and administrative structures, to recruit qualified personnel for various posts, and to compile the curriculum.

Asato somehow finished both the curriculum and the personnel recruitment within his time limit. As for the academic

program, his initial plan was to set up seven departments under one system: English, Japanese, Education, Social Sciences, Natural Science, Agriculture, and Applied Arts.

Some faculty members came from the Okinawa Education School and the Okinawa Foreign Language School, when they were absorbed by the new institution. On April 5, 1950, with twenty-nine faculty and fifteen staff members properly placed, the University of the Ryukyus announced it was ready to accept applications for the admittance of 515 students.

At this point, however, MG ordered Asato to delay accepting applications, claiming that the academic program must be reworked by eliminating the Department of Japanese. A Dr. Chapman, a self-appointed Ryudai adviser from MG's Information and Education Department, adamantly insisted that there was no need for Japanese because students would have acquired enough of it in high school. After some wrangling and compromising on both sides, it was decided that courses on Japanese would be offered as electives in the Education Department.

Cranking up Ryudai

On May 2, 1950, the first entrance examinations were successfully administered. Of 931 applicants, 562 were accepted. On May 22, 1950, an entrance ceremony was held in the auditorium on the second floor of the administration building for 480 freshmen, and 82 sophomores transferred from the Okinawa Education School and Okinawa Foreign Language School.

The Military Government was redesignated the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyus (USCAR) in December 1950. Cognizant of Ryudai's lack of a legal basis, USCAR issued CA Ordinance Number 30 on January

10, 1951, conferring a clear legal status on it. With all this done, Ryudai held a formal dedication ceremony on February 12, 1951, Lincoln's Birthday.

Koshin Shikiya, the outgoing governor of Okinawa, had already been nominated as the permanent president of the university by Deputy Military Governor, Brig. Gen. H. S. Sherman, in spite of Shikiya's strong wish to retire from all public services.

Invitations to the dedication ceremony went out to dignitaries both at home and abroad.

Expressing regrets for not being able to attend the ceremony, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, *ex officio* Military Governor of the Ryukyu Islands, sent a congratulatory message. The invited guests who attended the ceremony included Maj. Gen. Robert Beightler, then Deputy Military Governor; Noboru Mizutani, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for the Ministry of Education; and President Isao Kikuchi of Kyushu University; among others.

USCAR's Ordinance Number 30 established the so-called "Basic Code for Ryudai." It declares that "[t]he principal object of the University is to provide post-high school education in the arts, sciences, and professions to students of both sexes." Further, it is stipulated that "[t]he University shall also disseminate matters of general information and education to the adult population of the Ryukyus furthering, *as far as is consistent with the military occupation, the liberties of democratic countries, including freedom of speech, assembly, petition, religion, and the press*" (italics added).

With this provision as a legal ground, successive Civil Administrators meddled in Ryudai affairs at their own discretion, often disregarding the universal principle of academic freedom

that universities should be free from political interferences.

USCAR repression of students' freedom of speech

USCAR's interference with Ryudai was most conspicuous when dealing with student affairs. In March 1953, an incident took place which seemed to augur ill for Ryudai's future. During the island-wide blackout practice, the occupants of the Ryudai dormitories alone left their lights on in protest. This incident provoked USCAR's ire.

At about the same time, a group of students belonging to the Politico-Economic Society set up exhibitions in Naha on the use of nuclear weapons, appealing against repetition of such tragedies and war. It was said that students' off-campus activities like these were closely watched by CIC (the U.S. Army's Counterintelligence Corps) and reported in detail via USCAR to Ryudai.

In April, when the new semester began, four leaders of the group were summoned individually by the student adviser and ordered suspended for six months for three reasons: (1) they had published the journal *Jiyū* (freedom) without permission; (2) they had kept the lights on during the blackout; and (3) they had mounted the nuclear exhibitions without permission. The case developed in an unexpected direction and wound up with the four students' expulsion from the university because of "their further violations" of a hastily enacted regulation.

The year 1953 was the beginning of the most turbulent period in the postwar history of Okinawa. Beginning in that year, a series of forced land expropriations for the expansion of military bases took place, first in the Aja and Mekaru districts in Mawashi, then the

Gushi district in Oroku, the Maja district on Ie Island, and finally the Isabama district in Ginowan. All of these land expropriations were executed at bayonet-point and by bulldozer leveling houses and destroying farms in the faces of protesting farmers.

On January 7, 1954, President Eisenhower made it clear in his State of Union Message that the U.S. intended to keep Okinawa for an unlimited period of time. Then, on March 17, Washington announced its plan to make lump-sum payments for the appropriated land. On April 30, the alarmed Legislature of the Ryukyu Islands unanimously adopted a resolution setting forth four principles: (1) no lump-sum payments, (2) appropriate compensation for the land taken, (3) compensation for damages, and (4) no new land expropriation.

In response to the worsening public opinion on the land question, Melvin Price led an investigative team from the U.S. House of Representatives to Okinawa in October 1955, for a firsthand look at the problem. In June 1956, they submitted their findings to the House Committee on Armed Services, in which they recommended that the U.S. acquire fee titles for the land used for military purposes on Okinawa, thus supporting Washington's plan for lump-sum payments and betraying the Okinawa people's high expectations. This was the last straw.

On July 28, 1956, a "Prefectural Rally to Attain the Four Principles" was held in Naha with more than 100,000 participants from all over the island. Ryudai students constituted a significant element.

On that day, the Ryudai students had their own

demonstration on their campus, and then departed for Naha, some by bus and many others on foot with protest placards in hand. The university authorities had already authorized their protest march on condition that it should be orderly and that no anti-American sentiments be expressed in any form, oral or written.

The organizers, the student council, were in firm control of the demonstrators when they set out for Naha. Somewhere along the way, however, they were met by a group of about seventy Okinawan students attending mainland universities but home for the summer vacation. It was after these students joined the Ryudai group that the organizers lost control of the demonstration, letting it turn into a vociferous "Yankee Go Home" snake dance that zigzagged the rest of the way to the rally.

USCAR was already nervous about political activities at Ryudai, and the day's demonstration greatly inflated their anxieties. Retaliation against the rally and the students' participation in it came quickly enough. USCAR imposed severe "off-limits" measures so that Okinawa's base-dependent economy would dry up in no time.

USCAR also demanded that Ryudai expel the leaders of the demonstration. It threatened to withdraw financial aid when the administrators vacillated pusillanimously. It condemned the demonstration as imbued with anti-American coloring citing the rally slogans of "Yankee Go Home!" and "Down with U.S. Tyranny!" After some futile resistance, the Ryudai administration headed by President Genshu Asato finally succumbed and, on August 17, 1956, expelled six student leaders and suspended one other.

Concluding remarks

Despite such fits and starts in the early days of its history, surprisingly, Ryudai survived the crises and continued to grow rapidly in its infrastructure and academic quality. This was possible with the financial backing of USCAR and the moral support of the Okinawa people.

Noteworthy is that Ryudai, in its early days, had some of the characteristics and ambience of a U.S. land-grant university. These characteristics dissipated after reversion but recently revived, albeit in spirit, with the start of media extension service programs as well as with the establishment of an Education and Research Center for Lifelong Learning.

Such efforts as these - to carry the results of research directly to the local people - are the legacy of Ryudai's "ordinance period," when it received a substantial amount of technical as well as academic assistance from Michigan State University for well over 18 years.

References

Fisch, Arnold G. 1972. **Military Government in the Ryukyu Islands, 1945-1950**. Washington DC: United States Center of Military History.

University of the Ryukyus. 1960 (1970, 1980, 1990). **The 10th (20th, 30th, 40th) Anniversary of Ryudai**.

Okinawa Times. 1984. **Ryudai fudoki** (The Ryudai Chronicle). Naha: The Okinawa Times Press.

Warner, Gordon. 1972. **History of Education in Postwar Okinawa**. Tokyo: Nihon Bunka Kagaku-sha.

Publications (XXXVIII)

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of the following publications, papers, and materials:

[Arasaki, Moriteru] 1998. "Okinawa and the Struggle for Democracy: An Interview with Arasaki Moriteru," **AMPO** (Japan Asia Quarterly Review), vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 40-44. An interview helpful for understanding Professor Arasaki's views and beliefs on certain controversial issues surrounding Okinawa such as the International City Plan, indigenous political parties, calls for independence, anti-war anti-base land owners, women's movement, etc. After playing a significant role in a successful two-day conference on Okinawan independence in May 1997, Arasaki surprised many Okinawans by deriding the idea of independence as something similar to a drunkard's braggadocio (*izakaya dokuritsuron*). This **AMPO** interview clarifies what he had on mind when he offered that remark.

Hawaii United Okinawa Association Newsletter. 1999. **Uchinanchu**, #70 (April/May), #71 (August/September), #72 (November/December). A remarkable feature of #70 is an original poem in Okinawan, **Jidai nu nagari** (River of Time), by Ms Nae Nakasone, Issei koto instructor, translated into English by Professor Mitsugu Sakihara. #72 contains a rare photograph of "Yabu Gunsō" surrounded by his karate students. Yabu visited Hawaii in 1927.

Japan Quarterly. 2000. Vol. 47, No. 1 (January-March). Tokyo: Asahi Shimbun. 120 pp. 1,260 yen. Contains two papers related to Ryukyu/Okinawa; "Okinawa Summit No Solution to

U.S. Military Base Issues" by Gabe Masaaki and a review by Yamaguchi Eitetsu of Gregory Smits, **Visions of Ryukyu: Identity and Ideology in Early Modern Thought and Politics**, University of Hawaii Press, 1999.

Jenkins, A. P. and Rajendran, S. eds. 1997. **Speaking Out on Okinawa 46 'Gaijin' Perspectives from the Shimpo Weekly News**. Naha: The Hirugi Publishing Co. 242 pp. 1,000 yen + tax. From among contributions by foreigners, who are native speakers of English, to the columns of the **Ryukyu Shimpo's** weekly English page over the years, the editors have selected 46 essays by 25 authors and organized them in 12 chapters. The essays are full of insightful, generally friendly comments on Okinawan life and culture from international comparative perspectives.

Jenkins, A. P. 1997. "Lt. Gen. Bolivar Buckner: Private Letters Relating to the Battle of Okinawa." University of the Ryukyus, Faculty of Law and Letters, **Ryudai Review of Euro-American Studies**, No. 42: 63-113. General Buckner (1886-1945) was killed in action when the glory of victory in the Battle of Okinawa was almost at hand. How he died is poignantly described by Brigadier General Post in his letter to Buckner's son, Cadet Buckner at West Point.

Idem. 1997. "The Battle Diary of Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, 1945." University of the Ryukyus, **Gengo Bunka Kenkyū Kiyō** (SCRIPSIMUS), No. 6: 69-

122. A valuable material for the history of the Battle of Okinawa. Buckner's vision of postwar Okinawa is instructive. He told Admiral Nimitz "that Okinawa should be retained by us as a means of access to the China sea, a flanking position against north and south movements along the China coast, a check against further aggression by Japan and as an outpost to prevent Russia from expansion into the Pacific...we should control this island as a "protectorate," "mandate" or some other name that would have the Okinawans as aliens not permitted to enter our country as citizens and add to our already complex race problems." (pp. 99-100).

Medoruma, Shun. 1999. "Hope." **JPRI Critique**, Volume VI (December), pp. 1-2. A short story by an Okinawan writer, first published in the **Asahi Shinbun**, translated by Professor Steve Rabson. A twelve-year old Okinawan girl is raped by American soldiers. Some 80,000 Okinawans gather for a peaceful rally in polite protest. Outraged by the docility of his people, one Okinawan man thinks that only the worst methods get the results. One day he finds an American child sleeping in the back seat of a car parked near a supermarket. He drives the car into the nearby woods and kills the child by strangling. The killer then alerts a local newspaper by a declaration that what Okinawa needs is not a demonstration of thousands of people, but the death of one American child. The author is the 1997 winner of the Akutagawa Prize. (See **The Ryukyuanist**, No. 39, pp. 6-7.)

Okinawaken Bunka Shinkōkai

(Okinawa Prefecture Culture Promotion Society), Kōbunsho Kanribu Shiryō Henshū Sitsu (Public Documents Archives, Historical Materials Editing Office), ed. 1999. **Dai-5-kai Ryukyu/Chūgoku kōshōshi ni kansuru simpozium ronbunshū** (A collection of papers presented at the 5th symposium concerning Ryukyuan/Chinese relations). Naha: Okinawaken Kyōiku Iinkai (Okinawa Education Commission). Contains six articles, each in Chinese and Japanese, on various aspects of the center/tributary relations between China and Ryukyu during Ming and Qing periods. Special attention is paid to the international system of rescue, care and repatriation of shipwreck victims under Qing hegemony.

Idem. 1996. **Rekidai Hōan** (Ryukyu Kingdom files [of diplomatic documents]), revised compilation, vol. 5 (1750-1765). Naha: Okinawa Kyoiku Iinkai. 615 pp. Imperial rescripts, royal memorials, bureaucratic memoranda, dispatches, missives, etc. between Beijing, Fujian, and Ryukyu. Most of the documents concern shipwrecks and their victims, Chinese, Korean, and Ryukyuan. There are also documents relating to the 1756 investiture of King Sho Boku. The deputy emissary at this time was Zhou Huang, whose report on Ryukyu is lauded for its thoroughness and accuracy, ranking with Xu Baoguang's.

Sered, Susan. 1999. **Women of the Sacred Groves**. New York: Oxford University Press. viii, 298 pp. A gender-sensitive ethnography of Okinawa's unique tradition in which women and priestesses are religious leaders within the home, clan, and village --- and until a

hundred and twenty years ago, in the Ryukyu Kingdom. The author's fieldwork was undertaken in Henza, a fishing/agricultural village of central Okinawa. In Henza, women go out of the house to socialize more than men do; women are seen as more social beings than men. A first book on Okinawan religion in more than 30 years since William P. Lebra's (1966).

Shirota, Chika. 1999. "Dancing Beyond the US Military: Okinawan *Eisaa* as Identity and Diaspora," **Theatre InSight** (Journal of Theatre and Performance Studies), vol. 10 (Spring): 4-13. *Eisaa* is a performing art that most dynamically expresses Okinawa's cultural identity, which was much needed in the depressing "diaspora" of refugee and prisoner-of-war camps during and after the Battle of Okinawa. Revived to comfort Okinawans who had lost everything in the battle, *Eisaa* subsequently flourished in a peculiar, negotiated symbiosis with the military bases. The article deciphers this puzzling history of the folk art of *Eisaa*.

Siddle, Richard. 1998. "Colonialism and Identity in Okinawa Before 1945," **Japanese Studies** (journal of the Japanese Studies Association of Australia), Vol. 18, No. 2: 117-133. Outlines and analyzes alternative versions of

Okinawan history arising from contrasting paradigms (colonialism and modernization). In 1879, Japan took over the Ryukyu Kingdom and installed Okinawa Prefecture in its place. Okinawans, made Japanese subjects, have since variously responded to their changing world. How should Okinawa before 1945 be understood and defined? An internal colony or a modernizing region of Japan? "Okinawans are not themselves united in their understanding of the past and have not succeeded in forging a 'nation' in Okinawa." (p. 133)

Communication

In response to our inquiry, Dr. Patrick Beillevaire of the Centre de Recherches sur le Japon supplies great news: "Concerning the republication of Okinawa related material...I am editing a 10-volume collection (some 3000 pages) of Western material on Okinawa, dating from the 16th century through the 1930s. The publisher is Curzon Press, in relation with Synapse Publishing Co. in Tokyo, which is the distributor for Japan...The bulk of [the material] is in English. There are some unpublished and important French documents, along with a few German texts. The first set (five volumes) should appear in the coming months at least before the Nago Summit)."

The Ryukyuanist, a quarterly newsletter on Ryukyuan/Okinawan studies, is edited by Koji Taira at ILIR-UIUC, 504 E. Armory, Champaign, IL 61820. E-mail, <k-taira@uiuc.edu>. Tel: 217-333-1483. Fax: 217-333-9290. Sub: currently, \$10 for individuals, \$20 for institutions; effective No. 50, uniformly FREE on demand.