ENGLISH SUMMARY

Oral History (Oraru hisutorii ni tsuite)
by MIKURIYA Takashi

This article is based on the lecture of “oral history,” the author’s special field, at the research liaison meeting of the directors and the employees of the National Archives of Japan held on January 16, 2004.

In this lecture, the author explained definitions and methodologies of oral history, the practical problems incidental thereto, and the measures taken for such problems and other subjects, while interspersing the explanations with many accounts of personal experiences.

The author also explained in an easily understandable manner a few aspects of oral history research which is currently conducting at the University of Tokyo’s Research Center for Advanced Science and Technology. The various specific examples are presented in the article.

Present Condition and Issues on Disclosure and Access Examination of Records: From Case Examples of the Records Concerning Liquidation of Closed Institutions (Kokai shinsa no genjo to kadai: Heisa kikan seisankankei jirei kara)
by SHIOMITSU Masaya

Based on my professional duties and experiences as a Specialist for Archival Affairs at the National Archives of Japan, I presented case examples of the records concerning closed institutions, which constitute the largest records group at the National Archives, in relation to the present condition and issues on the access policy of the Archives. I also expressed my own opinions from the standpoint of applying the access policy.

The transfer and preservation of records related to the liquidation of closed institutions were taken up as a controversial topic by the mass media, and those records were finally transferred to the National Archives from the Ministry of Finance in FY2001. The records are related to the liquidation of special purpose companies operating overseas, domestic economic control agencies during the war and other organizations that were designated and closed in accordance with the Closed Institutions Ordinance based on the GHQ’s directive.
This National Archives’ largest records group consists of approximately 135,000 volumes, all of which are currently preserved in the stacks of Tsukuba Annex. With the opening of the catalogue database to the public in March of this year, it is expected that the records will be used by a wide range of people.

In this paper, I put on record the circumstances leading up to the transfer and at the same time explained the results of investigations of these records, including the analysis of their outlines and sampling, which were carried out in accordance with the National Archives’ disclosure and access examination standards. In addition, I made recommendations on the improvement of examination methods in practical business, the dissemination of information on the National Archives’ access examination system and other issues through these investigations and routine examinations conducted when access requests were made. I also added that these investigations remain to be completed.

**Introduction to Historical Documents: Letters of So-and-so among Edojo Tamonyagura Monjo No. 3 (Edojo Tamonyagura Monjo no uchi boshi shokan sonosan)**

by UJIIE Mikito

During the period of confusion that ranged from the last days of the Tokugawa government to the Meiji Restoration, miscellaneous documents were left at the Tamonyagura warehouse in the Edo Castle without being discarded (Edojo Tamonyagura Monjo 江戸城多聞帳文書). In this third installment of the series, I introduced a historical document related to the sex life of the fourteenth Shogun Ieshige. It is a letter that is presumed to be written by an unnamed vassal of the Shogun in Osaka to his colleague in Edo on April 15, Keio 2 (1866), when the Shogun stayed at Osaka Castle to suppress the Choshu clan. In his letter, the vassal reported that a rumor was being circulated that an ochuro, who served as a sexual partner of the Shogun in Osaka, had become pregnant. He did not know how to cope with the situation if the rumor was true because he did not have with him any government documents that described precedents, and asked his colleague to send such documents, if any, from Edo. In the past, it was believed that Ieshige was not accompanied by any women during his campaign in Osaka, and this letter, which refers to the rumor of pregnancy, is valuable as a historical document because a new fact is added to Japanese history. It is also interesting that although the pregnant woman (ochuro) had performed the important duty of carrying the Shogun’s child, the vassal described her matter-of-factly as a “person with a bulging belly.” Even though this is a letter related to public service, it was probably common that such a plain expression was used between colleagues.
by NAGASAWA Kozo

When the author took over the job of my predecessor, Mr. Tamotsu Fukui, several of then pending matters were also passed on to me. One of the pending matters was the revision of the current catalogues. When I started to serve at the National Archives of Japan, the catalogues of Japanese books consisted only of indexes, and the catalogues were in stock then. The catalogues became soon out of stock, however. Since then, the catalogues of Japanese books and Chinese books, which constitute the principal catalogues of the Cabinet Library, have been out of stock till now. Once a publisher offered to publish a facsimile edition of those catalogues, but the author believed that their second edition should be issued after the revision of them was completed and therefore declined the publisher’s offer. The revision should have been completed all the more quickly because I believed so. Although it was included in our annual plan again and again, it could not be realized, and it was feared that the realization of a plan initiated in 1990 after several failures would be incomplete. I keenly felt that I had to briefly go through at least the catalogues of Chinese books for which I was responsible and made the results of investigation public little by little. The author should add that this series is concluded in this issue.

Excerpts from Shihai Monjo (Backside Documents) of “Jisha Zojiki, or Jinson Dai Sojo Ki” ( "Jisha Zojiki (Jinson Dai Sojoki)” shihai monjo sho )
by YASHIMA Sachiko

Listed here is a collection of passages taken at the author’s discretion from the backside documents of the first to the tenth volume of “Jisha Zojiki” ( also known as “Jinson Dai Sojo Ki”, Call No. 古 20-360 イ ), which comes in 20 volumes and are kept on the shelves of the National Archives of Japan.

“Jisha Zojiki”, or “Jinson Dai Sojo Ki” is the diaries of Jinson (1430-1508), the chief priest of the Daijoin in Nara Kofukuji Temple, and constitutes a part of the "Daijoin Monjo" purchased by Meiji Government in 1888.

The “Diaries of Jinson,” which are possessed by the National Archives, consist of 200 volumes. They are kept on the following four separate shelves (listed in the order of the call number): (A) [Daijoin] Jisha Zojiki 寺社雑事記（in one volume）古 19-359 口
(B) Jisha Zojiki (Jinson Dai Sojo Ki) 寺社雑事記（尋尊大僧正記）( in 20 volumes）古 20-360 イ
(C) Jimukata Shokaisho 寺務方諸遊請（in twelve volumes）古 21-363
(D) [Daijoin] Jisha Zojiki 寺社雑事記（in 167 volumes）古 27-514 イ

(A) was originally included in "Anijidono Gojiki” 安位寺殿御自記 and was later separated from the original shelf. Essentially, (A), (B) and (D) should be considered part of one and same document.

Jinson started to record daily events under the title “Jimukata Shokaisho” 寺務方諸廃請. This consists mainly of records for the three-year period from February 1456, when he was appointed betto (priest officer who supervised temple affairs) at Kofukuji Temple, to March 1459, when he retired. To this, he added excerpts of records of major events that occurred during the period from January 1450 to January 1456, before he was appointed betto. This set of diaries is complete and is classified as (C).

Even after retiring from office at Kofukuji Temple, he continued to keep diaries from April 1459 to the beginning of 1508, the year he passed away, and named them ”Jisha Zojiki” 寺社雑事記. This consists of a little more than 200 volumes, including those that were lost. Of these, records that remain are classified as (A), (B) and (D), which consist of 188 volumes.

(B) “Jisha Zojiki”, or “Jinson Dai Sojo Ki”, whose backside documents were transliterated and published in this issue, is kept on a shelf as 20-volume documents. The volumes are numbered differently and it seems that potions of the volumes had been separated from the original set of “Jisha Zojiki” at the time of purchase or during the preceding period when they were preserved in Daijoin’s library over the years, and later on they were bundled together into a single, independent set. All volumes contain much information on the Muromachi period and are valuable primary historical sources.

Catalogue of Donated Books: Chinese Books (Kizousho Mokuroku: Kanseki)
by AMAKO Akihiko

First, I would like to explain the Cabinet Library Collection and Donated Books, which are both owned by the National Archives of Japan, an Independent Administrative Institution.

The Cabinet Library Collection, which is in the possession of the National Archives, consists of some 530,000 items of Japanese and Chinese books and documents that can be classified into the following five major groups:
(1) Momijiyama Bunko Bon: In 1602, Ieyasu Tokugawa built a library within the Fujimi bower in the Edo Castle. Later, in July 1693, he set up a new library at Momijiyama in the Castle and named it “Momijiyama Bunko (Momijiyama Library).” Today, books in “Momijiyama Bunko” are
preserved in the National Archives and they are called “Momijiyama Bunko Bon,” based on their historical origin. This group of books is comprised chiefly of books published during the Song dynasty and Korean books that were formerly in the possession of the Kanazawa Bunko library, fair copies of books compiled by the Tokugawa government, and books presented by the Hayashi family to the government.

(2) Shoheizaka Gakumonjo Bon: The group consists mainly of books handed down from generation to generation in the Hayashi family, including those owned by Razan Hayashi.

(3) Wagaku Kodansho Bon: Books formerly possessed by Wagaku Kodansho, an institution established by the Tokugawa government to give lectures on Japanese studies and compile Japanese books, which was founded by Kiichi Hanawaho in the late Edo period.

(4) Igakukan Bon: Igakukan was established by the Taki family as its private school in 1756 and was placed under the direct control of the Tokugawa government in 1791. The group consists of old Chinese medical books collected by the family.

(5) Books published during the Meiji period (1868-1912) and thereafter: This group consists mainly of old Japanese and Chinese books owned by agencies of the then government, as well as politics and law books purchased by the government of the United Kingdom, the United States, Germany and France.

These books form the Cabinet Library, and their distinctive feature is that many of them were collected by the shogunate government, the Meiji government or other public institutions for certain purposes. Completely apart from these books, however, are books that were collected and donated by individuals to the National Archives of Japan. Those donated books are classified and catalogued as the “Catalogue of Donated Books” (Chinese Books) here. They were possessed by Mr. 小杉熙 and his son, Mr. 小杉醇. They were donated by Mr. 小杉醇’s son, Mr. 小杉暢, to the National Archives and were transferred there on July 11, 1986. The reason the books owned by the 小杉 family for over two generations were donated to the National Archives was that Mr. 小杉醇 worked for the Cabinet Library. During his service at the Library, he was involved in the compilation of the Cabinet Library’s 1914 edition of “Catalogue of Chinese Books.” Later, he worked for the Ministry of Education and took such posts as professor at the Tokyo Higher Normal School. His father, Mr. 小杉熙 was a scholar of Chinese classics, and he had been engaged in education at normal schools in Toyama and Shiga for more than 30 years.