

2004 Japanese Company History (*Shashi*) Interest Group Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Date / Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:25 a.m. Wednesday, March 3, 2004.

Place: Royal Palm 3, Town and Courtry Resort Hotel, San Diego, CA

Participants: Tokiko Bazzell (chair), Hiroyuki Good, Kazuko Sakaguchi, Sanae Isozumi, Michiko Ito, Yoko Okunishi, Saeko Sato, Haruyo Shinoda, Meng-fen Su, Wen-ling Lin, Naomi Kotake, Hisami Springer, Ellen Hammond, Eizaburo Okuizumi, Atsushi Aiba, Toshie Marra, Tomoko Bialock, Haruko Nakamura (recorder)

Introduction and Information to Share- Tokiko Bazzell, Chair

Before convening the meeting, Ms. Ellen Hammond asked about any affiliations of the *Shashi* Interest Group. Ms. Tokiko Bazzell replied that the *Shashi* Interest Group is an informal interest group, affiliated with AAS and anyone with an interest in the topic of *Shashi*, can participate in this meeting.

Bazzell opened the meeting by announcing that she assumed the position of former chair Maureen Donovan, who is currently on sabbatical in Japan. When she met Maureen at Nichibunken in December 2003, she sent her best regards to everyone in the group.

Bazzell informed the meeting participants that Ms. Mitsuko Anders is no longer working in the Japan division at the Library of Congress (LC). Anders intended to create a *Shashi* web site at LC and before she departed, she completed an inventory of approximately 800 Japanese *Shashi* titles at LC. Bazzell contacted Mr. Ito, who assumed Anders' position and received his assurances that the project would continue forward.

Bazzell announced that University of Hawaii (UH) received a grant from the 2004 NCC-MVS program for 「Maikuro-ban Nihon no Kaishashi マイクロ版日本の会社史」, which is available through ILL. The University of Michigan library already possesses this entire group but it is unavailable through ILL. The NCC-MVS grant has enabled UH to acquire two of nine total sets in the group, which are 「Ippan kikai, Denki kiki 一般機械・電気機械」 and 「Tetsudo, kaiun, rikuun, koku, soko 鉄道・海運・陸運・航空・倉庫」. Bazzell encouraged the meeting participants to seek ways for the remaining seven sets to be purchased and shared via ILL.

Hammond asked about the scope of companies covered in the entire *Shash* nine volume group and Bazzell informed that there are over 2000 companies.

Bazzell presented three important points of *Shashi*, according to UH scholar, Lonny Carlile as: (1) *Shashi* represent sources of primary and secondary historical information and documentation that under normal circumstances would not be publicly available, (2) Collectively, the *Shashi* in an industry provide the micro-level resources for a comprehensive study of the evolution of a

given industry, and (3) For students of Japanese political economy interested in broader policy studies or specific historical incidents, *Shashi* provide the means by which to supplement the accounts given in conventionally used government and journalistic sources and to more accurately measure the impact of state policies and broader market and technological forces.

Cataloging the *Shashi* titles– Hisami Springer (UH)

Ms. Hisami Springer highlighted points regarding the cataloging of acquired *Shashi* titles at UH. *Shashi* often comes to the cataloging unit as a rush cataloging item and gets first priority. If its bibliographic record does not exist in OCLC or RLIN, Springer does original cataloging. As a rush cataloging item, when she receives a book in the morning, it is normally available by the end of the same day.

UH is a NACO and SACO participant and must establish authority records for companies' names, but Springer has not yet encountered this situation.

Additional work – some *Shashi* books are accompanied by microfilm, CD-ROMs and other supplemental materials. UH handles supplemental materials on an individual, case-by-case basis. In some cases, these supplements are not stored in the same location as the books.

Springer presented some examples of the UH OPAC records of *Shashi* titles (Voyager records). Even though the records cannot be searched in the Japanese vernacular, one can see Japanese in the record. Also, a website of listing of books by industry type is available at the UH Japan Collection *Shashi* web site.

Hammond asked if there are many companies that publish *Shashi* in CD-ROM format. Bazzell replied that the number of CDs was increasing. Some companies publish the content in both print and CDs, and still others include spreadsheets and web sites containing additional information.

Ms. Naomi Kotake of Stanford Univ. asked how UH was going to catalog 「マイクロ版日本の会社史」 which contains many different companies. Springer mentioned a finding aid for the collection and Bazzell indicated that UH intends to include the companies in their web site list.

Report of the University of Kansas Library *Shashi* Web site – Michiko Ito, University of Kansas (UK) passed out handouts of the *Shashi* website at UK that lists industry categories. She acknowledged UH for the idea of the website. Instead of covering all areas, UK focuses on *Shashi* in the agriculture and food sectors. Ito asked the participants to develop the North American *Shashi* web sites, which may bear the *Shashi* interest group's banner, or links to *Shashi* collections web sites, such as the ones at UH and Ohio State University.

One difficulty for *Shashi* collection development at UK is cataloging the collected *Shashi* in a timely manner. Ito mentioned that many acquired *Shashi* titles are backlogged in the cataloging department.

Ito also mentioned UK Library's outreach efforts to K-12 schools in the community. In order to introduce more people to Japanese culture, Ito started a library display showing products from U.S. companies operating in Japan. Ito showed a paper placemat and the wrapping paper for a teriyaki burger illustrated with Japanese cartoon characters from McDonald's-Japan and similar products from KFC-Japan.

Hammond mentioned that there were outreach coordinators among East Asian libraries and suggested that Ito work with them to publish a paper to attract attention to Japanese culture among youths. Bazzell also mentioned that many Japanese studies students were originally attracted to Japanese studies after exposure to popular Japanese culture, such as anime and manga characters when they were young. Ito's efforts are worthwhile, especially in the Midwest region of the United States.

Site visit to the Kawasaki Library's *Shashi* Collection – Tokiko Bazzell (UH)

Bazzell distributed her report and handouts on her Visit to the Kawasaki Library's *Shashi* Collection. For a full report, please visit the UH *Shashi* Collection site <http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/company/company_home2.htm>

Bazzell also mentioned that Kawasaki Library possess about 800 duplicate *Shashi* materials. Since the institution is municipal, the library cannot sell those duplicate books. Thus, Bazzell stressed that this could present an exchange opportunity between Kawasaki Library and East Asian libraries in North America. There is no list of these duplicate materials but they are *Shashi* in the science and technology sectors. The Kawasaki Library desires some materials in English and those exchange materials do not have to be *Shashi* but anything about current industrial science and technology. Bazzell asked participants to consider this opportunity and come up with ideas on how exchanges might be arranged.

Bazzell distributed a copy of the Kawasaki Library's *Shashi* collection database <www.klnet.pref.kanagawa.jp/kawasaki/cole.htm>, and examples of its request and thank-you letters for *Shashi* donations.

Bazzell also mentioned the "Catalog of Histories of Japanese Companies and Labor Unions held at the Kawasaki Library 神奈川県立川崎図書館所蔵・社史・労働組合史目録" and pointed out that several libraries in the U.S. hold scattered issues of the title.

7 Wonders and 7 Mysteries of the *Shashi* (company histories) – Eizaburo Okuizumi, University of Chicago (UC) made his presentation in Japanese. This English summary was composed by Haruko Nakamura under the supervision of Mr. Okuizumi. The concept of *Shashi* is unique to Japanese bibliography and publication, and there are many interesting *Shashi* published in Japan. Because of this unique treatment of *Shashi* in Japan, there are good bibliographies for *Shashi* materials such as 「会社史総合目録」 (a union list of *Shashi* from the Meiji period) and so on.

In fact, many libraries in Japan hold considerable *Shashi* collections such as Kawasaki Library 川崎図書館, Hitotsubashi University Library 一橋大学, Kansai University Library 関西大学, Tokyo Municipal Central Library 東京都立中央図書 and Ryukoku University's Nagao Collection 龍谷大学(長尾文庫). The University of Tsukuba *Tulip* website also provides information on how to access to *Shashi* collections, however, the website has not been updated since 1999.

Okuizumi encouraged people to see many of those collections with their own eyes and to use *Shashi* in interdisciplinary studies. He introduced a book 「*Shashi no kenkyu 社史の研究*」 (by Ms. Katsuko Murahashi), which was highly praised by the former president of Shiseido Co. Ltd. and Dr. K. Tourk, a professor in the Chicago area. Prof. Tourk often uses *Shashi* materials in his research. At the last seminar held at the University of Chicago, he presented a comparative study entitled *Quality Changes in the Factors of Production During Colonial Period: Effect on Post-Independent Growth in Egypt and Korea*. For this research, he used *Shashi* materials and acknowledged Mr. Okuizumi's assistance in the use of *Shashi* materials.

For his own research on *Re-examining of SCAP/ GHQ / CCD Documents and Annotated Bibliography and Contents of Educational Journals in Occupied Japan, 1945-1949* in *戦後教育史研究*, Okuizumi was able to fully use *Shashi*-related information. He obtained a larger view of the local and prefectural level publishing industries during that period.

One can also look at the history of Japanese-American movements in *Shashi*. For example, *Shikago Shinpo シカゴ新報* and *Rafu Shinpo 羅府新報* provided their *Shashi* information along with the development and promotion of Japanese-American communities and companies in North America.

A challenge to accessing *Shashi* is the lack of distributed bibliographic information on *Shashi*. For example, 「*清水建設二百年*」 (Two hundred years of Shimizu Cooperation) is a very interesting *Shashi* that was recently published. This title contained good historical documents and new research by well-known scholars, as well as by its editorial staff members. However, there are still no records on WebCat and/or RLIN.

Shashi is not easy to define. Often the term *Shashi* refers to a book format, book style, not-for-sale and gray literature. Moreover, *Shashi* appear in many formats such as pamphlets, serial articles and brochures. Indeed, the definition of industries in *Shashi* also can be broadened in the academic world. For example, we can view histories of collective/groups, organizations, labor unions and associations as *Shashi*. In this sense, *Shashi* can be in variety of formats, making the definition of *Shashi* diverse. For instance, 「*三菱社誌*」 (Historical records of Mitsubishi Company) uses the character “誌” for their *Shashi*, instead of “史”.

He also mentioned some interesting *Shashi* during the colonial period in Japan such as *Shashi of Chosen Ginko 朝鮮銀行*、*Chosen Shokutaku Ginko 朝鮮殖産銀行*、*Chosen Shintaku 朝鮮信*

託(株)、 and Chosen Kinyu Kumiai Rengokai 朝鮮金融組合連合会.

Ms. Yoko Okunishi announced the availability of the history of Rafu newspaper, Rafu Shimpo 100, and Japanese American National Museum Annual Dinner Brochure 2003, which contains a special issue on Japanese business in United States. One can contact Yoko (yokunishi@janm.org) to purchase Rafu Shimpo 100 for \$25.

“Shashi Forum” and messages from Ms. Katsuko Murahashi and Ms. Izumi Koide

Please see the web site <http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/company/company_home2.htm> for Message from Ms. Katsuko Murahashi on *Shashi* Forum and Message to *Shashi* Interest Group Meeting in March 3, 2004, by Ms. Izumi Koide, Shibusawa Memorial Museum. English translations were done by Tokiko Bazzell.

In Ms. Koide's message, participants learned good news from Japan's Resource Center for Research on History of Entrepreneurship of the Shibusawa Memorial Museum. In April 2004, the Shibusawa Memorial Museum launched an ambitious project to create a comprehensive database "like an encyclopedia and like a directory, which leads users to untangle information one after another." They are planning to widely disseminate this database once it is completed. The Shibusawa Memorial Museum encourages researchers to provide suggestions and information as to how they utilize *Shashi* information.

Closing: Bazzell requested that the participants consider two issues affecting *Shashi* collections for the next meeting.

As Ms. Koide and Ms. Murahashi will be working on the *Shashi* Database, the *Shashi* Interest Group members should cooperatively gather information on how *Shashi* is actually being used by researchers so that the information can be shared for the development of user-friendly indexes for the new database.

Think about how institutions in the U.S. can exchange duplicate *Shashi* titles between Kawasaki Library in Japan.

Maureen Donovan will complete her research in Japan and return to Ohio State this year. Bazzell stated that she would return the chair to Maureen. Springer acknowledged Bazzell's excellent contribution to the group and suggested that she co-chair the group with Donovan. Bazzell would convey the group's suggestion to Donovan.