

EAST ASIAN ARCHIVES

THE THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF EASTICA
(14th to 17th October 1997, Tokyo, Japan)

PUBLISHED BY EASTICA

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JAPAN

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PROGRAM
THIRD GENERAL CONFERENCE OF EASTICA
TOKYO, JAPAN

Theme : *Development History of the Archives and Its Historical Holdings
Relating to East Asia*

Period : *14th to 17th October, 1997*

Venue : *KKR HOTEL TOKYO
1-4-1 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100
Tel : 81-3-3287-2922 Fax : 81-3-3287-2913*

Monday, 13th October

20:00 – 21:00 Executive Board Meeting of EASTICA
Venue : Room “Take (竹)(11F)”

Tuesday, 14th October

- 09:00 – 09:50 Registration
at Reception Desk (10F)
- 10:00 – 10:45 Opening Ceremony
Venue : Room “Zuibo (瑞寶)”(10F)
. Welcome Address by Mr Soshu ISHIDE, Deputy Vice-Minister of
Prime Minister’s Office of Japan
. Address by Mr WANG Gang, President of ICA & Chairman of
EASTICA
. Address by Mr Kazumasa INAHASHI, Director General of the
National Archives of Japan
- 11:15 – 12:30 General Conference of EASTICA(I)
Venue : Room “Kujaku (孔雀)”(11F)
. Work Report by Chairman of EASTICA
. Financial Report by Treasurer of EASTICA
. Presentation of the Hong Kong Executive Board Meeting of
EASTICA
- 14:00 – 14:30 Awarding Ceremony for Honorary Members
Venue : Room “Zuiho (瑞寶)”(10F)
. Speech by Mr Oukhnoi BATSAIKHAN, Vice-Chairman of
EASTICA
. Speech by Mr Masatoh KODAMA, Former Director General of
the National Archives of Japan
- 15:00 – 17:00 Presentation of Country/Territory Reports
Venue : Room “Tancho(丹頂)”(11F)
- 1800 - Welcome Dinner Hosted by Deputy Vice-Minister
of Prime Minister’s Office of Japan
Venue : Room “Kujaku (孔雀)”(11F)

Wednesday, 15th October

- 09:00 – 10:30 Report by the Resource Person from China
Mr TANG Yinian, First Historical Archives of China
Venue : Room “Zuiho (瑞寶)”(10F)
- 11:00 – 12:30 Report by the Resource Person from Japan
Professor Tetsuya OHAMA, Tsukuba University
Venue : Room “Zuiho (瑞寶)”(10F)
- 14:30 - Visit to the National Archives of Japan
- 18:00 - Dinner Hosted by EASTICA
Venue : Room “Kujaku (孔雀)”(11F)

Thursday, 16th October

- 09:00 – 12:30 General Conference of EASTICA(II)
Venue : Room “Kujaku (孔雀)”(11F)
. Election of New Leadership of EASTICA
. Discussion of the Resolutions
. Discussion of the Future Activities of EASTICA
- 14:00 – 15:20 Visit to the National Diet Library
(Meet at the lobby of the Hotel at 13:40)
- 16:00 – 16:45 Closing Ceremony
Venue : Room “Kujaku (孔雀)”(11F)
. Presentation of the Resolutions of the Third General Conference of EASTICA by Mr Simon CHU, New Secretary General of EASTICA
. Address by Mr Kazumasa INAHASHI, New Chairman of EASTICA
- 18:30 - Farewell Party Hosted by Director of General
of the National Archives of Japan
Venue : Room “Kujaku (孔雀)”(11F)

Friday, 17th October

08:00 - One-day Trip

-End of Official Activities-

OPENING CEREMONY

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Four years have passed since the formal inauguration of EASTICA in Beijing in 1993.

Now, following the Second General Conference in Macao in 1995,

we meet together again here in Tokyo.

*Now, on behalf of the Chairman of EASTICA, I declare the opening of
the Third General Conference of EASTICA.*

(by Mr Akira Genba, National Archives of Japan)

Welcome Address
by Mr Soshu ISHIDE
Deputy Vice-Minister of the Prime Minister's of Japan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to say a few words on the occasion of the opening of this Third General Conference of EASTICA (the East Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives).

As Deputy Vice-Minister of the Prime Minister's Office, which is responsible for Japan's National Archives, I am very proud and delighted that we are able to hold this conference of EASTICA in Tokyo with the participation of many leading experts in the archives field.

The ICA (International Council on Archives) now has 10 regional branches. Established in 1993, EASTICA is a very young organization. Nevertheless, it has clearly played a major role in promoting cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience between archives in East Asia, where we have not had much of this kind of exchange in the past. Documents are the sources of the memory of mankind, and archives play the vital role of preserving documents as historical records for future generations. The history of archives is said to go back to ancient times. In Japan, the records show that in the eighth century there was already archives called the "*Fudono*" which preserved government documents. I am sure that other countries in East Asia have also made and kept various records during their long histories.

At this conference, we will share and compare the various experiences of archives in East Asian countries with different historical and cultural backgrounds. By increasing our mutual knowledge and understanding, I believe we can achieve great results, particularly in the promotion of cooperation.

In addition to contributing to even greater cooperation among archives in East Asia, I hope this Third General Conference of EASTICA will be a very rewarding experience for the individual participants. For its part, the Prime Minister's Office intends to contribute to the further development of the archive system in international society.

In conclusion, I very much hope that EASTICA continues to grow from strength to strength and that this conference proves to be very meaningful and fruitful for all of you.

Thank you.

Letter of Greetings
from Mr WANG Gang
President of ICA and Chairman of EASTICA

Your Excellency Mr Soshu ISHIDE,
Deputy Vice-minister of Prime Minister's Office of Japan
Respected Mr Kazumasa INAHASHI,
Director General of the National Archives of Japan

Dear Colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On the occasion of the opening of the Third General Conference of EASTICA, it is a distinct pleasure for me, in the name of the President of ICA, to bring you greetings and best wishes from the International Council on Archives. Taking this opportunity, I would like also to express gratitude to the Prime Minister's Office of Japan for the support to the conference, to the National Archives of Japan for organizing such a grand event.

Autumn is the season of harvest. It is an auspicious omen that we hold this conference in this beautiful season. The fact that his meeting has over 60 participants, and the members of EASTICA have increased from 13 in the beginning to 22 at present, certainly underlines the commitment of East Asian countries and territories to safeguard the documentary heritage of mankind and to push forward the archival work of this region.

In the long process of human progress, although the types of information-carriers have changed from the clay tablets in ancient Babylon, and the bones and tortoise shells in China, to computer and electronic network of today, our conviction of sharing information and bringing it from one generation to the next, still remains. Archives not only represent the common memory and knowledge of human beings, they are also a bridge connecting the past with the present, and the future, and also a bridge between nations. East Asia is the birthplace of Oriental culture. The changes of the times have created numerous stories of joys and sorrows as well as tremendous amount of archival recordings. There is a saying in China : "Bronze as mirror, we can adjust our dresses. History as mirror, we can know the rise and fall of a nation". Today, historians and archivists gather together here to exchange archival information, and to study history. This event will put up a bridge for us, a bridge linking archives with history, and today with tomorrow.

Next year, ICA will celebrate its 50 anniversary. ICA plans to launch a series of programs in order to draw the attention of governments and the public to the safeguarding of archival heritage. East Asia is much ahead in this respect. The scale of this conference and the development of EASTICA is a good manifestation. As Chairman of EASTICA I feel very proud and also very grateful to all of you.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are facing big challenges at the turn of this century. A challenge brought about by new technologies to the traditional mode of archival work. Up to now, we are still probing our way in the dark. But we believe that pressures and difficulties will turn into the joys of success. As President of ICA, it is a pleasant duty for me to pledge its commitment to the archival work of developing countries. In the mean time, I am very happy to tell you that EASTICA's plan of holding an archival conference of developing countries in 1999 has been included in the 5th Mid-term Plan of ICA for the year 1996-2000.

Dear colleagues, I regret very much that I can not join you at this conference. I wish every success of the meeting and every one of you a happy stay in Tokyo.

Thank you.

Address by Mr Kazumasa INAHASHI
Director General of the National Archives of Japan

Ladies and Gentleman,

First of all, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you who have traveled so far to be here today. As Director General of the National Archives of Japan, it is a greater honor to be holding this kind of conference.

The history of archives in Japan can be traced back to ancient times. However, a study of the modern history of archives show that although the newly-established Meiji Government created positions for record-keeping within the highest administrative organ, these records were eventually dispersed into the custody of the various ministries and many documents were lost or destroyed due to fires, earthquakes and war damage. After World War II, the need was recognized for facilities to preserve and provide access to official documents and other records. The government instructed each ministry to safeguard against the loss of records and conducted a study to determine a national system of documents preservation and management. As a result, the National Archives was established in 1971 for the purpose of receiving important official documents from the various administrative organs and storing them as historical materials. In 1988, the Public Archives Law came into effect. This established the National Archives as a facility responsible for the preservation and use of official documents as historical materials belonging to the nation. We have continued to fulfill this function up to the present.

The preservation as historical evidence or as reference materials of official documents drawn up by government organs for administrative purposes has long been carried out in every country. Together with libraries and museums, archives are now considered one of the three essential cultural facilities. Even after administrative documents created through the daily activities of the government and municipalities have outlived their usefulness, their preservation as historical materials for future generations is a mundane yet vitally important task.

As Director General of the National Archives of Japan, in addition to conveying the importance of maintaining archives, I have striven to promote cooperation with local government archives in the spirit of the Public Archives Law. Furthermore, in this age of internationalization, I am also very aware of the importance of taking an international view and furthering cooperation not only in Japan but also with archives in other countries.

The theme of this conference is “Development History of the Archives and Its Historical Holdings Relating to East Asia.” While preserving their own distinctive cultures, the countries of East Asia have interacted in various ways since ancient times. During this history, cultures have been disseminated and some documents have found their way to other countries. At the National Archives, we have preserved a large number of documents which came from China or from the Korean Peninsula prior to modern times. I believe that the exchange of information on these historical documents between the countries or regions that possess them is extremely significant and important with respect to the history of the development of archives in each country. I think this gathering of those involved with archives in East Asia where we can share our knowledge and experience and strengthen our cooperation will contribute greatly to the administration of archives throughout the whole region. I sincerely hope that this Third General Conference of EASTICA will be a great success and will further promote cooperation among archives in East Asia.

Thank you for your attention.

GENERAL CONFERENCE (I)

Work Report by Mr WANG Gang

Chairman of EASTICA

Present by Mr XU Yuqing, Secretary General of EASTICA

Dear Colleagues,

About four years ago in July, the East Asian Regional Branch of the International Council on Archives came into being in Beijing. In the inaugural conference, we passed the constitution, formulated two-year working plan, and elected the first Executive Board of EASTICA. At the Second General Conference of EASTICA held in Macao in 1995, considering that the XIIIth International Congress on Archives would be held in China the next year, the Executive Board recommended to renew my term as Chairman of EASTICA for another two years. Therefore, this report covers the work of the past four years.

The establishment of EASTICA, in a general sense, has completed the network of ICA Regional Branches. For itself, it offers a forum where members, large and small and of different types, can take part in elaborating the rules and guiding principles of the archival profession, and in profitably sharing experience on various aspects. As a constituent part of an international organization on archives, it brings the archival profession of this region closely connected with the world archival community in studying archival science and in pushing forward the development of archival profession. The four-year history of EASTICA has proved in many ways that EASTICA is the most effective tool for us to cooperate with ICA and to receive help from it. All the professional pursuits of EASTICA have, in varying degrees, helped to create preferable conditions for archival work in its member countries and territories. I remember that I have mentioned in Hong Kong Workshop on Archival Descriptive Standards held last February, that EASTICA was one of the most effective and vigorous regional branches of ICA. In the annals of EASTICA, the following should be recorded :

1. July 7-9, 1993, EASTICA was established at its Inaugural Conference in Beijing. Working plans and organizations were set up;
2. In June 1994, the First Executive Board Meeting was held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia;
3. In October 1994, the Workshop on Automation of Archives Management was held in Beijing;
4. In December 1995, the Second General Conference and Seminar on Modernizing Archives Management was held in Macao;
5. In September 1996, the Executive Board Meeting and the Interim General Conference

- was held in Beijing concurrently with the XIIIth International Congress on Archives;
6. In February 1997, the Workshop on Archives Descriptive Standards and the Executive Board Meeting of EASTICA were held in Hong Kong, in which we worked out a two-year working plan and nominated candidates for the next Executive Board.
 7. Two issues of East Asian Archives and a publicity brochure have been published.

More significantly is that EASTICA brings the collaboration among its members more closer and more practical. Recently, the State Archives Bureau of China has signed a bilateral exchange agreement respectively with the State Archives Administration of Mongolia and the Government Archives and Records Service of the Republic of Korea. In the following two years, both sides will collaborate in the fields of training of archivists, archival technology, management, and equipment. This kind of cooperation has stepped forward towards more practical and mutually beneficial, and will help to promote the progress of archival work of both signatory sides.

East Asia is the origin of oriental culture, and has played an important role in the cultural history of human beings. Ancient history has given birth to a rich and splendid culture, as well as a vast accumulation of archives. A Chinese saying goes that "Past if not forgotten can be a master for the future." People need to know their past as a nation, need to know where they came from in order to know where to go. Archives are authentic witness of history. How to preserve these precious cultural heritage, and to make them widely accessible to the society is the sacred mission of archivists. The theme of this conference is to explore ways and channels in exchanging archival materials on East Asian history in this region and beyond. This is very significant to enrich the holdings of Archives in East Asia.

Although we have age-old history of archival work, we still lag behind in many fields compared with the western world, specifically in automation of archives management. Telecommunication technology develops in each passing day. Internet has offered us a new world of communication and has been used to make archival materials accessible to readers in many countries. This new mode has reshaped the traditional image of archival work and archivists, and will bring the world much closer and smaller. In order to shorten the distance between us and the western world, and to promote the archival work of developing countries, it is decided at the Hong Kong Executive Board Meeting in last February, that on the occasion of the next Executive Board Meeting in 1998 in Suzhou, a neighboring city of Shanghai, a seminar on archives management will be organized by the State Archives Bureau of China. In the meantime, may I suggest that we organize an Asian Conference on Archives somewhere in 1999, so that representatives from the archival departments of Asia, 10 ICA regional branches and ICA could meet in relatively smaller groups to deliberate the

problems facing the archival community of Asian countries and to work out solutions.

During my tenure of office as Chairman of EASTICA, every progress made by EASTICA owes to the concerted efforts of every participant. Here, I would like to give my special thanks to Maria Helena Lima Évora, Director General of Macao Historical Archives, for her conscientious work as Treasurer of EASTICA and enthusiastic support to the activities of EASTICA. My thanks also go to Mr Kazumasa Inahashi, Director General of the National Archives of Japan. His dedication and support to EASTICA are obvious to every one of us. I should also thank Mr Ookhnoi Batsaikhan, Director General of the National Archives of Mongolia, Mr Simon Chu, Archivist of Public Records Office of Hong Kong, Mr Kim Sun Young, Director General of the Government Archives and Records Service of Korea and Mr Han Ryuel Mo, Director General of State Bureau of Archives for all their kind help and support during my four-year term as Chairman of EASTICA.

I should be failing in my duty, in presenting this report, if I did not emphasize the role of the Secretary General. It is not exaggerating to say that EASTICA's every activity is an embodiment of Mr Xu Yuqing's wisdom and hard work. I am happy to know that the next Executive Board will invite Mr Xu as an advisor. This represents our trust and confirm to Mr Xu Yuqing's efforts.

Ladies and Gentlemen, an important subject of this meeting is to elect the new Executive Board. I believe that under its leadership, EASTICA will develop more rapidly. Let us join our efforts to create an even more bright future for EASTICA.

EASTICA Financial Report 1996-1997
by Mrs Maria Helena Évora, Treasurer of EASTICA

E A S T I C A
F I N A N C I A L R E P O R T
1996 – 1997

- 1. Balance from 1994-1995 - Approved in 2nd Executive Board Meeting held in Beijing in September 1996**
- **Membership dues paid to Macao----- US\$3,327.92 (kept by Macao Treasurer)**
 - **Subsidy of ICA for the 2nd General Meeting of EASTICA held in Macao---- US\$4,987.42 (kept by Macao Treasurer)**
 - **Income and expenditure of the 2nd General Meeting of EASTICA held in Macao, 1995----- US\$370.00 (kept by SAB of China)**

Balance US\$8,685.34

2. Income during the years of 1996-1997

2.1 Membership dues of EASTICA	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
National Archives of Japan -----	825.00	825.00
- dues for 1994 settled in 1997 -----		825.00
Government Archives of Records Service of Republic of Korea -----	450.00	450.00
Public Records Office of Hong Kong -----	300.00	300.00
Macao Historical Archives -----	150.00	---
Okinawa Prefectural Archives (new member joined in 1997) -----	---	50.00
Chinese Archives Association -----	100.00	100.00
State Archives Bureau of China -----	paid	825.00

2.1 Membership dues of EASTICA (con't)	<u>1996</u>	<u>1997</u>
Jangsu Province Archives Association of China -----	50.00	50.00
Yangtze Archives Oil-Chemical Company of China -----	50.00	50.00
Yangzou City Archives -----	50.00	50.00
State Archives Bureau of D.P.R. of Korea -----	---	300.00
Japan Society of Archives Institutions -----	---	100.00
State Archives Administration of Mongolia -----	---	150.00

TOTAL WITHOUT BANK CHARGES : US\$6,050.00

TOTAL WITH BANK CHARGES : US\$5,933.97

2.2 Subsidy from ICA ----- US\$3,600.00

3 Expenditure for the Organization of the Workshop held in Feb 97

Expenses handled by the Public Records Office of HK -----	US\$6,225.59
Air ticket for resource person Mr Stibbe -----	1,625.00
Gifts -----	160.00
Dinner hosted by EASTICA/SAB of China -----	725.00
Allowances to the interpreters -----	200.00
Difference of changing rate paid by SAB of China -----	90.97

TOTAL ----- US\$9,026.56

4 Balance for the year 1996-1997

CREDIT

• Balance brought forward from 1994-1995	US\$8,685.34
• Membership dues of EASTICA 1996-1997	5,933.97
• Subsidy granted by ICA for Workshop in Hong Kong, Feb 97	3,600.00
	<hr/>
	18,219.31

DEBIT

• Expenditure of the Workshop held in Hong Kong, Feb 97	9,026.56
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BALANCE ----- US\$9,192.75
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9 October 1997

THE TREASURER OF EASTICA

Maria Helena Lima Évora

**Presentation of the Minutes
of the Hong Kong Executive Board Meeting of EASTICA
by Mr XU Yuqing, Secretary General of EASTICA**

1. Date : 8:30 am February 20, 1997
2. Venue : Bishop Lei International House, Hong Kong
3. Present : Wang Gang, President of ICA & Chairman of EASTICA, Director General of the State Archives Bureau of China (SAB);

Simon Chu, Archivist of the Public Records Office of Hong Kong;

Kazumasa Inahashi, Director General of the National Archives of Japan;

Choe Gyungyul, Deputy Director General of the Government Archives & Records Service, Republic of Korea;

Maria Helena Évora, Director of Macao Historical Archives, Treasurer of EASTICA

Ookhnoi Batsaikhan, Director General of the National Archives of Mongolia;

Xu Yuqing, Director of Foreign Affairs Office of SAB and Secretary General of EASTICA.
- Observer : Junko Takashio, Akira Genba (Japan) and Siisel Ganbold (Mongolia)
- Absent : Han Ryuel Mo, Director General, State Bureau of Archives, D.P.R. Korea
4. The meeting agrees to co-opt Ookhnoi Batsaikhan as Vice Chairman of EASTICA in replace of Mr Dashdavaa, former Director General of the National Archives of Mongolia.
5. The meeting unanimously adopted the minutes of the 3rd Executive Board Meeting of EASTICA held in Beijing, 1996.
6. The meeting discusses in detail the preparation report about the holding of the 3rd General Conference of EASTICA, which was presented by Akira Genba on behalf of Inahashi Kazumasa :
 - (1) The 3rd General Conference of EASTICA shall be held at KKR HOTEL TOKYO from 14 to 17 October 1997 in Tokyo, Japan;
 - (2) The theme of the conference : Development history of the archives and its

historical holdings relating to East Asia. Every member country/territory is requested to present a country/territory report;

- (3) Around 75 participants are expected to participate in the Conference (including 40 domestic observers in Japan);
- (4) Two resource persons are confirmed : one from China, the other from Japan.

The Executive Board Meeting of EASTICA expresses its sincere thanks to the Prime Minister's Office of the Japanese Government for funding the Conference.

7. Nominees of the new leadership of EASTICA has been discussed as follows :

Chairman : Kazumasa Inahashi, Director of the National Archives of Japan

Vice Chairman : Maria Helena Évora, Director of Macao Historical Archives

Secretary General : Simon Chu, Archivist of the Public Records Office of Hong Kong

Treasurer : Lee Sang-Min, Head of Appraisal Office, Government Archives and Records Service, Republic of Korea

Akira Genba, Section Chief, Policy Planning & Liaison for International Affairs, National Archives of Japan will be the special assistant to Chairman of EASTICA; XU Yuqing will be the adviser and coordinator to EASTICA.

The nominees shall be presented to the 3rd General Conference of EASTICA for formal election.

8. The meeting proposes that the 5th Executive Board Meeting of EASTICA is to be held in China in 1998 and the 4th General Conference of EASTICA is to be held in the Republic of Korea in 1999. The detailed schedule shall be discussed during the 3rd General Conference of EASTICA.
9. The meeting expresses its appreciation and gratitude to Simon Chu, Archivist of Hong Kong Public Records Office and his colleagues for the very well organization of the Workshop "Archives Descriptive Standards" and warm reception of the participants.

**AWARDING CEREMONY
FOR HONORARY MEMBERS OF
EASTICA**

Speech by Mr Ookhnoi BATSAIKHAN
Vice-Chairman of EASTICA

Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to announce the Decision of the Executive Board Meeting to award the title of honorary members of EASTICA to Mr Masatoh Kodama, former Director General of National Archives of Japan, Mr Wang Minzhe, former Director General of the Central Archives of China and Mr Han Ryuel Mo, Director General of the State Bureau of Archives of D.P.R. of Korea.

Those three gentlemen have put remarkable contributions for the development of archival works in their country, and played a key role in the establishment of EASTICA. Their efforts in the development of cooperation on archival works among countries of the region are making great successes which we are witnessing now.

Please accept my warmest congratulations, gentlemen.

On behalf of members of the EASTICA Executive Board Meeting I wish you, Mr Masatoh Kodama, Mr Wan Minzhe and Mr Han Ryuel Mo all the best in your work and life.

Speech by Mr Masatoh KODAMA
Former Director General of the National Archives of Japan

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to be awarded the title of honorary member of EASTICA, East Asian Regional of Branch of International Council on Archives, and I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Mr Wang Gang, and Mr Xu Yuqing as well as to all the members concerned of ICA, International Council on Archives, and EASTICA.

The opportunity which directly opened the way for the foundation of EASTICA was provided in 1992 at a meeting during the 12th International Congress on Archives, in Montreal.

At the invitation of Dr Charles Kecskemeti, or “Mr ICA”, ICA’s Secretary General, a meeting was held to discuss the creation of East Asian regional branch of ICA. Present at the meeting were the representatives of the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Korea, Macao, and Japan, and I had the opportunity to partake in the discussion as Director General of the National Archives of Japan.

(I met Dr Charles Kecskemeti at first in Madrid in October 1989. Since then, we have been on intimate terms with each other. In May 1991, we invited him to Japan, and in reply to our request he kindly gave us suggestive, excellent lectures as many as three times.)

The decision reached in this meeting was solidified and was expressly stipulated in the Constitution of EASTICA and it materialized when EASTICA was actually established in July 1993.

In appreciation for all the services and efforts provided to establish EASTICA, let me express my deepest respect to Mr Feng Zizhi, then Director General of the State Archives Bureau of China, and also to the staff members concerned at the State Archives Bureau of China.

Just four years has passed since its inception as the tenth regional branch of ICA in East Asia, which is one of the cradles of human civilization. It has, nevertheless, accomplished far more than one would expect from an institution so lately

established.

Again, I would like to express my appreciation of the achievement by each member of EASTICA, and above all, I would like to extend my deepest respect for the excellent leadership and diligence of Mr Wang, who is in the position of the highest responsibility for the archival administration of China, a country internationally known for its rich archival documentation. Nowadays, Mr Wang Gang is the position of the President of ICA.

This corroborates the fact that my decision to enter my name as one of the promoters of EASTICA's foundation was not a mistake, and, having had the opportunity of placing myself in the position to witness such a historic moment still gives me a great feeling of satisfaction, and I am deeply thankful for that.

This time, the National Archives of Japan undertook to sponsor the Third General Conference of EASTICA, and I understand that Mr Kazumasa Inahashi, Director General of the National Archives of Japan, will take office as Chairman of EASTICA after a vote by the General Conference. This is a great honor and we are very pleased.

At the same time, we earnestly hope that the National Archives of Japan will endeavor to establish a relationship of mutual understanding, trust and cooperation with our colleagues in East Asia, an area which is divers in race, religion, language, history, culture, economic development, political and administrative systems, and so on. And, we also hope that through establishing such a relationship the National Archives will contribute to further developing archives not only in this region but also in the international community.

From this podium of honor, I pledge, while limited in my abilities, my unflinching support and fullest cooperation for the benefit of EASTICA. And, expressing my heartfelt gratitude for the honor bestowed on me, I wish the greatest success of this General Conference and prosperity of EASTICA in many years to come.

Finally, as a tribute of respect to EASTICA, which has done so much in so short a time, and also as a guiding principle of all archives which have a role to preserve the past, and to connect it with the present and to the future, let me quote a few words from Shakespear's famous play, TEMPEST : "What is past is prologue". With these words, I would like to close my speech.

Thank you.

(Related Speech by Mr Masatoh KODAMA, at the Dinner Hosted by EASTICA)

*Respected Mr Wang Gang, Chairman of EASTICA,
Respected Mr Xu Yuqing, Secretary General of EASTICA,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Friends,*

Good evening. It is a great pleasure for me to attend the reception tonight. It was also a great honor to be given the title of Honorary member of EASTICA yesterday.

During my first trip to China in March in 1996, I visited the Historical Archives of China, and was warmly received by its Director, Mr Xu Yipu, whom I got acquainted with in 1991. I was shown to many places of the archives, among which the Imperial Archives (Huang Shi Cheng) left me the deepest impression. "Cheng" means repository. Huang Shi Cheng, situated on the eastern side of Nanchizi Street near Palace Museum, is the oldest ancient archives extant in China. Huang Shi Cheng was constructed in 1536 in China's Ming dynasty, which was 461 years ago. It is a compound with five halls. The main hall with yellow glazed tiles is the most magnificent. It has no roof beams, its stone base is 1.42 meters above the ground. The wall is 6 meters thick. The whole building was built with bricks and stones without a single piece of wood or nail. The building is able to keep a constant temperature of 23°C the whole year round. There were 150 very unique golden cabinets, whose interior was made of sandal wood and the exterior carved with gilded dragons. These cabinets were used to hold Imperial annals, genealogies and holy teachings, which are now in the custody of the First Historical Archives of China. Huang Shi Cheng was open to public visitors in 1985. I think those who are interested in archives research should go there to have a look.

In the following day, we were invited by Mr Liu Guoneng, Deputy Director of the State Archives Bureau of China, to Fangshan Restaurant to try the Qing royal food, which was very delicious. I remember that Mr Xu Yuqing and Mrs Li Xianggang were also at the dinner. Taking this opportunity, I would like to thank you once again.

I will shift to another subject. I once visited the National Archives of the United States. I saw four stone statues in front of its building. One of them read : “What is past is prologue”. Another read : “The heritage of the past is the seed that brings forth the harvest of the future”. I feel that these well-known phrases also express the importance of archives preservation.

Here I also like to share with you another famous saying. when I was young, I was very interested in Chinese culture, and studied Chinese classics. I remember of famous saying of Meng Zi : “Road is close but seek the far away, things are easy but seek the difficult solution”, meaning that the way to achieve your goal is not far away, it is just beside you. i have a deeper understanding of this philosophical saying with the passage of time. As to archival problems, we can find solutions around us.

Lastly, I am very grateful to be invited to such a grand reception. I wish EASTICA make further progress with each passing day.

Thank you.

**PRESENTATION OF
COUNTRY / TERRITORY REPORTS**

J A P A N

“The Development of Archives in Japan, and
Introduction to the historical Holdings Relating to East Asia”

Presented by Mr Kazumasa INAHASHI

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I The Development of Archives in Japan

1. The Preservation of Records in Pre-Modern Times

Japan's ancient rulers are said to have maintained close control over written document to facilitate their rule, and various bodies which had custody of records are mentioned in the literature.

According to these references, facilities for storing books and official papers already existed as early as the eighth century. They were found not only within the highest administrative organ, the *Dajokan* or Grand Council of State, but also in the agencies which compiled household registers and other records. The stored documents are believed to have been scattered and lost in the twelfth century, in the course of the transition from ancient to medieval Japanese society.

During the military rule of the *Tokugawa* shoguns, from seventeenth to the nineteenth century, the center of government was located in Edo(now Tokyo), and feudal lords ruled their domains through town and village officials by means of the written word : a fact which is said to have helped spread literacy among the common people. In addition to the official to the official documents prepared for administrative purposes by the Shogunate and local lords, merchants and peasants also prepared private documents of their own. These had to do with their livelihood and their rights regarding land ownership or business transactions; the account ledgers and promissory notes of merchant households are two examples. Over the years, these records, both public and private, tended to gather dust or else to be discarded and lost, with no systematic efforts being made to preserve and put them in order, nor to interpret them as a whole.

On factor behind this lack of systematic preservation was the fact that paper was scarce. Unwanted documents were reused for other purposes, and dealers would buy up old paper. Thus, the value of documents as a recyclable resource was seen as more important than their contents.

2. The Management of Modern Administrative Records under the Meiji Government

In the latter half of the nineteenth century, the feudal system headed by the warrior class collapsed and, in what is known as the *Meiji* Restoration, the modernization of Japan as a modern imperial state began. The new *Meiji* government (1868-1912) placed great importance on record-keeping and created positions for this purposed within the highest administrative organ. They system for managing official documents later underwent a number of changes, however, and records were dispersed into the custody of the various ministries. Under this decentralized system, which remained in place for many decades, the lack of secure storage facilities meant that a considerable number of documents were lost or destroyed due to fires, earthquakes and war damage.

Local public bodies also lacked an adequate system for preserving their documents, and like those hold by the central government, many were destroyed in fires or other disasters. Further, it is said that the transfer of records was often

neglected during major organizational changes such as mergers, divisions, or redrawing of the boundaries of prefectures and municipalities, and many documents were lost when rebuilding or moving into new government offices.

3. The Background to Establishment of the National Archives

After World War II, there was a growing recognition, chiefly among historians, of the need for facilities to preserve and provide access to official documents and other records. As a step in this direction, in 1959 a governmental advisory body of scholars, the Science Council of Japan, issued a recommendation on the prevention of loss of official documents. The Council expressed concern that the future development of academic research would suffer unless official documents of high scholarly value were placed under unified management, and it called for the establishment of a national archives, as had been done in a number of other countries.

The government itself had also recognized the importance of document management, and in 1960 after instructing each ministry to safeguard against the loss of records, it initiated a study to decide the form of a national system of document preservation and management, drawing on the experience of other countries. As a result, the National Archives was established in 1971.

Since its inception, the National Archives has incorporated the Cabinet Library. Founded in 1873, this was a successor to the government facility that had administered the book collection of the *Tokugawa* shoguns who ruled pre-modern Japan. Including subsequent acquisitions, it now houses Japanese, Chinese, and Western books (in total; some 500,000). Through the incorporation of the Cabinet Library, the newly established National Archives thus came to house many ancient documents, including classical Chinese books.

The need for archives had also been recognized at the local government level, where they were required in order to preserve and give access to the official records and old documents that were gathered in the course of compiling prefectural and other local government histories. Yamaguchi Prefecture and four other prefectural governments had already established archives of their own before the National Archives came into being.

4. The Enactment of the Public Archives Law

Local governments continued to establish archives or similar facilities after 1971, but there was as yet no legislation laying down the basic principles for the handling of official documents and other records, together with basic matters concerning the administration of archives.

In 1980, the Science Council of Japan recommended that the government consolidate the legal basis and provide the necessary support for establishing and operating archives. At about this time, other interested groups also began to call for the enactment of a public archives law.

This was the background to the eventual enactment of the Public Archives

Law in 1987. The Law consists of seven articles covering three main reas : (1) the historical value of official documents and the importance of their preservation and use; (2) the duty of the national government and local bodies to take appropriate measures towards the preservation and use of official documents and other records; and (3) the duty of these bodies to appoint specialized personnel to conduct research on official documents and other records. This legislation marked a major step forward in the custody preservation of official documents.

Once the new law came into effect, there was a growing movement toward establishing archives at the local government level. As of 1997, twenty-six have been created by the prefectures alone; six major cities have also established their own archives, and there are other municipalities which have set up facilities to preserve their collections of local historical materials. An increasing number of local governments are expected to establish archives in the future.

The National Archives currently has a new building under construction in Ibaragi Prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, in order to expand and improve its stack room facilities for document storage. It is also developing an Archival Information System to increase the efficiency with which a growing yearly volume of documents can be received, catalogued, stored, and accessed; some types of data are now being entered into this system. Further, studies are also under way towards the establishment of a training system for archivists, as specified in the Public Archives Law.

II The National Archives' Historical Holdings Relating to East Asia

The National Archives' holdings include two types of historical materials related to East Asia : those produced in other East Asian countries and later brought to Japan, and those produced in Japan with contents related to other East Asian countries.

In the first category, the national Archives has some 185,000 volumes by Chinese and Korean authors. The core of this collection of *kanseki*, or classical Chinese Books, was acquired by the *Tokugawa* shoguns in the seventeenth to nineteenth centuries. The collection also contains many volumes acquired by the schools where the sons of the samurai class were educated and medical schools during this period.

The second category includes trade-related materials and materials relating to individuals who came from East Asia to Japan.

In this report, we will introduce only those materials which date from before 1868, the starting point of Japan's modernization.

1. Materials Related to China

(a) Rare Classical Chinese Books

The classical Chinese books collected by the *Tokugawa* shoguns before

1868 covered a wide range of subjects, from philosophy and jurisprudence to history and geography, from medicine and military affairs to literature and arts.

The schools that were run by the Shogunate to provide the sons of samurai with a Confucian-based education also actively collected Chinese books, including works of literature and philosophy.

Over the centuries, many books were acquired and carefully preserved by such institutions, with the result that, today, the only surviving copies of a number of classical Chinese books are found in Japan. Efforts to publish facsimile editions of these books date back to before the modern era, the best example being the *Itsuzon Sosho* (佚存叢書) (Series of Lost Works), published from 1799 to 1810. The 16 Chinese classics which made up this 60- volume series, including *Shueki Shinkogi* (周易新講義 [Zhou yi xin jiang yi]), had all been lost in their country of origin, and are said to have been re-imported into Ch'ing-dynasty China in this new edition.

Another notable feature of the National Archives' Holdings of classical Chinese books is the inclusion of a number of very well-preserved volumes of plays and novels published during the Ming dynasty (fourteenth to seventeenth centuries). The most precious of these volumes came to Japan in the mid-seventeenth century. They include an edition of the play *Kofutsuki* (紅拂記 [Hong fu ji]) with a frontispiece of twelve Suzhou prints, and the short-story collection *Nikoku hakuan kyoki* (二刻拍案驚奇 [Erke pai an jing qi]), featuring a frontispiece of equally delicate beauty.

The following are among the important classical Chinese books held by the National Archives :

Rozanki (廬山記 [Lushanji]) : a topography of Lushan, a famed scenic area in Jiangxi Province, published in the Southern Sung dynasty (12th to early 13th Century)

Zenso heiwa (全相平話 [Quanxiang pinghua]) : illustrated historical tale published in the Yuan dynasty (early 14th century)

Tobasyu (東坡集 [Dongpo ji]) : the oldest extant printed edition of Dongpo's works; Southern Sung dynasty

Shiryaku (史略 [Shi lue]) and *Shiryaku* (史略 [Zi lue]) : the only remaining copy of this classical book, which had been scattered and lost in China in the early days; Southern Sung dynasty

Shueki shinkogo (周易新講義 [Zhou yi xin jiang yi]) : its existence was already forgotten in China by the Yuan dynasty (the late 13th century); early Southern Sung dynasty (early 12th century)

Waikaisyu (淮海集 [Huai hai ji]) : a book on tactics printed in Gaoyou in 1173; Southern Sung dynasty

Yosho sensei shu (予章先生集) [Yu zhang xian sheng]) : a collection of Huang Shangu, who, along with Dongpo, represented the Chinese poetry circles during the Sung era; Southern Sung dynasty

Ruihen zoko eihin sensei daizenshu (類編增穎先生大全文集 [Lei bian zeng guang ying bin xian sheng dai quan sheng]) : anthology of proses and poetries of Su Zhe, one of the eight masters of the Tang and Sung dynasties, who was also a brother of Dongpo; Southern Sung dynasty

Heosai bunshu (平文集 [Ping zhai quan sheng]) : the author was a Sung politician, and the majority of the contents are related to politics; Southern Sung dynasty

Baitei sensei shiroku hyojun (梅亭先生四六標準 [Mei ting xian sheng si liu biao zhun]) : a collection of works by the great writer of the Southern Sung era; Southern Sung dynasty

Kyoso koin (鉅宋韻 [Ju sung quang yun]) : a well-known dictionary; Southern Sung dynasty

(a) Comprehensive Regional Geographies

Among other holdings of rare historical materials from China are some 650 comprehensive regional geographies, with maps, accounts of local history, and information on well-known persons and products from each region.

These geographical works, collected by the *Tokugawa* shogunate, include more than 60 rare books which can no longer be found in China, such as a copy of *Shinshu Nanshofu-shi* (新修南昌府志 [Xin xiu nan chang fu zhi]) published in 1588, during the Ming dynasty. Almost all the works were published by the middle of the Ch'ing dynasty (the beginning of the nineteenth century), and they are of great value as historical source materials.

Many of these geographies were actively collected by the Shogunate in the mid-eighteenth century. At the time, the government was pursuing efforts to recruit highly talented men for the civil service and to execute its economic policy and to consolidate its legal code; at the same time, it was also promoting domestic production of ginseng and sugar, and encouraging the gathering and cultivation of medicinal herbs. It has been noted that the Shogunate's collection of geographies of China served as a source of information for these product development policies.

Like the other books, most of the geographies were imported via Nagasaki, the Kyusyu port which was the sole gateway for trade with China. A few, however, presented as gifts to the central government through local feudal lords.

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(c) Medical Treatises

The national Archives houses many books on medicine from Ming-and Ch'ing-dynasty China. They include 323 volumes collected as part of an active program by the *Tokugawa* shogunate in the mid-eighteenth century. The government was pursuing a policy of compiling and publishing books that used simple language to describe treatments which could be readily carried out by commoners, so that the underprivileged and communities in remote areas could benefit from contemporary medical knowledge. The medical texts imported from China were actively used as references in compiling these guides.

Many other medical treatises once owned by the *Tokugawa* shogunate's medical schools are now housed at the national Archives.

(d) Japanese Books Related to China

In addition to the imported Chinese books discussed above, the holdings of China related materials include a number of valuable Japanese books (that is, books written in Japanese) on subjects related to Japanese-Chinese contacts.

The following are among the Japanese books on China-related subjects :

Toban kamotsucho (唐貨物帳) : a detailed records of the cargoes of Dutch and Chinese trading ships which visited Nagasaki in the early eighteenth century. An informative account of the state of Japanese-Chinese trade at the time.

Tsuko ichiran (通航一覽) : a collection of diplomatic papers from the

sixteenth to the early nineteenth century; it contains records of Japanese-Chinese negotiations under such headings as trade, smuggling, and castaways.

Shinzoku kibun (清俗紀聞) : a well-illustrated introduction to the customs of China's former Jiangnan and Zhejiang Provinces, published in 1799, based on the accounts of Chinese merchants. Various aspects of daily life are described, from houses and food to annual observances and ceremonial occasions, accompanied with lively illustrations ranging from a scene at the public bath to many kinds of sweets; The book was designed to give the Japanese a more accurate knowledge of the customs of daily life in Ch'ing-dynasty China, which was a trading partner of Japan.

(e) Writings by Chinese Immigrants to Ancient Japan

One category of materials which must be mentioned as symbolic of Japanese-Chinese cultural exchanges is the writings by Chinese who emigrated to Japan to avoid the civil strife in China during the transition from the Ming to the Ch'ing dynasty. Examples include the collected letters and the book *Shoan shiwa* (昇庵詩話) by Chen Yuan Yun (陳元)(1587-1671), who is known for introducing various techniques of ceramics, *jujutu* (one kind of martial arts), and other arts to this country.

2. Materials Related to Korea

As is well known, the movable-type printing technology developed in Korea in the fifteenth century was introduced at the end of the sixteenth century to Japan, where it acted as a stimulus to the culture of the printed word. Together with the technology, many books printed in Korea were brought to Japan, and helped promote the development of printing culture in this country. These Korean books were treated at the time as very precious.

(a) Books Printed in Korea with Movable Type

Examples of books written in Chinese which were produced in Korea and later brought to Japan include :

Kaito shokokuki (海東諸國記 [hae dong che guk ki]) : basic materials tracing diplomacy between Japan and Korea in the fifteenth century.

Bunken tsuko (文通考 [Wenxian tongkao]) : a history of various Chinese institutions, published in the mid-sixteenth century, which was actively used as a reference on administrative matters by the Tokugawa shogunate.

(b) Japanese Books Related to Korea

These are also considerable holdings of historical materials on relations between Japan and Korea. Of the 414 volumes of the *Tsuko-ichiran*, the collection of diplomatic records mentioned earlier, 66 volumes are devoted to Korea, in particular to the diplomatic delegations dispatched by the Korean Kings (*see Note*).

Additional materials related to the Korean delegations includes :

Kankyaku hitsugo (韓客筆語) : In every district they passed through on their way to Edo, the Korean delegations received visits at their lodgings from local scholars and writers, with whom they exchanged prose writings, poetry, paintings, and calligraphy, and carried on conversations through the shared medium of written Chinese characters. The delegations included learned men and scholars of the highest calibre, and the attracted large numbers of Japanese men of letters eager for cultural contacts with the home of Confucian scholarship.

Historical documents depicting these exchanges have survived in many parts of Japan. This example in the Cabinet Library records a conversation in writing between Korean delegates who visited Japan in 1636 and the leading Japanese Confucian scholar of the period, Hayashi Razan (1583-1657).

Note : Korea dispatched twenty delegations, known as *shinshi* or *tsushinshi*, between 1413 and 1811. Twelve of these occurred during the Edo Period.

(c) Writings by Confucian Scholar Kang Hang During His Time in Japan

The National Archives also contains several historical records which provide evidence of the transmission of culture from Korea to Japan in the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. The leading example is the material relating to the Confucian scholar Kang Hang (姜沆), who was brought to Japan as a prisoner at the end of the sixteenth century.

Kyoshi isyo (姜氏彙抄 (Selected writings of Kang Hang) : During his period of captivity in Japan (1597-1600), Kang hang wrote 17 volumes on subjects such as the Four Books and the Five Classics. Sixteen of these volumes, known collectively as *kyoshi isyo*, are preserved in the National Archives. At the end there is an epilogue written in Kang hang's own hand.

3. Conclusion

As we have seen, many documents and other records relating to China and Korea are preserved in the National Archives. Since this report introduces only the most representative items of the collection, its scope has unavoidably been confined to China and Korea. However, the Archives also contains materials related to other parts of Asia, and it goes without saying that the East Asia-related holdings of historical materials should be studied and introduced with a broader perspective at the earliest opportunity.

CHINA

“Country Report by the State Archives Bureau of China”

Presented by Ms WANG Hongmin

As all of us know that archives are precious cultural heritage of human beings and the authentic records of history. China has a brilliant history of 5000 years, as well as a long history of archives management.

Since the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, the government has paid much attention to the archival work. The State Archives Bureau of China was established in 1954. As an administrative agency, it has been doing an important role in promoting the development of the archives work of the whole nation.

The Central Archives of China was established in 1959. Archives created by the central government agencies before and after 1949 are kept in the Central Archives.

In December 1993, the State Archives Bureau and the Central Archives of China merged into one institution, and is brought under the General Office of the Party Central Committee and the State Council. This new organization exercises dual functions. One is to exercise overall administration over the nation’s archival work, the other is to preserve, and make accessible archives created by the Central Government Agencies.

1. Main Functions of China’s Archival Administrative System

The State Archives Bureau is the highest administrative authority over the nation’s archival work. It is provided by the “Archives Law of the People’s Republic of China” that the state archival administration department shall be responsible for the entire nation’s archival endeavor and shall carry out its overall planning, organization, co-ordination, systemization, supervision and direction. The archival administration department of the local People’s Government above the county level shall be responsible for the archival endeavor in its own administrative region; it shall supervise and direct the archival work of the agencies, organizations, business enterprises, institutions, and other groups in its own administrative region.

The main function of the State Archives Bureau of China is : to draft

archives laws and regulations; to work out archival development strategy; to give professional guide and supervision to the archival work of central and local governments, institutions and business enterprises; to examine and revise archival teaching materials jointly with the State Education Commission; to grade archival personnel and give them appropriate titles in national scale; to do research on archival conservation; to carry out archival publicity and academic program, and to participate in international archival exchange program.

2. Archival Legal System

On September 5, 1987, the “Archives Law of the People’s Republic of China” was adopted at the 22nd plenary session of the 6th National People’s Congress Standing Committee. This law was revised in 1996. On November 19, 1990, the “Rules for the Implementation of the Archives Law of the People’s Republic of China” was issued by the State Archives Bureau.

It is provided by the Archives Law that archival work shall be carried out on the principle of unified leadership with divided levels of administration, to ensure the completeness and safety of archival materials and to make them accessible for various uses by society.

3. Archivist and Archival Education

At present, there are about 220,000 professional archivists in China, and additional 700,000 people partly involved in archival work. Among the professional archivists, about 46,000 work in archivist, the highest title of the four grades, and 2,889 are associate research archivists.

Courses on archives are offered in about 35 universities, 24 adult colleges and 50 secondary specialized schools, which train 7,000 graduates every year. The Archival Training Center of the State Archives Bureau organizes on-the-job training courses on various subjects throughout the year.

4. Publicity and Publication

“China Archives News”, the only archival newspaper sponsored by the State Archives Bureau of China, started publication in 1994. It publicizes twice a week with 300,000 copies per issue.

“China Archives Monthly” formerly known as “Archival Work”, started publication in 1987. It carries articles on archival policies, laws, standards, working experience, and current news in international archival community. It publicizes 300,000 copies per issue.

“Archives Science Study” is a quarterly journal of the Society of Chinese Archivists. It started publication in 1987 with 3,000 copies per issue.

5. Archival Academic Activities

The China Archives Society was established in 1981 and is under the State Archives Bureau and the China Science and Technology Association. Currently it has more than 7,000 individual members and 51 institutional members. There are 9 academic committees. China Archives Society often conducts various kinds of academic studies and seminars, etc.

Archives of various kinds at different levels

Archives in China can be divided into four categories :

- (a) general archives at national level,
- (b) general archives at local level,
- (c) specialized archives at different levels and
- (d) institutional and business enterprise archives

By the end of 1996, there are 3 national archives (the Central Archives, the First Historical Archives and the Second Historical Archives) : 3,024 general archives at local level above county level; 360 specialized national archives and archives of central government agencies; 278 institutional and business enterprise archives.

The total holding of Chinese archives is about 170,000,000 volumes, extending about 2,500 Linear km. Among which, 10% of the archives were created after the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949, 978 volumes were created before the Ming Dynasty.

K O R E A (R. of)

“History of Korean Archives and the GARS”

Presented by Mr LEE Sang-Min

< Contents >

Introduction

- 1. Korean Archives in the Pre-Chosun Dynasty Era*
- 2. Korean Archives in the Chosun Dynasty Era*
- 3. Archival Systems under the Japanese Colonial Rule and its Legacy*
- 4. Archival Developments in the GARS*
- 5. Future Major Programs and Prospects*

Introduction

Modern archives in Korea did not exist until the establishment of the Government Archives & Records Service (政府記錄保存所) in 1969. However, it does not mean that Korea did not have a fine archival tradition ever. During the Chosun dynasty, Korea developed the central state archives systems. Yemunchunchukwan (禮文春館) collected important state records and preserved them in the Kyujanggak (奎章閣) and Four History-Archives (四大史庫) located in remote mountainous areas. Later, as an important state agency, the Chunchukwan (春秋館), collected and edited historical materials. The agency was composed of historian-bureaucrats (史官) who were relatively independent of royal and court influences.

But the Korean traditional archives gave way to the Japanese colonial public records system when Korea was annexed by Japan in 1910. The Japanese colonial archival system did not lead to an introduction of modern archival systems into Korea. The colonial records system mainly focused on the Japanese Government-general's (朝鮮總督府) effective and exploitative rule of the colony while it disregarded the preservation of Korean historical materials. Unfortunately, the colonial system persisted after Korea's independence. Because of this interruption of foreign rule and the outbreak of the Korean War, Korean archival tradition was discontinued and archives in Korea could not be practically put into being until the late 1960s.¹⁾

1) For a Japanese overview of Korean archival development, see Jaesun Kim's forthcoming article on the history of Korean

Still under influences of the colonial system, the archival system in Korea has yet to be fundamentally reorganized. The GARS is collecting and holding records that administrative agencies determined to transfer, though the regulation stipulates that all agencies should transfer all “permanent” records. Legislative and judicial bodies of the government did not transfer records to the GARS. In particular, Korea does not have any archival laws yet except some regulations regarding transfer and preservation of government records. However, the GARS is endeavoring to overcome these shortcomings and to succeed the fine archival tradition of Chosun dynasty.

In this brief review of the development of Korean archives, I would like to rediscover Korean’s tradition and spirit in the genesis its own archival history. Also, Japanese colonial legacies are examined in order to understand Korean’s present efforts to build a modern and computerized archival system is presented.

1. Korean Archives in Pre-Chosun Dynasty Era

Tradition of Compilation and Publication of National History

From early period of Korean history, Korean dynasties published historical compilations of their own and former dynasties. During the era of Three Kingdoms, Kokuryo (高句麗) published *Ryugi* (留記) and *Sinjip* (新集) around 400 A.D. Paekje (百濟) published *Seogi* (書記), and Silla (新羅) published *Kuksa* (國史) in 545 A.D. Unfortunately, they were lost, but we know of their existence through *Samguksagi* (三國史記) written by Kimbusik (金君軾) in 1145. We should notice that the compilation and publication of national histories was performed at the state level.

One of the first major works to come after the Chosun dynasty was *History of Koryo Dynasty* (高麗史) which was compiled and written by a keen and energetic Minister of State, Chungdojeon (鄭道傳) who was a main architect of the new dynasty. The work was completed in 1395, only three years after the new dynasty

archives which will be published in Japanese Public Archives journal. Jaesun Kim is working as a chief historian in the GARS and in charge of collection of historical materials. Jaesun Kim, “History of Korean Archives and its Tasks, (in Korean)” in Yeoksamunjeonguso, *Yeoksabipyung* (歷史批評), (Spring, 1997) vol. 36, pp. 51-161; Jaesun Kim, “Korean Archives and its Tasks (in Korean),” the GARS, Archival Education Textbook, pp. 49-68.

was established. However, the most important historical compilation of the period was *Chosunwangiosilrok* (朝鮮王朝實錄). This demonstrates that the Korean ruling nobility had strong historical awareness, and they preserved well historical materials as archives ready to be used.

The Early Archives

We can assume that from the early period of Korean history, Korea developed its own archival systems. Though their exact functions were not known to us, it is recorded that Paekje established the state archives called Chaeckam (冊巖) and Palhae (渤海) established Munjeokwon (文籍院) as her main archives. Koryo (高麗) dynasty established more specialized archives according to their functions. It created Hanrimwon (翰林院, later Yemunkwan 禮文館) and Sakwan (史館, later Chunchukwan 春秋館) as state records offices. In 990 A.D., King Seongjong (成宗) established Suseowon (修書院) which had the functions of a library and a research center as well as an archives, and in 995 he established Piseoseong (秘書省) as a national reference center. King Munjong (文宗) also established a royal library called Pigak (秘閣, later Piseogak 秘書閣) which collected not only royal records but also foreign books and science books.²⁾

For the first time in our archival history, King Seongjong ordered to establish the same archival centers in multiple places, which became a fundamental principle of building archives. Frequent foreign invasions might have led to this decision, but it proved to be wise all but one of Chosun's archives were destroyed several times throughout the history of the Chosun dynasty. Following "the principle of preserving at far apart archives", the Chosun dynasty copied their royal records and administrative reports and kept them at four archives.

2. Korean Archives in the Chosun Dynasty Era

The First Archival Laws

Cheongdojeon also wrote the fundamental laws of the Chosun dynasty,

2) Taejin Yang, "A Research on the Recordskeeping under the Korean Dynasties (in Korean)," in the GARS, *Kirokbojon* (Recordskeeping), (Seoul, 1987) vol. 1, pp. 25-34.

Kyunggukdaejeon (經國大典). It was stipulated in the law that every ruling agency should produce and preserve public records both in original form and historically compiled editions. According, all daily reports of politics and administration produced by Chunchukwan (春秋館) and Seungmunwon (承文院) had to be compiled into historical editions every three years. The compiled editions had to be preserved in the creating agency, the Euijeongbu (政府), and the History Archives (史庫) respectively.

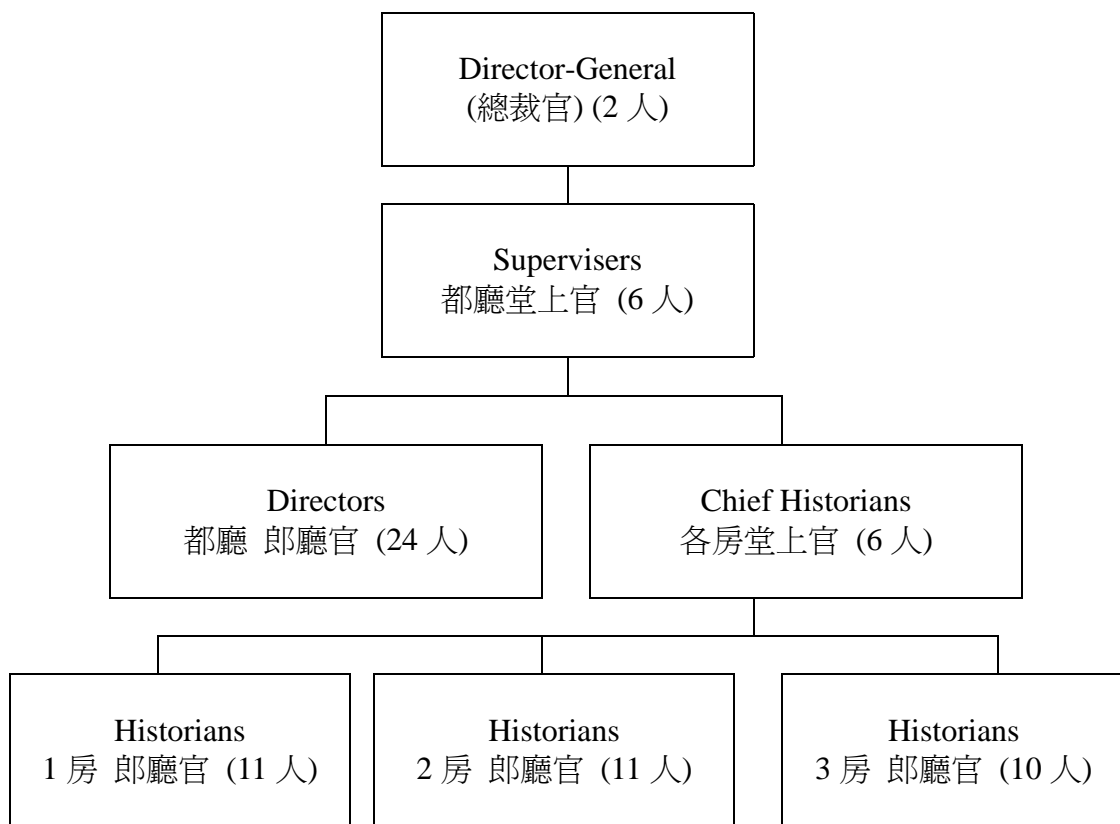
Usually, most public records were compiled and stored at several places. It was mandatory and every agency was superintended. The reason Chosun's ruling nobility considered the historical compilation so important was that they saw it as a main duty of historians and that they believed historian's impartial judgement on King's rule was critical for the maintenance of the dynasty. To be impartial, a historian a historian must be faithful to the fact. Writing of the fact was a fundamental duty of Chosun's historian because it was conceived as historical truth. Already in 1398, a leading Korean historian named Choigyun elucidated Rankean duty of history that a historian should write the facts as it happened without any falsification (以實直書). But he went beyond Ranke by stressing that a historian must encourage good and punish evil, and distinguish between right and wrong by keeping vigilance on the doing of kings and the nobility. The historians were Confucianist statesmen who aimed at establishing a moral state and social order through practicing Confucianism. For them, history was a major tool to accomplish the goal.

Making of the Chosunwangjosilrok

Among many historical works and literatures held at Sago (史庫), the Chosunwangjosilrok (朝鮮王朝實錄, hereafter Silrok, 實錄) was a representative historical compilation. In Chosun, the Chunchukwan (春秋館) was in charge of archival administration. The chief of the agency was the Minister of the State (領議政), while executive officers were Suchankwans (修撰官) ranked at the third status in the Chosun bureaucracy. The Chunchukwan received performance-reports of political affairs from major agencies and local administrations, and created *Chronicles of Political Affairs* (時政記). Two historians called Chwasa (左史) and Woosa (右史) recorded on king's words and actions. After the king died, the Chunchukwan established the Silrokcheong (實錄廳) to compile a history of the dead king's reign. The diagram below is an organization chart of the Silrokcheong from 1650 to 1653

after King Hyojong died.³⁾

<Table 1> Silrokcheong (實錄廳)



Source : *Yijosilrokeun Eotteon Chaekinga? (What is Wangiosilrok?)*
(Yeokang Press; Seoul, 1993), p.5

Major sources of *Chosunwangiosilrok* was *Chronicles of Political Affairs* (時政記) and *Sacho* (史草). The former were compiled chronicles of daily administrative reports from central and local agencies and King's directions to complement the latter, which recorded the causes and results of major incidents and events as well as words and actions of the king and bureaucrats. We should note the special characteristics of *Sacho*. *Sacho*, drafts of chronological historical explanation, were written by historians and one copy of them was kept at their private homes secretly until they submitted them after the king died after which, the Silrokcheong was set up. To guarantee the independence and impartiality of the historians, *Sacho* were not to be opened even the king himself or the nobility.

3) Wook-Keun Han, "A Study on the Historians and Compilation of Silrok in the Early Chosun Period, (in Korean)" in *Chindanhakhoi, Chindanhakbo* (震檀學報) vol. 66, 1988.

Accordingly, the *Chronicles* comprised main parts of Chosun's archives.⁴⁾

Other major sources of the *Wangjosilrok* were *Seungjeongwonilgi* (承政院日記, king's order and directives), *Kynngyonilgi* (經筵日記, historians' lectures to the king), *Pibyunsadeungrok* (備邊司謄錄, military affairs reports dealing with Japanese pirates, 倭寇), *Iseongrok* (日省錄, records of court events from king Jeongjo to 1910), and *Euikumbuchuan* (義禁府推案, investigations, verdicts, court and prison records dealing with treason, conspiracy and disloyalty). Those archives are also important sources of Korean history and most of them are held at the Kyujanggak (奎章閣) in Seoul National University.

The *Chosunwangjosilroks* are representative archives that the GARS holds. They recorded 500 years of the Chosun dynasty chronologically in a systematic and scientific manner covering major historical incidents and providing invaluable information regarding Korean history, tradition, and society. The *Silroks* were lost several times when the History Archives (史庫) were burnt down, and later they were copied again. Korea now has two sets of the *Silroks*, one at the Kyujanggak (奎章閣) and one at the GARS. One copy of the *Silrok* was forcibly transferred to the Tokyo University Library by the Japanese colonial power. Regretfully, most volumes of the *Silrok* at the library were burnt during the Kanto Great Earthquake (關東大地震) in 1923. The remaining 47 volumes of the *Silrok* are important historical sources because they are the only *Silrok* with official corrections and revisions marked inside the books. They have yet to be returned to Korea.

Archives in Chosun : the Kyujanggak (奎章閣) and the History-Archives (史庫)

The *Chosunwangjosilrok* and other historical materials had been preserved in the History Archives (史庫) at four different locations. The central archives of Chosun dynasty was the Hongmunkwan (弘文館), which held many records and classical books including *Seungjeongwonilgi* (承政院日記). The archives and its holdings were incinerated during the Japanese Invasion of 1592 (壬辰倭亂) and surviving archives were transferred to the Kyujanggak. The Kyujanggak was established in 1776 as an archives and a book publishing agency. The Kyujanggak

4) Hyun-Young Kim, "Compilation of the *Silrok* in Chosun Dynasty and Preservation of State Records : Compilation of *Sijeonggi* (時政記), (in Korean)" in the GARS, *Kirokbojon* (記錄保存) vol. 6, 1993, pp. 7-24.

was expanded under the reign of King Jeongjo, then it was composed of eight auxiliary archives such as Keummunwon (擒文院), Pongmodang (奉謨堂), Iangak (移安閣 or Seohyangak 書香閣), Yolgogwan (閱古觀), Kaeyuwa (皆有窩), Seogo (西庫), Kyoseogwan (校書館), and Kangdowaegak (江都外閣).

However, after the Kap-O Reform of 1894, it was changed into the Kungnaebu Kyujangwon (宮內府奎章院) and reduced to the General Affairs Office of Yi Dynasty (李王職庶務係) when Chosun was annexed to Japan in 1910. It was just the beginning of a long disgraceful journey for the Kyujanggak as Korea was under the Japanese colonial rule. The once-royal archives were transferred to the Government-General's bureaus (取調局, 參事官分室, 學務局 etc.) consecutively. In 1928, the archives were transferred to Keijo Imperial University Library. After Korea's independence, In October 1946, the kyujanggak was changed into a part of Seoul National University Library. In 1992, it finally became state archives of invaluable premodern historical records and traditional literatures.

At present, the Kyujanggak holds 148,819 volumes of classical books of which fifty percent are microfilmed, 19,634 volumes of general old books, 6,382 volumes of contributed collections, and 88,708 other items, in total 263,543 items. Among them, 3,833 volumes of five series are designated as national treasures. There are 1,229 volumes of *Chosunwangjosilrok*, 273 volumes of *Pibyunsadeungrok* (備邊司謄錄), and 2,329 volumes of *Iiseongrok* (日省錄). Especially, the Kyujanggak holds very precious woodprint originals.⁵⁾

The Establishment of the History Archives System

Chosun's kings and nobility were much concerned with the preservation of archives, and they developed the History-Archives system. King Sejong established this archival system in 1445. The Chunchukwan, the central archives in Seoul, was also called Naesago (內史庫) and three provincial archives called Waesago (外史庫)

5) Kyujanggak, Seoul National University, *Introduction to the Kyujanggak* (in Korean), 1994, pp. 4-17. There were two copies of the Chosunwangjosilrok in Kyujanggak, but one copy was transferred to the GARS. They are not only microfilmed but also published in book forms and CD-ROMs. CD-ROM version is very useful because a keyword retrieval system is applied.

were located in remote mountainous areas. The early Four History Archives were destroyed during the Japanese invasion of 1592 except the Cheonju Sago (全州史庫). By struggling archivists, archives at the Cheonju Sago were moved by sea route to Haeju (海州), from there to Myohyangsan Mountain near Pyungyang, from there to the Mainisan Sago in Kanghwa Island, and finally moved to the Cheongjokan (鼎足山), Sago. In 1606, the archives were copied again and sent to the myohyangsan (妙香山), Odaesan (五臺山), Taebaeksan (太白山), and Manisan (摩尼山) Sagos for preservation. Later, archives at Myohyangsan Sago were transferred to Cheoksangsan (赤裳山) Sago in 1633 where the Buddhist monks managed to preserve the archives and armed themselves to keep them from being stolen or damaged by foreign invasion. The Manisan Sago moved to the Cheongjokan (鼎足山) Sago in 1660 and the Four History Archives system was finally established. The archival systems were maintained until they were disintegrated by the Japanese colonialists.⁶⁾

Without any consideration of an respect for the Korean traditional archives, Japanese officials transferred archives at the Odaesan Sago to the Tokyo University, and archives at the Cheongjoksan and Taebaeksan Sagos were transferred to the keijo Imperial University, later the Seoul National University. Archives at the Cheoksangsan (赤裳山) Sago were moved to the Changseogak (藏書閣), of which many archives were burnt during the Korean War; one copy of the Chosunwangjosilrok was also lost. The remaining 70,000 volumes of archives were kept at new Changseogak in the Academy of Korean Studies (韓國精神文化研究所).⁷⁾

Some Korean archives were looted by foreign powers. During the Japanese invasion of 1592, a Japanese general (宇喜多秀家) plundered many national treasure-class archives including Eibangyuchui (醫方類聚) and Cheongdeok edition of Samgukyusa (三國遺事). It is said that those records are now in the Unaisho (宮內省) Library. In 1886, the Waekyujanggak (外奎章閣) at Kanghwa Island were burnt by French soldiers and many of its holdings were stolen. The plundered

6) Taejin Yang, *Ibid.*, pp. 42-53.

7) For bibliographic explanations of Changseogak collections, see the Academy of Korean Studies (韓國精神文化研究院), *Bibliographic Notes on Changseogak Collections* (in Korean), (Korea Research Institute of Mind and Culture : Pundang, Kyunggido, 1995) 2 vols.

archives are held in the Paris National Library until now. Upon Korean government's request for returning them and despite former French President Mitteran's promise to return them, the French archivists rejected to return them to Korea. All of the Four History Archives were destroyed; the Taebaeksan Sago building, the last one, was destroyed during the Korean War.

Changes in the Archival Systems during the “Kap-O Reform”

Korea's traditional recordskeeping systems were radically transformed by the Kap-O Reform. In the 1890's, the Chosun dynasty was threatened by the Tonghak peasant army's uprisings (東學農戰爭). The peasant war forced Chosun government to invite the Chinese and Japanese armies, who were striving to gain control over Korea. Internationally, Korea became a battle ground for international expansionist competition in East Asia. Korea's Domestic politics were closely related to this development in international affairs. In June 1894, the Japanese army overthrew anti-Japanese Empress Myongseonghwanghu (明成皇后) and supported pro-Japanese political factions led by Kim Hongjip (金弘集). Kim's cabinet initiated the Kap-O Reform which aimed at modernization of Korea's administration and society. It was influenced by the Japanese model of modernization. The reform transformed the traditional recordskeeping systems and a semi-modern recordskeeping systems were established.

In the new regime, an attempt to “modernize” recordskeeping system was made. To operate the administrative agencies, recordskeeping regulations (各部門衙門通行規則) were promulgated in 1894. A Records Bureau (記錄局) was established in the Euijeongbu (議政府), a central organization, and a Records Office (記錄課 or 文書課) was installed at each administrative agencies. However, no records schedule or preservation period was introduced in the system. In the new systems, Historian-bureaucrat (史官)'s draft writings and compilations of history were discontinued. The function of compiling history was transferred from the Chunchukwan to Pyunsaguk (編史局) of Euijeongbu. The main change was that each agency should keep its original public records for its current use not for preservation. There were no more central archives. As Chosun was undergoing disintegration of its traditional society, we may well say that the new system was a detrimental revision of our traditional archival system.

3. Archival Systems under the Japanese Colonial Rule and its Legacy

Colonial Recordskeeping Policy

Backbones of the colonial recordskeeping systems were two records management regulations, Chosunchongdokbu-Cheomukyujeong (朝鮮總督府處務規程) and Chosunchongdokbu-Kongmunseokyujeong (朝鮮總督府公文書規程). Central archives were the Chongdokbu-Munseoko (總督府文書庫) which collected and preserved records of the Government-General as well as records of the defunct Taehan Empire (大韓帝國). There were some changes in managing non-current records. The colonial regulations stipulated a “records preservation period” for the non-current records, of which the basic principle is maintained in the Korean government records systems. Classification of records-preservation periods comprised five groups; “permanent,” “30 years,” “10 years,” “3 years,” and “1 year.” The standard of the records classification was determined by the ranks of officials who approved the records. It was also determined by the importance and availability of the records for effective colonial rule, not for their historical and information values. Therefore, records with historical values but little exploitative values for the Japanese were disposed recklessly.

Nonetheless, the colonial authority did care about preservation and historical compilation of records. However, we should note that Japan adopted different, much more positive archival policies at home. In Japan, the record preservation policies emphasized arrangement and compilation such as *Taisei Classified Collections* (太政類典) and *Public Records Classifications and Collections* (公文類聚), while their colonial policies did little to preserve the historical materials. No such attempt was made during the colonial period in Korea. The compilations of Korean History (朝鮮史) by the Chindanhakhoi (震檀學會) with colonial sponsorship was a representative work of the colonial period. The work claimed to establish a historical “positivism” as its fundamental methodology. Despite its claim of objectivity, it ideologically emphasized the backwardness and stagnancy of Korean history to serve as historical justification of the Japanese rule. Short of Korean perspective and with distorted historical views, it was generally regarded now as colonial scholarship.⁸⁾

8) Jaesun Kim, Ibid, in *Archival Education Textbook*, pp. 58-60.

During the colonial period, the Japanese authority produced huge amounts of administrative and military records. But most of the records were destroyed right before the Japanese surrender to the Allies. Most important sources for Japanese colonial rule were burnt. The incineration of the records lasted for three days. The Japanese colonial rule brought a great increase in police records and criminal court records and, fortunately, those records are now kept at the GARS. They are representative colonial records in the GARS. They comprises verdicts, lists of charges, indexes of suspects, and orders of executions totaling 353 volumes. Police records comprise *Series Books on Rebels*, *Police Regulations*, *ire Arms Registers*, *Budget Records*, *Police Management Records*, *Meetings of Police Directors*, *Meetings of Police Directors*, *Security Files and Employment Records* totaling 119 volumes. Though many more were destroyed than preserved, those records are invaluable records in understanding Korean independence movements and colonial social conditions.⁹⁾

Records Administrations in the Shadow of Colonial Legacy

As in other fields of Korean society, the colonial archival systems influenced Korean records systems long after the independence of Korea in 1948. Korea was ruled by the United States Army Military Government from 1945 to 1948. However, it does not mean that American archival systems were introduced to Korea. At first, the Americans did not change fundamentally the colonial structure and manpower of the government to rule their occupation zone effectively. Combined with American staffs and their New Deal political philosophies, the military government managed to establish a hybrid administration, which retained colonial structure but aimed at establishing a modern democratic country. As it ruled Korea, the American military government produced public records. But most of the records were legally American property and shipped to the United States after the occupation was terminated, like the Supreme Commander for Allied Powers did in Japan.

Therefore, we had to go to American archives to do research on the period of a national-building of Korea from 1945 to 1948. The National Archives and Records Administration of the United States became a Mecca for Korean (and American) historians who study Korean history under the American rule or the origins of the Cold War in Korea. However, many of these American records were microfilmed and reprinted in Korea and now are available in Korean archives and the national Assembly Libraries.

Recordskeeping systems in the new republic was not set into motion until the 1960s. Revising the colonial one, a government recordskeeping regulation, Cheongbu-cheomukyujeong (政府處務規程), was established in 1949. Records preservation periods were determined mainly by records creating agencies, and non-permanent holding records were generally disposed without any proper appraisal. Records were kept at the agencies mainly for their administrative or evidential use until they were disposed. Many records are still held at the creating agencies for their “reference” use. It is estimated that six million “permanent” records are now held at creating agencies.

4. Archival Developments in the GARS

Institutional Development of the GARS

The history of the GARS begins with the Records Photographing Room which was established in May 1962 in the General Administrative Office of the Cabinet Secretariat. It was formally reorganized into the Government Archives & Records Service (GARS) in the Ministry of Government Administration in August 1969. The main reason for establishing a separate government records archives was that the records were accumulating rapidly and needed to be managed efficiently. Until then the “permanent” and “semi-permanent” records were coming into the archives when records creating agencies determined to transfer them. Then, the GARS just microfilmed the records and published a catalogue with a simple title index annually.

Due to the increase in archival holdings, the Pusan Branch of the GARS was established as a main records repository in November 1984. The GARS will move to Taejeon in July 1998 where the Third Government Administrative Complex will be opened. The new building has its own records repository. The Seoul Office of the GARS will remain open at the present location for records services to the Seoul metropolitan area.

Organization of the GARS

At present, the GARS is an attached organization of the Ministry of

Government Administration. Although the GARS was not created as independent archives, it has fulfilled its unique functions of national archives since its establishment. Problems has been raised out of its organization position, i.e., being attached to the Ministry of Government Administration. One of the most disturbing problems is that relatively low position of the archives leads to the lack of its authority in supervising and controlling other records creating agencies. Frequent circulation of administrative employees often results in work inefficiency and underdevelopment of professionalism. We expect that parts of these problems will be solved after introduction of the National Records Acts, which we are now working on.

The GARS is an only national archives in Korea. Major duties and responsibilities of the GARS are : collection and preservation of government records, computerization of records management, research on archival systems and recordskeeping, and research on records preservation technology, cooperation with other archives and records centers both in Korea and overseas, and records management and preservation education.

The GARS is composed of the Seoul Headquarter Office and Pusan Repository. The Seoul Headquarter is composed of a Department of Administrative Service and a Department of Records Management. The Pusan Repository is composed of an Office of General affairs, Preservation, and Technical Management. The new Main Archives [Headquarter] has a total area of 8,524m². Its records stacks area is equipped with automatic temperature-humidity conditioning facilities and Naf automatic fire extinguishing system. The Main Archives also has a Lecture Hall, a Reference Room, and an Exhibition Hall. The Pusan Repository has a total area of 17,160 m². Its records stacks area is 7,108 m² which is equipped with automatic temperature humidity conditioning system, a halon gas automatic fire extinguishing system, and anti-bombing double-constructed stack area walls.

At present, authorized manpower to the GARS is 127. Among them, the number of people in archival profession is 41, which includes librarians, historians, technological researchers, records appraisers, and specially assigned personnel. The number of administrators is 35, which includes general administrators, computer programmers and system operators, and technicians. The Annual budget of the GARS in 1997 is 5,263 million won (\$5,850,000). The appropriations for personnel compensation is 2,962 million won, for operation and maintenance is 1,292 million won, and for special projects and programs is 1,008 million won.

The GARS holds 347,599 volumes of documents, 1,194,500 charts and graphics, 1,560,031 cards, 741,517 audio-visual records, 66,663 Presidential records, and 17,458 other materials. Among our holdings, the *Chosunwangjosilroks*, Tonghak Peasant War Court Records, Land Register Books, Colonial Criminal Court Records, the Constitution, Korean War Armistice Agreement Records, Meetings and Agenda of Ministers, Presidential Records, and Originals of Treaties are representative archives.

People can have access to the archives by visiting, writing, or using computer networks. Administrative publications are available at the Government Reference Service Rooms. Following global trends, we are moving toward strengthening our customer service. Computerization will encourage popular access to archives through nation-wide computer networks. In 1996, we had 21,983 visitors to use our archives.

Archival Management and Records Preservation Systems

In Korea, government records classified as “permanent holding” are transferred from records production and management units of each agency to the GARS after 13 years or 30 years of holding by the agency. Based on the reports made by 576 records creating agencies, the GARS notifies a Records Transferring Schedule to each agency. The agencies transfer their records to the GARS with detailed indexes attached.

The GARS has a unique records disposition process. As a result of a long isolation from international development of archival theories practices such as new description standard, ISADG, Korea developed its own records disposition process. Transferred government records and collected historical materials are inventoried and registered according to their characteristics for the purpose of computerized retrieval and access. At present, all records are classified into four categories; general records (一般文書), human-related records (人的文書), regional records (地域的文書), registers (臺帳類). Each group has different records registration entries. Sometimes, of course, there is confusion and disagreement among librarians about which records belong to which category.

Records are inventoried through following stages : First, the Office of Collection identifies records which will be transferred to the GARS, and register the

records in our main computers; Second, the Office of Collection establishes a plan of records transfer on a yearly basis (i.e., the Records Transfer Schedule); Third, records are transferred to the Office of Collection with a schedule clearance form and automatically inventoried; Fourth, the Office of Registration compiles and registers the records. It also creates an index of the records in the main computer system.

Inventoried records are evaluated before their final disposition and storing method is determined. In the Office of Appraisal, the records are appraised for their retention values. Physical characteristics, access decisions to public and eligibility for electronic images storing are also determined. Records values are appraised in three categories; historical, administrative, evidential values respectively. It is very important to establish an objective standard of the appraisal. Also it is a very tough job. The standards of the appraisal are described in detail in the *Management Regulations of the GARS*. But the standards were preliminary in terms that they were made before the appraisers examined the records. Therefore, it may well say that the standards are in the process of making. Appraisers are composed of history Ph. D.s and qualified librarian. They make appraisal reports in which their reasoning and justifications are explained. When the records are determined to be retained by the GARS, images of the records are scanned and digitalized into high-capacity hard disks and optical disks. Original records are kept in the storage area. If necessary, the digitalized images of the records are served to the public.

Records preservation methods are expected to be renovated from microfilming to optical disk and digital-video-disk (DVD) preservation. The new method is said to be far superior to the microfilming in terms of data storing capacity, records accession processing, and user convenience. Our records preservation facilities are automatically controlled. Archives Stackroom temperature is maintained constantly at $20^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2$, and humidity is maintained constantly at $45\% \pm 5$. Audio-visual records Stackroom temperature is maintained constantly at $10^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 2$, and humidity is maintained constantly at $40\% \pm 5$. also, we installed CCTV and Ultra-sonic Sonar in the Stackrooms for archival security.

Stackrooms are equipped with electric/manual switchable mobile racks. Records preservation is managed by computerization. In particular, the records are arranged on the mobile racks by the computerization management serial number. To ensure the security of stackrooms, only authorized personnel can enter the stackrooms and records checkout is prohibited. Also, the records are supposed to have regular checkups.

5. Future Major Programs and Prospects

Archives Computerization Project

Present methods of microfilming is ineffective in terms of manpower and costs, as well as its durability. Microfilms could not be used easily as users must come to the archives to use them. It caused another problem in that administrative agencies were not willing to transfer their records, because once they transfer the records, it became very difficult to use them for their current business. Today, records in government offices accumulate so rapidly that it causes not only maintenance cost problems but also access problems and even environmental problems.

Our archives computerization project was designed to solve these problems. Through this project, we can expect that users will benefit from on-line archival service and much easier access, and that records are preserved efficiently and economically. Also, administrative agencies can improve their business operation. An optical disk used to store records image is far superior to a microfilm in terms of durability, capacity, storing conditions, and recordskeeping.

According to Dr Yun, a chief research scientist in the GARS, the benefits of using optical disks compared to microfilming are as following : Photocopying capacity of a microfilm is 2200 cuts per roll while an optical disk can store 40,000 pages. It is impossible to film audio-visual records while an optical disk can store audio-visual records. Regarding labor productivity, one person can film 400 cuts per day while one person can scan as many as 2000 pages per day in the image management system. Finally, remote records services are available for PC users at home and office without visiting to the GARS.¹⁰⁾

Kim Sunyoung, the Director-General of the GARS, finally authorized the grand project of computerization of archives and launched the project in 1996. In our computerization plan, we began to input our records data from 1997 and will begin to provide electronic access and records service in 1999. With respect to

10) Daehyun Yun, "Document Image Management System, (in Korean)" in *Kirokbojon* (記録保存), vol. 8, 1995, pp. 32-50.

This article provided a basic concept of computerized optical filing records management system. The GARS is launching the records image management system on this concept.

audio-visual records and administrative publications, we will begin to input records date from 1998 and to provide records service in 2000. To achieve this goal, 2.45 billion won will be spend from 1997 to 1999. Accompanied with the computerization project, Management Regulations of the GARS was also revised.¹¹⁾

Historical Records Collection Programs

“Historical records” are records which prove the lives and history of the Korean people. Those records include records relating to Korea produced by foreign countries, Korean records held by foreign archives, and records held by Korean civilians. Because of many foreign invasions and the Japanese colonial rule, our archival tradition was discontinued. Lots of important Korean historical materials are scattered around the world. It is very difficult and inconvenient for Korean historians to find and use these historical materials.

To that end, we made a ten-year plan to collect scattered historical records and will appraise and computerize the collected records. Through this orderly collection and preservation of all available archives, we expect to provide researchers with scholarly resources that could be preserved on durable optical disks. Thus, we can contribute to the development of our national culture and to the preservation of our historical materials succeeding our fine archival tradition.

Preparations for the Legislation of the National Records Acts and Movement toward Independence of the GARS

I will turn to our legislative efforts to make the National Records Acts. To have a well-organized archival system, the National Records Acts is a must. Such archives armed with the law are necessary to secure responsibility and transparency of administrative agencies, to secure evidence of national historical facts, and to assure the rights of people. Many countries recognized the importance of

11) Sunyoung Kim, “Establishment of Optical Filing System and Computerization of the Government Records, (in Korean)” *Gilrokbojon*, vol. 9, pp. 103-111.

archives and established advanced national archival systems through a series of fine records acts. But the national archival laws of Korea are still in the process of making. Recently, we have completed a project of studying foreign archival laws and national archives system of China, France, England, Japan, India, and the United States.¹²⁾

In general, we are lacking in people's interests in archival preservation today and only a few archives exist in Korea. Shortage of professional archivists and appropriations is also an obstacle to archival development. Urgently in need of establishing rational and efficient national archives, we are trying to legislate the National Records Acts to establish a national archival institution. By 1997, a draft of the bill will be made and by the end of 1998, the bill will be presented to the National Assembly. A key stipulation of the National Records Acts will be an establishment of central national archives at high government level, independent of other administrative agencies, being authorized to supervise recordskeeping in administrative agencies.

Archival Education

Finally, let me explain about our archival education. We provide archival classes to recordskeeping employees of 590 Administrative Agencies. One of the goals of our archival education is to raise recognition among public employees that proper archival management and records preservation is very important. Other goal is, of course, to enhance competence of recordskeeping personnel.

A Three-Days class is now being provided to recordskeeping clerks in 590 Agencies in 1997. But various classes will be provided to 1,300 recordskeeping clerks in 1998. Nine classes are provided in three fields; archival institutions and policies, archival practices, and archival preservation technology. These classes are designed to help recordskeeping clerks improve their work capability. We will expand and diversify our education programs. Contents of the program will be enriched and lectures will be more professionalized. As an exclusive archival institution in Korea, we are moving toward a professional archival education center.

12) The results of this project is summarized in Archival Systems in Foreign Countries : A Report (in Korean), (The GARS : Seoul, 1997), 155 p.

Unlike what it was, the GARS will play an active role in the Korean government. By renovating and modernizing archival systems, we will do our best to make the GARS a model of electronic government, a center for administrative information, and a cradle for preservation of historical archives. We also hope to become one of the leading archives in the world by endeavoring to succeed our fine national recordskeeping tradition and to computerize our archival systems. As the past is the prologue of the present, our present efforts are the prologue of the future in which our hope is realized.

MONGOLIA

“The Development History of the Archives of Mongolia and Its Historical Holdings Relating to East Asia”

Presented by Mr Ookhnoi BATSAIKHAN

Mongolia is the country of ancient civilization and kept systematic records on state affairs and on private correspondences between people. However due to practicing by Mongols nomadic type of cattle-breeding for many centuries and because of many wars conducted by Mongolian kings for invasion of other nations and shifting of the capital city to the occupied countries resulted the lost of ancient archival holdings.

Until the end of 120s there was no centralized state archives and archival documents were kept in every state institutions, monasteries and other organizations.

But surprisingly, since the ancient time Mongolia had unified archival standard requirements for different type of official documents (like applications, orders, correspondences etc.) to use standard size paper, color of lines, constant inter line width, special order for writing, signature, seal etc. and requirements for compiling documents. Some of those requirements in keeping records of official documentation are inherited by the modern Mongolian Government.

National Archives of Mongolia has repositories for documents of Manchu state representative organizations resided in Mongolia during the occupation of Mongolia by Manchu state. The repository related to Manchu Resident Representative Offices in Ikh Huree (capital city of Mongolia) has comparatively rich holdings because it kept archival documents of Courts in Ikh Huree and in the city Khiagt. Historical documents of that period of time were mainly written in Manchu language.

According to the study carried out on correspondences between the state institutions on archive matters in 18th and 19th century, there were well established procedures for keeping official documents in archives.

Administrations of each administrative units (aimag, khoshuu) had designated officers responsible for archives and they received, sorted out and placed documents in archives. They were also looking after archives conditions and carried

out restoration works including reorganization of documents, cleaning and copying of damaged documents. When it was necessary other officers of the administration have been mobilized for that work.

As an example, a letter from province administration officers to the head of province Tusheet Khan in 1738 states “Too many documents and records of previous years are piled up in the provincial archives and containers and wraps for documents are so torn that documents are mixed, which makes difficult to find important documents. “And they applied for necessary fund for getting new containers and wraps and additional people for restoration of some documents. (Nam...) The head of Province accepted the request and issued order to provide necessary money and appointed some officers to work in the archives for certain period of time.

This fact shows that archive maintenance work had been conducted periodically and administration paid due attention to keep archives in good order.

The following also proves that there were certain system for organizing documents in the archive and strict rule had been followed in transfer archive officers duties to other officers.

In a list of records transferred between officers in 1772 in written “orders 37, legal documents in 5 trunks, texts of 11 laws in 73 books, applications dated 1757-1772 in 29 books, documents related to Negotiations on Border Issues between Manchu and Russia in 12 trunks with 2 maps...”

This fact also confirms the control system worked over the integrity of archival holdings.

Documents in archives of Mongolia were divided into two major types folded documents and booked documents. For each type of documents certain procedures have been adhered to.

The folded documents are usually written on special durable paper and folded in width of 10-12cm, the length is different depending on what is written on it. The length of some folded documents reached 70 meters. Folded documents are in most cases correspondences between state institutions.

Writings on special notebooks are named as 'dans' or booked documents. Official documents on one issue within certain period of time are written on single piece of such booked document. For example, registration of soldiers, tax reports etc. It is very rare that booked documents kept during two or more years. It consisted of in average 200-300 pages. Records on sent and received documents have also been kept with the dates.

As a rule booked documents are bound with thing processed piece of leather lace, if the book is thin with paper rope. Books are folded by starched cloth and the name and date is writing on the cover. But the name of organization and province are not put on the cover. Once every organization and provinces had their own archives it seems there was no need in doing so.

Folded documents were put in the envelope made of starched cloth which securely protects documents from dust and excess humidity. Batch of envelopes were wrapped in the processed cloth and put into trunks made of wood. Wooden trunks are numbered and dated. Lists of records had been done accurately which helped to locate necessary documents.

There are many hand drawn maps in provincial archives which demonstrate one of the examples of cultural heritage of Mongols, the unique technique of describing landscape developed by Mongols in ancient time. From 18th century Mongols started to use scales in inches in their map.

In 1921 Mongolian Government issued resolution on the establishment of Institute of Historic documents and ordered to concentrate all possible documents related to the history of the country, archival documents in state and religious organizations, representative organizations from Manchu state and provincial archives to the capital city Urguu for centralized state controlled preservation. Since that period of time the Institute of Historic documents conducted the campaign for collecting history related documents from provincial archives and sent authorized officers to the countryside. This action was dictated by the circumstances that new Government just had taken the power and it was necessary to have control over the documents of the old Government.

The action was quite successful. Many valuable documents including Mongolian Ganjuur have been found and collected in the Institute.

The activity for tracing historic documents has not been limited only by the country's boundary. The Institute of Historic Documents sent delegations to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Irkutsk, Beijing, Huh Khot, some provinces of Inner Mongolia, France and Germany. The materials collected at that time laid the foundation of the Mongolian Central Archives which has rich collection of historic documents related not only to history of Mongolia but also history of Asia and the World.

Along with organization of the Institute first step has been taken towards preparation of professional archival workers. First archivist had been appointed by the Resolution of the Institute' Resolution No 10 from December 5th, 1927.

The Institute of Historic Documents organized following three repositories :

- Documents of Manchu occupation period
- Documents of Kingdom of Bogd Khan
- Documents of the People's State

Now the National Archives of Mongolia has historic documents of last 450 years including official correspondences of ancient Mongolian state with Manchu, China, Japan, Russia and Korea.

MACAO

“Technical Report of Macao Historical Archives”

Presented by Ms Maria Fatima LAU

Before 1952, it was evident that a decentralized system was used to keep the documents. Every governmental department had its own archives. But it does not mean that archives was not given enough attention. As the decree no. 268 of 27 April 1929 shows that the Ministry of Colonies of Portugal extended a policy to Macao, obliging the regular publication of historical documents existing in all archives of Macao, just as what they were doing in their homeland. It should be considered as the first attempt in dissemination of valuable documents. This publication, named as “Arquivos de Macau”, has been continuing until nowadays, but renamed as “Boletim do Arquivo Historico de Macau.”

Of course this policy is not sufficient in the sense of preserving historical documents. So in 29 June 1952, with the publication of Ministry Legislative Diploma no. 5, it was decided to establish a General Archives of the Province of Macao, as an organism dependent on the governmental department “Administration Services” supervised all the functions of the government. It implied that the archiving system was becoming a centralized one.

In this diploma, it was clearly stated that there did not exist places with appropriate conditions to keep the documents which were valuable for historical investigations, and which were scattered in various institutions or public services. So a General Archives was to be set up to fulfill this task. Besides the function of keeping the documents sent by the order of the Macao government, it was obliged also to identify, to make inventories and catalogues for its holding, in order to facilitate control and access of these documents. A person would also be appointed to examine all the archives of the public services, or any institutions, in order to decide which part of the archives should be removed to the new installation so as to avoid the risk of losing these historical patrimonies.

We may take this decree of 1952 as a breakthrough in the developing history of archives in Macao. But we have to admit that this decree was not so sophisticated. In 1979, with the decree no. 27-F/79/M, the General Archives was newly named as Macao Historical Archives. At this stage, the organisational structure of the Macao government was expanding. Most of the sectors of the

“Administration Services” had become independent and its function was shrinking. So when the Education Department was restructured in 1979, the Historical Archives become part of it. The article no. 20 of this decree regulated the function of the Archives through the delegation of competences to the managerial class, i.e., the Director and Sub-Director of Historical Archives. The main concepts and objectives mentioned in the previous decree of 1952 were maintained. In addition, it was emphasized that not only documents concerning the history of Macao but also the Portuguese history in the Far East should be included in the holdings of the Historical Archives.

This decree of 1979 was too simple to support the important task of preserving historical patrimonies of Macao. Three years later in 15 May 1982, the Governor of Macao elaborated the decree no. 75/82/M to regulate the Macao Historical Archives. With the 32 articles of this decree, the skeleton of the Archives was well formed. Now it had a better foundation for further development.

In 1986, the Macao Government decided to transfer the Historical Archives from the previous department to the Cultural institute of Macao and this structure has been remaining until now. Under the Cultural Institute, the Historical Archives has been hierarchically upgraded. Physically, an independent house was chosen for the installation of this Archives and was inaugurated in 1989. This building was adapted with all the modern techniques and systems necessities to ensure a suitable environment for the preservation and conservation of the documental patrimonies of Macao. At the same time, an archival guideline was created and is applicable to all the individual archives in the territory.

ARCHIVAL HOLDINGS OF AHM

The holdings of the macao Historical Archives came mainly from the public services, such as those of “Financas” (Financial Department), “Leal Senado” (Urban Council), “Administracao Civil” (Administration Services) and “Educacao” (Education Department), etc. We also have a fond from a private institution, i.e., “Santa Casa da Misericordia” (House of Indigents). In addition, in order to have a more complete picture of the history of Macao, we had contacted the relative foreign libraries and archives, such as those in the countries of Portugal, France, Spain, Brazil, India, etc., to acquire microfilms of their holdings which mentioned about Macao or Portuguese histories in the Far East. As for the region of East Asia, the holdings could reflect our historical relationship with China, Hong Kong and Japan. But it is

hard to pick all these files out of the holdings unless with profound investigation, just as what we have done to the documents relating to Siam – a catalogue called “Relations between Macao and Siam” was already published.

First of all, as Macao is part of China, there has always been contacts between the Portuguese Administration and China since the first Portuguese pioneer arrived here. In order to facilitate communications between the two sides, a special entity was created, namely “Procuratura do Leal Senado”, in 1583. Though this entity vanished in 1893, the two sides never ended in contacting each other, especially in handling matters related to Macao. So it is not difficult to understand that our holdings contain many documents concerning China. We can give some examples here below :

1. Fond : Administration Services

Series : Legation of Portugal in China, Japan and Siam, 28 vol, 1865-1964

Series : Refugees from Shanghai – Files of Assistance, 1 vol, 1957-1958

Series : External Correspondence Received from Portuguese Consulate in
Canton, vol, 1907

Series : Register of Correspondence exchanged with the Viceroy of Canton, 1 vol,
[1851-1866]

Series : Register of Correspondence received from the Chinese Authorities, 2 vol,
1920-1933

2. Fond : Education Department

Series : Files of License Granted to the Educational Institutions, 262 vol,
1927-1965

(Notes about this series : Between the 20's and –10's, a large number of educational institutions moved to Macao. All these institutions were registered in these files. It is also interesting to investigate on this topic.)

3. Chapas Sinicas, 1693-1886, containing 1500 documents

This is a collection of official correspondence between the Chinese government and the Portuguese Administration of Macao. We acquired the microfilms from the national Archives of Torre do Tombo of Portugal.

Due to the geographical factors, contacts between Macao and Hong Kong have always been very often. An example is given below.

Fond : Administration Services

Series : License Granted for the Exportation of Rice to Hong Kong, 1 vol,

1919-1920

As mentioned above, Portuguese pioneers settled in Macao during the 16th century to develop commercial link in the Far East. They exchanged the silk of China for the silver of Japan. So, there also exist documents concerning Japan.

Example is given below :

Fond : Administration Services

Series : Legation of Portugal in China, Japan and Siam, 28 vol, 1865-1964.

HONG KONG

“Report on the Public Records Office of Hong Kong”

Presented by Mr Simon CHU

The year 1997 is momentous both for Hong Kong and for the local archival services. During the year, **regional identity** and **cultural heritage** were two of the topics uppermost in the minds of the people of Hong Kong.

The New Archival Building Completed

On the 19th of June this year, 12 days before Hong Kong was reintegrated with China, Hong Kong officially opened its new home for the local documentary heritage at Kwun Tong, Kowloon. This is Hong Kong’s first ever purpose-constructed archival building and no effort has been spared in constructing and fitting it out to the latest known specifications and standards set for permanent preservation of archival materials. When one considers our humble beginnings 25 years ago (by the way, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of PRO) in a small cottage next to a public carpark in Central, Hong Kong, we have certainly come a long way.

User Education and Publicity Program

This new building, with its properly equipped public services areas such as the lecture hall, seminar rooms, exhibition centre, etc. will be instrumental in helping us promote our services to the wider community. In fact, this business of “users education and publicity” is one of the paramount tasks we have decided to undertake during the years ahead.

As keepers of archives and other historical materials, we have two equally important responsibilities. The first is to identify and preserve records of lasting value to the community we serve. The second is to make these records and the information they contain known to the public. The first responsibility is the oldest and the most widely known. The second, however, draws less attention but is of utmost importance. It is in fulfilling this second mission that we have decided to undertake public and educational programs.

The second task, as our learned Australian colleague Ann Pederson has eloquently argued, is especially challenging and important for archivists because

unlike libraries and museums, visits to archives are not a feature of one's early life or education. Most people do not come into contact with archival records until university, and even then not unless they are doing research into original documents. The result is that few people know what an archives is, what sort of work goes on there, and why that work is invaluable and relevant to the community.

The lack of general knowledge and understanding about archives is sufficient for archivists to pay a little more attention to educational program aimed at the wider community, not just an educated few. Otherwise we will reap the bitter fruits of our own indifference : diminishing funding, inadequate facilities, reduced services, etc.

One of the major upcoming publicity program will be a Historical photograph exhibition scheduled to be held in July next year. This is, in fact, a joint venture with Shanghai Municipal Archives. The proposed exhibition is to commemorate the first anniversary of Hong Kong's reversion to China. The exhibition will highlight and compare, where appropriate, the social and economical development of Hong Kong and Shanghai from the early days of the 19th Century to the present days. In addition to historical photographs and maps, some relevant archival materials will also be displayed in order to provide a better historical perspective.

Archives Automated Control System

Closely related to this user education and publicity program is our effort to introduce an automated system to computerize the administration and physical and intellectual control of our archival holdings. This project has been reported in detail when EASTICA met in Hong Kong in February 1997. What follows is a brief recapitulation of the main elements of this automated system and an update about its progress.

All the accession data of totally over 700,000 items at different descriptive levels has already been converted into electronic format and imported to the automated system run on Local Area Network environment. The work of design and customization of the research module have been completed and three workstations have been put in our finding aid area for public use.

As far as information retrieval is concerned, descriptive elements of a

filing unit could be retrieved via an array of access points; they are title proper, keywords appeared in all text fields/descriptive elements and covering periods.

In the next few months, we are going to customize and implement the remaining functional modules, including description, re-appraisal and conservation survey, for internal use. It is our plan that the system will be fully operational in mid-1998. In the meantime, a committee has been established to study the technicalities of mounting our database on Internet (which is planned to be accomplished in the first quarter of 1999).

Vital Records Protection Program

Vital records protection program is one of the many initiatives of the Hong Kong SAR government taken to improve records management in departments. Perhaps a highlight of the background of this records management improvement campaign is relevant here.

In mid-1994 a records management survey was conducted throughout the government which revealed, quite expectedly, a number of management problems in every stage of the records life cycle. The survey results formed the backdrop to the development of a service-wide **Records Management Strategy**, which aims to assist government departments reduce records growth, enhance records management systems, and improve the utilization of the Records Centres. This strategy was subsequently launched in November 1994 and progressed by phases with different focuses in each and different phase. Vital Records Protection Program is one of the major tasks being undertaken in Phase II of the Strategy.

Vital records are those records that would be needed by an organisation after a disaster in order to resume or continue operation, recreate the legal and finance status; and fulfil obligations to employees, public and outside interest. The Hong Kong SAR Government has recognised that the protection of this category of records is essential to ensure the survival and availability of such records so as to facilitate overall governmental cooperation during an emergency.

To start, a team of specialists in this area of records management and disaster prevention and recovery has been brought in from Britain and Canada in July 1997. Their tasks were to advise on the issue of vital records management and conduct a Pilot Study on a few selected departments, leading hopefully to a report on

the establishment of a service-wide vital records management program. The report to be produced will throw light on at least the following issues :

- a) criteria and procedures with regard to the identification and definition of vital records,
- b) an assessment of potential risks and evaluation of the adequacy of existing protection measures; and
- c) recommendations on the necessary guidelines, procedures and methods for disaster preparedness and protection of vital records.

At the time of this report, we are still working on the final draft of the Study Report.

Personal Data (Privacy) Ordinance

In December 1996, as a step towards a more open and accountable government, the Hong Kong SAR Government has introduced a law which protects the privacy of individuals in relation to personal data. Among other provisions, Protection Principle 3 of the Ordinance makes it very clear that “personal data shall not, without the prescribed consent of the data subject, be used for any purpose other than the purpose for which the data were to be used at the time of the collection...”. In accordance with this provision, use of personal data of lasting value transferred from government departments to the archives is not allowed. Fortunately, Part XIII Section 62 of the same law provides that personal data of this nature are exempted from this principle. But, this is not the end of our problem.

Data Protection principle No. 1 (3) (b) stipulates that “data subject should be explicitly informed on or before collecting the data, of the classes of persons to whom the data may be transferred...”. This provision certainly cast doubt as to the lawfulness with regard to the transfer of personal data to the archival authority. Our Privacy ordinance, unfortunately, does not provide us any legal ground to perform this specific task.

In countries like Canada and Australia where privacy act or other information freedom acts are in force, their archival authorities and their archival function are adequately covered and backed by related records or archives acts. This

is not the case in Hong Kong. To tell you the truth, as far as the Public Records Office is concerned, we are still trying to look for a way out.

REPORT BY RESOURCE PERSON

Report by Resource Person from China
Mr TANG Yinian, First Historical Archives of China
“Ming and Qing Dynasty Archives -
China’s Historical and Cultural Heritage”

China is a country with an ancient civilization of about 5,000 years. Even to this day, Chinese culture still maintains its strong cohesive force, and is still playing its role in the cause of human progress and in propelling the society forward. The archives of the Ming and Qing Dynasties that are being preserved in the First Historical Archives are an important component part of the historical cultural heritage. They are known as one of the three great discoveries of this century in Chinese academic circles together with the inscriptions on tortoise shells discovered in Henan Province and Buddhist scriptures in Dunhuang grottoes.

The Chinese bourgeois democratic revolution of 1911 led by Dr Sun Yat-sen brought China’s feudal rule of about several thousand years to an end. In 1924, General Feng Yuxiang’s National Revolutionary Army expelled Pu Yi, the last Emperor of the Qing Dynasty, out of his palace. From then on, the archives hidden in the royal palace became a treasure-house of the general public.

After the last Emperor was expelled, the palace was reorganized into the Palace Museum on 10th October 1925, responding to the appeals from all circles. A library and a museum of antiquities were set up under the Palace Museum. The library has two divisions. One was the book division, another was the document division. The latter was in charge of the Ming and Qing archives, specifically preservation, exhibition and arrangement of archives. The First Historical Archives grew out of the Document Division in 1951.

China’s recorded history can be traced back to the Yin Dynasty of about 2,000 years ago, and can be found from the inscription on tortoise shells, bronze and stones, bamboo and wooden slips, fine silk and paper etc. Due to historical reasons, the overwhelming majority of the ancient archives extant are of the Qing Dynasty, numbering about 20 million pieces in the whole country. Although there are also Ming Dynasty archives, they are in a very small number compared with the Qing Dynasty archives. At its early time, the Document Division of the Palace Museum collected about 5 million pieces of archives from the Royal Palace, among which 3000 are of the Ming Dynasty, the rest are the Qing Dynasty archives, taking up to 50% of the

total in the whole country. The archives were mainly created by the Central Government Agencies of the Qing Dynasty, including various kinds of imperial edicts, official's memorials to the throne, official communications between the Central and local governments, chronicle of daily official activities of the Emperor and government agencies, and file registers, etc. The original historical records created from the year 1371 (the 4th Year of the Ming Emperor Hong Wu) to 1924 (the thirteenth year of the Republic of China) are of great values to historical researchers and scholars.

Talking about the research value of the Ming and Qing Dynasty archives, we first should emphasize their evidence value. In his memorial to the Emperor for building an Imperial Archives, Mr Qiu Jun, a scholar of the Ming Dynasty cabinet wrote : "Classics and books are a matter of a hundred generations... relying on which, this generation could know the past, the future generation could know the present." "Files should be kept as historical evidence". The Ming and Qing Dynasty Archives are different from other kinds of reference materials. They were not written or edited by the later generation for a certain purpose, but original records created during official transactions at that time. Therefore, they are authentic recordings of the past. On the other hand, the file processing system at that time was very strict in terms of style of writing and relations of official communications. For example, the imperial edicts, orders and mandates all bear with the Emperor's jade seals. There are lots of edicts written by the Emperor himself and lots of memorials endorsed by the Emperor. As to the memorials to the throne and official communications between government agencies, they all bear the seals of the agencies and signatures of the concerned officials. Those marks formed during the records transaction undoubtedly prove the evidence value of the archives. For example, the memorial to the throne by the civil and military officials at the frontier regions and the Huang Yu Quan Tu (Imperial Map) drawn up by imperial order could verify the territory of the Qing dynasty. In addition, the official communications between the Qing Emperors and the Religious leaders, nobility, headmen, clergy and laity officials in Mongolia, Xinjiang, Tibet and other minority areas in Southwest China confirm the fact that China was a unitary multi-national state. The First Historical Archives have provided lots of archival materials for dividing border lines and sea area between China and Russia, India, Burma, and Viet Nam, etc.

The value of the Ming and Qing dynasty archives can be seen in the knowledge they contain, since archives record the political, productive, scientific and technological activities of all sectors of society during the Ming and Qing Dynasties,

at the mean time, also the crystallization of knowledge and culture, from which we could draw on experience. For instance, from the rise and fall of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, we could draw historical lessons. And also, it is very helpful to learn from the archives about astronomy, water resources, medicine and handicraft of the Ming and Qing Dynasties. The Ming Dynasty used the archives to rite about 1500 kinds of annals of local history, exceeding any previous dynasties. During the reign of Qing Emperor Qianlong, lots of Ming Dynasty archives were transferred from the central and local repositories to be centralized for the purpose of history compilation. Those archives were destroyed in batches after the work was finished. The Ming archives extant in the First Historical Archives are survivors of that disaster. In the Qing Dynasty, the House of National History was established and lots of archives were transferred from the agencies to compile national history. In 1927, when compiling the “Qing History”, although the Editor-in-chief Mr Zhao Erxin, and also Director General of the House of Qing History, could not access to the Cabinet archives which were kept secretly in the Royal Palace, he basically referred to the master copies of the history books compiled by the House of National History in the past 200 years or so. The book of “Qing History”, having collected a lot of historical facts, is still an important book of historical reference. In the 80s, an upsurge of history compilation appeared in China. In a period of time, the archives were very much visited by users to compile local annals of provinces, cities and counties, as well as trade history. While the History Institute of the Academy of Social Sciences, and also institutions of higher learning regarded archives as the source of teaching and historical research.

The Ming and Qing Dynasty archives are as important as cultural relics. The fact that these several-hundred-year old archives can be preserved in a good state symbolizes China’s ancient civilization. The neat shape, beautiful design and binding, good quality writing materials, such as paper, ink, and cinnabar were a reflection of the file system and technique of making stationery at that time. while different styles of calligraphy and seals found in the archives are of great artistic value. The Ming and Qing documents are in over a hundred styles. In addition to Chinese and Manchu languages, the documents were also written in other minority languages, such as Mongolian, Tibetan and Hui. There are also documents from 20 other countries, such as the united Kingdom, France, Germany, Russia, Japan, Italy, Spain, and the Netherlands. Most of the archives are very rare treasures in the world. Besides archives, the maps are also very precious. The Da Ming Hun Yi Tu (China’s National Map of the Ming Dynasty) drawn up during the reign of Ming Emperor Wan Li, was the biggest ancient map in China. The “World Atlas”

published in France in French in 1694 is also a world treasure. Among the Astronomic maps, “Tian Pan Star Chart” was one of those with the most descriptions of stars. Talking about Emperors’ genealogies, the last genealogy finished in the thirteenth year of Emperor Xuan Tong, was the most complete. It is 90cm long, 50cm wide and 72cm thick, weighs about 105kg.

Last and most important is the information value of the archives. The Ming and Qing archives are very rich in content. They contain lots of political and economic information. It includes the organizational system, number of provinces, prefectures and counties in the Qing dynasty and their changes, census and migration trends, areas of arable lands, land tax, agricultural yields, grain price, gold, silver, bronze, iron, lead, and tin mining and smelting, financial situation including cast and issue of coins, astronomical and meteorological phenomena including natural disasters.

In the Ming and Qing dynasties, China had very close relations with the neighboring countries, among which Korea, the Ryukyu Islands, Annam (Viet Nam) and Burma were countries that presented tributes to the Ming and Qing Emperors. While Japan and some western countries kept close trade relations with China via sea. Therefore the Ming and Qing archives contain a lot of information concerning diplomacy and trade with these countries. In the mid of the 19th century, the big powers of the west with warships and guns forced China to open its door. This ancient and isolated country had to merge itself in the contemporary social development process. The nature of relations between China and its neighboring countries underwent dramatic changes afterwards, which were also reflected in the archives. Here I would like to talk about the archives relating to Japan, Korea and Mongolia.

China and Japan are close neighbors separated by only a strip of water. The exchange of friendly visits between our two countries can be traced back to the Han and Tang Dynasties, while the culture of the two countries has distinct historical origin. However, during the later half of the Ming dynasty, the coastal areas of South-east China was infested with Japanese pirates. Considering this situation, an order was issued by the Ming Government to break off trade relations with Japan. It was not until the early of the Qing dynasty that the trade relations were resumed. In the 12th year of Emperor Kang Xi, the King of Pin Nan sent a letter to the Japanese Government asking for resumption of trade. Then began a flourishing period of Sino-Japanese trade relations. The statistics show that lots of businessmen from

China's Guangdong and Fujian went to Japan and some of them stayed permanently in Nagasaki. In the busiest time, the merchant ships were as many as about 100 in one year. China and Japan signed the "Peace Treaty" in 1871 and established diplomatic relations. Since then the relations between the two countries became more closer. Of course we can not deny the fact that there was also unpleasant history between our two countries. There are more than 10,000 pieces of archives concerning Sino-Japanese relations in the First Historical Archives, which include documents on resumption of trade in the early Qing dynasty, taxes, shipwrecks and rescue. It also includes letters sent by the Japanese businessmen to the Qing Emperor and detailed list of tributes. After the establishment of diplomatic relations, more archives concerning political, economic, military and diplomatic and non-governmental contact were created. These archives are very important for the research of Sino-Japanese relations from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

Here I would also like to talk about the Ryukyu Islands. In 1422 (the 29th year of Emperor Yong Le) the Ryukyu Islands became a vassal state of the Ming Dynasty. The titles of the Kings of Ryukyu Islands were conferred by the Ming Emperors. In 1646 (the third year of Qing Emperor Shun Zhi), the king of the Ryukyu Islands sent an envoy to the Qing Emperor asking for a title. In 1682 (the 21st year of Qing Emperor Kang Xi), the Qing Government granted the title of "Zhong Shan King" to the king of the Ryukyu Islands. Since then, the Ryukyu Islands sent envoys to present tribute to the Qing Emperor periodically. It also sent students to study in the Imperial College of the Qing Dynasty. This kind of relations maintained until 1879 (the fifth year of Qing Emperor Guang Xu), when Japanese troops occupied Ryukyu islands and changed its name into Okinawa. The 500-year close relations between China and the Ryukyu Islands have left us lots of first-hand archives, about 3000 pieces of which are now in the First Historical Archives of China.

China and Korea are linked by common mountains and waters. Our cultures are also inter-linked with each other. Contacts between China and Korea can be traced back to the Shang and Zhou dynasties. Since the Qin and Han Dynasties, Sino-Korean cultural and economic exchanges became more frequent. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, Korea's Li Dynasty became a vassal state of China and maintained this kind of relations for about 500 years. In the latter part of the Qing Dynasty, Korea was in turbulent situations. The Japanese influence expanded in Korean Peninsula, which weakened the traditional Sino-Korean relations and China's status and sphere of influence on Korea. The Sino-Japanese War of

1894-1895 finally brought this relation to an end. Afterwards, the Korea Empire was founded. In 1899 (the 25th year of Qing Emperor Guang Xu) China and Korea established formal relations as two independent states. Permanent diplomatic missions were sent to each other. In 1905 (the thirteenth year of Qing Emperor Guang Xu), Japan forced Korea to be under its guidance. Sino-Korean relations were cut off. The long-standing and well established relations between China and Korea have also left with us lots of historical documents. There are about 10,000 pieces archives both in Chinese and Manchu languages in the First Historical Archives, which include the imperial edicts, memorials to the throne, official communications, and detailed list of tributes sent by the King of Korea to the Qing Emperors.

Mongolia was part of China before it became independent in 1921. It was called Outer Mongols at that time. During the 200 years of the Qing Dynasty, Mongolia was in the territory of China and was under the jurisdiction of the General in Wuli Yasutai, officials in Ku Lun and Counselor in Ke buduo. The First Historical Archives maintains a big number of archives concerning Mongolia in the Qing Dynasty. Among which 40,000 pieces are in Mongolian and Manchu language, 20,000 are in Chinese.

Ladies and gentlemen, over more than 70 years, with intuitive knowledge and sense of historical mission, several generations of archivists have worked with these lifeless but precious historical archives. They have endured loneliness. They have been doing ordinary and very common work day after day, year after year. But they have discovered priceless treasure-house from the dust of history and presented it to the society. Over the 70 years, the First Historical Archives has collected about 10 million pieces of Ming and Qing Archives, which were divided into 70 record groups. All these archives have been cataloged and are accessible to readers. The First Historical Archives will render any help possible to facilitate readers.

The rich content of the archives has attracted the attention of scholars from all over the world. According to incomplete statistics, in 15 years from 1982 to 1997, the archives has received visitors from about 20 countries and international organizations, like Japan, Korea, Mongolia, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Sweden, Spain, officials from UNESCO, and scholars from the academic circles. The number of foreign readers also increases very rapidly. In 1979, there were only 5 foreign readers from the United States and Japan. In 1981, the number increased to 398 from 20 Universities and research institutes from the

United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, France and Australia. To date, the archives has received about a thousand readers from different corners of the world. About 70 scholars and experts from the United States, Japan, Korea and Singapore attended the meetings and presented papers at the seminars held concurrently with the 60th anniversary of the First Historical Archives in 1985 and the 70th anniversary in 1995. The friendly contacts between archivists of different countries have forged a profound friendship, which is the basis for future cooperation. In the 90s, the First Historical Archives and the scholars from China and the United States worked together to arrange and research the Shun Tian Fu (Beijing) Archives, to cooperate with the scholars from France to compile and publish the documents concerning the visit of British Diplomatic mission led by George Macartney to China. Three volumes of Collected Documents on Sino-Ryukyu Relations have been published with the cooperation of scholars from Okinawa. Collection of Historical Documents on Sino-Korean Relations in the Qing Dynasty was published with the cooperation of scholars from Korea.

Ladies and gentlemen, archives administration is a synthetic discipline, whose central part is how to manage and make accessible archival materials to the public, while its utmost goal is to maintain permanently the common historical heritage of mankind. To achieve this goal, three conditions are very important. one is the support from the society and the gove5rnment; the second is scientific and standardized management, the third is a group of archivists with strong sense of responsibility.

Since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, we have practiced the system of unified leadership and dispersed management over archival work. Archives are declared cultural treasures of the nation. The Ming and Qing archives that were scattered across China were collected to be preserved in the First Historical Archives. Big funding was given to the Archives by the Government to build repositories of high standard, to ensure that the several hundred year old archives could be well preserved. Archives that were dispersed and separated resumed their integrity and organic connection after being centralized, which creates good conditions for arrangement, cataloging and publication. Presently the government is planning a new building for the archives, which will improve the preservation conditions for the Ming and Qing archives.

Over the 70 years, the First Historical Archives has accumulated rich experience in archives management. But this does not entitle us to be complacent

and conservative. Since the 80s, archives throughout the world have been persistently puzzled by the problem of rapid expansion of records and greater demands from the readers. The international archival organizations and archivists of every country are testing new ways of archives management. Compared with other countries, China is far behind in terms of infrastructure, working conditions and techniques. Therefore we must strengthen exchange and cooperation with the international archival community, to learn and make use of any technique and method that are suitable and good to us. From the early 20s to the present, the Ming and Qing archives have passed through four generations. And we believe they will continue to be passed on generation after generation. Today, we are in an unprecedented better condition, we are confident with our ability to enter into the 21st century with greater achievements.

Lastly, taking this opportunity, I would like to express a strong wish on behalf of an archives institution. In modern history, China was increasingly impoverished and humiliated by the big powers. A large amount of precious Ming and Qing archives were scattered abroad due to various reasons. In accordance with the principle of the International Council on Archives on the claim of displaced archives, I make this appeal here that let us reach consensus, and create conditions, so that these historical heritage can return to China as soon as possible.

Report by Resource Person from Japan
Mr Tetsuya OHAMA, Tsukuba University
“Japanese Archives : Issues for Current Consideration”

- I. *How Are Archives Viewed*
- II. *The Collection of Historical Materials in Postwar Japan*
- III. *Various Modes for the Preservation of Documentary Records*
- IV. *The Jurisdiction of the Public Archives Law*
- V. *Conclusions*

1. How are Archives Viewed

Let me begin with a personal story which goes back to my days as a university student some 35 years ago. I was collecting materials for my graduation thesis when I chanced upon a report written by an American Christian missionary visiting Japan towards the end of the 19th century. This is the gist of the missionary's report : “The Japanese are a people who show little interest in keeping records of the work of the mission and examining the results of the projects of the church to determine what has been successful and what has not been. The Japanese do not think about passing these records on to the next generation to enable those in the future to learn from the past. Therefore, one of the responsibilities of missionary must be to instruct the Japanese in the importance of maintaining full records of the missionary work.” As I continued my study of the records of the Christian churches in Japan, I came to share the same regret voiced by this American missionary. The records that I was studying were less than a century old, but again and again I came across churches which had neglected even to retain a list of their congregation. Church records, consisting of membership lists, activity journals and accounting records were often lost or destroyed when the minister of the church died or was reassigned.

Church records were likely to be taken as purely personal records but not as official documents of the congregation. Thus, they followed the geographic movement of the ministers and other church officers and seldom remained in one place. The fate of such records commonly followed two patterns. In the first instance, they became increasingly dispersed or lost with every move made by the minister. Alternatively, they were brought together and collated to produce a 50th

anniversary or 100th anniversary history of the church. In the latter case, sadly enough, all the collected records and materials were often lost or became impossible to locate shortly after the history had been written and published. As I continued my research, I was saddened by the realization that people were utterly lacking in the awareness that the records of their lives and activities could be used by future generations to arrive at new and important discoveries.

The disappointment which I tasted in this minor personal experience has been repeated time and again whenever I have attempted to do something in the field of historical studies. This disappointment certainly is not unique to me, but rather is the common experience of many historians. From this perspective, we can say that the keeping of proper historical records and preserving them for posterity is an issue which has a direct bearing on the status of the culture of a nation. It seems to me that we in Japan have a strong interest in the history which has been passed down to us in the form of legends and mythology. On the other hand, we are less than adroit when it comes to directly examining the living and first-hand materials of which history is made. Thus, the work of inspecting and reviewing the archival institutions of Japan leads us to reconsider our view of history and to reach for a higher awareness of the significance of historical records and documents.

Japan experienced a crucial revolution in 1868 which has come to be known as the Meiji Restoration. In this period when Japan was taking its first steps toward creating a modern, unified nation-state, various missions were dispatched to Europe and the United States to inspect the West. These missions proved to be a source of much learning for Japan. The well-known Iwakura Mission sailed from the port of Yokohama in 1871 and traveled throughout Europe and the United States for a period of 22 months to inspect a wide range of Western products and systems. The itinerary of the Iwakura Mission took its members on inspection tours of parliaments, schools, prisons, slums, libraries, museums and various other public institutions. The report of the Iwakura Mission was later published under the title of Memorandum of the Mission of America and Europe. The editor of this work, Kunitake Kume, was deeply impressed by the importance which the Western nations assigned to their national traditions and the pivotal role played by their museums and libraries in providing an arena for examining the justification for their existence as nations. During their tour of the archives of Venice (referred to as the “*aruchifu*”) the members of the Iwakura Mission were shown the 16th century letters to written to the Pope by Japanese Christians. The Japanese Christians. The Japanese visitors were very surprised and were made aware of the importance attached to historical

documents in countries of high culture and learning. The experience of coming face to face with these letters which had traveled the long distance between Japan and Rome nearly 300 years ago left an indelible impression on Kume, as well as the other members of the Mission.

Unfortunately, however, this enlightening experience was never fully translated into policy and action after the Iwakura Mission returned to Japan. With the parliamentary cabinet system in 1885, a Bureau of Records was in fact created, but this never developed into a national archives. In 1892, a certain Japanese historian wrote a paper concerning some historical documents which he had discovered in the Vatican Archives in Rome. In the course of his paper, this scholar provided a description of the national archives maintained by the European countries. He explained that these archives were staffed by specialist in such fields as history, linguistics, law and government administration, that their task entailed the cataloging and preservation of documents and the decision on whether to retain or to discard documents which had been nullified, and that their work included the filing and collation of documents, as well as the undertaking of academic research and publications. The Japanese historian went on to explain that staff members are called on by government agencies to investigate historical precedents on specific subjects of interest and that they are charged with the responsibility of tracing lost documents and producing copies of them. Finally, the historian warns that a nation which neglects to recover and collect its ancient and historical documents and fails to assign experts to the task of systematically filing and retaining the documents generated on daily basis by the agencies of the government is a nation that will deprive its future scholars of valuable research materials. Finally, he warns, such a nation will also be denying its politicians ready access to essential information and reference materials for the formulation of new policies and lines of action. In this conclusion, the historian makes a plea for the creation of a full-fledged national archives in Japan where all important documents can be systematically filed and preserved.

Thus, we find that Japan had been made aware of the fact through various means that Western progress was backed up by a well-focused view of the past and that the existence of archival institutions played an important role in this function of history. However, Japan quickly lost sight of this discovery. All the energies of the nation were immediately turned toward the most pressing question of how Japan was to regain its independence from the influences and pressures of the western powers. The establishment of a national archives was soon forgotten. To achieve rapid

modernization, Japan accepted the culture of West and its institutions and systems as the emanations of the “light of civilization.” At the same time, this modernization was achieved through a conscious effort to become oblivious to the awareness that the foundation for the history of the future is created through a continuous process of recording the daily activities of the nation and the preservation of these records. Why did Japan make a conscious effort to forget? The reason is that Japan did not have enough time to make a proper determination of its bearings, and instead had to rely on the trappings of tribal mythologies to force open the door to modernization.

This course of development is also a reflection of the fact that, although the Iwakura Mission was deeply impressed with the Venetian Archives and realized the importance assigned to historical documents in the centers of Western learning and culture, the newly found awareness was not profound enough to cause these men to turn their sights on themselves in the light of this truth. The flourishing of Western culture and learning was based on the message of Jesus that “the truth shall make you free.”

However, the Japanese were unable to envision the world in which this message found its meaning. Consequently, they were unable to grasp the full significance of the role of an archives in generating a sense of dignity and freedom in a people.

A sense of anguish with this situation is found in the words of a certain Japanese historian written in 1958. “Archival institutions are one of the cultural institutions which any country with any pretensions of standing among the civilized nations of the world must have today. How strange that as a nation which immediately imports, emulates and copies all that is Western, regardless of whether it is good or bad, we have yet to establish even a single archives. This sense of anguish and remorse marks the point of departure where Japan stands today.

II. The Collection of Historical Materials in Postwar Japan

Japanese historians traveling to the West to study the historical records pertaining to Japan which are preserved in the archives of these countries have come back to Japan convinced of the importance of establishing appropriate archives. The pleas of these historians, however, were ignored and the government failed to create an institution dedicated to systematically cataloging and maintaining public records

and documents.

It is true that archival work was undertaken in certain cases. For instance, in the study of the Meiji Restoration which gave birth to modern Japan, documents and records maintained by the various feudal lords (*daimyo*) were extensively collected and studied in the process of historical verification. Similarly, the study of the establishment of constitutional government in Japan has been coupled with the collection of materials and documents which had been left in the hands of the participants in the process of developing a constitutional framework. Efforts were also made to preserve the private memoirs of such persons. While such projects made a vital contribution to the development of a foundation for historical research in medieval and modern Japanese history, researchers were barred from extending their studies to the collection and collation of government documents and records, such as the document files of the various government ministries and agencies. Such government ministries and agencies. Such government documents occasionally came to light in the writing of the memoirs and autobiographies of politicians who were witnesses to historical events. However, such instances were handled as the revelation of privately held historical materials. In this respect, the publication of Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy must be seen as a rare exception to the rule of silence. The implication of this silence is that no broad consensus has been reached in Japan on how to examine and verify the actions and activities of the state.

The end of the Pacific War in 1945 provided Japan with an opportunity to look back to its past and to try to understand how and why modern Japan had taken the path to war. When the Japanese people stopped to question the veracity of the version of history that they had long been fed, a very strong interest in unearthing the documentary records of the past was born. These developments rendered the Japanese painfully aware of the need to utilize historical materials as the common heritage of the entire nation and a new awareness began to emerge which viewed the creation of institutions dedicated to the collection and study of public documents as an indispensable requirement.

Given the general state of social chaos which followed the end of the war and the period of American occupation, a large portion of the public documents were lost or dispersed. When defeat in the war began to appear inevitable, it is said that in the some cases certain government ministries began to dispose of their documents. For this reason, some documents. For this reason, some documents and records pertaining to military affairs and other strategic matters appear to have been destroyed.

Privately held records and documents were also lost when large collections were sold as scrap paper in this period of destitution and chaos. A large part of the documents which were lost in this way consisted of official village records which had been kept by local registrars since the Edo Eras. Because these records were viewed to be the private papers of the registrars and their descendants, little effort was made to prevent their destruction.

This presented a most regrettable state of affairs for postwar historians hoping to create a new vision of Japanese history for the newly dawning age. It was not until 1947 that the Ministry of Education acted to protect historical documents and records of the Edo and Meiji Eras from destruction. A program was started for collecting, collating and preserving such documents.

With the cooperation of researchers throughout the country, extensive investigations were undertaken to determine the location of existing records. Eventually, these projects would come to play a significant role in determining the direction of historical studies in Japan. In the course of their research work, historians were made aware of the urgent need for action to preserve historical documents. Hence, in 1949 they submitted an "Appeal for the Establishment of Historical Archives" to the House of Representatives. This led to the creation in 1951 of an Archives of Historical Documents placed under the jurisdiction of the Science Division of the Ministry of Education's Bureau for University and Academic Affairs. The newly established archives was primarily charged with the responsibility for collecting, preserving and preparing for use historical materials and documents from the Edo and Meiji Eras. This institution provided an important impetus to historical studies in Japan by cataloging all available information on existing historical records on a national scale.

The Archives of Historical Documents was created in the hope that it would serve as the central institution in collecting historical records from the Edo Eras. However, because of various limitations, it has never been able to fully live up to its original purpose. Particularly, in the area of Edo Era materials, it has been out-distanced by Institute of Folk Study to which Keizo Shibusawa gave his support. The same can be said for the collection and study of village records, a field of research in which various private universities has excelled.

The research of village records constitutes a crucial academic issue in the effort to examine the roots of Japanese feudalism in the Edo Era and this pursuit

would soon become one of the major currents in Japan's postwar historiographical research. Surveys of village records entailed going into the warehouses of village heads and other prominent families to examine, catalog, preserve and to open the way to the future use of the materials held by such families.

Many of the materials that were discovered in these surveys were removed from the villages where they had been found and were eventually deeded to the research centers of the universities which had conducted the studies. This work would eventually dovetail into the collating of historical materials for the preparation of village, municipal and provincial histories which was to become highly popular in the 1960s. As such, the task of maintaining and investigating these historical records often devolved upon the research sections of various local and municipal governments. Hence, projects for collating and compiling historical records tended to become locally based with particular attention being given to the discovery and collection of materials located within the jurisdiction of the local government in question. materials thus collected were stored and maintained by the editorial committee in charge of producing the local history. This arrangement invited a new challenge. What was to be done with these materials and records once the editorial committee had completed its work and the local history had been published?

The most common response was either to seal the documents and records for preservation in the municipal files, or to transfer them to local libraries, museums and other cultural institutions. Since the prewar period, Japanese libraries and museums have substituted as archives and have been collecting documentary records of the areas which they serve. For instance, over the years, various prefectural libraries have accepted donations of outstanding personal documentary records, such as a collection of the original documents of the Yamanouchi Family which was deeded to Kochi Prefecture in 1946 and a collection of the original documents of the Date Family which was deeded to Miyagi Prefecture in 1949. As such, local libraries have continued to collect documentary records of their areas of jurisdiction and have created "local history rooms" to present their collections to researchers and interested persons. A great deal of effort continues to be made by these local history rooms to collect and preserve documentary records from the local areas.

In the absence of a local archives, the effectiveness of libraries and museums in collecting documentary records depends greatly on the personal interests and curiosity of individual librarians, curators and other members of the staff. This implies that the collected materials will be well taken care of as long as the interested

person remains at his post. However, once that person leaves his post, there is little guarantee that the systematic collection work will be continued. Unfortunately, in the absence of the original collector, these precious historical records tend to become neglected and abandoned. On the surface it may appear that these libraries and museums are taking a systematic approach to collecting materials and documents. In fact, however, it is no exaggeration to state that these collections remain at the mercy of the particular personal interests of the librarians and curators in charge.

Unfortunately, the same tendency exists in the research facilities of our universities and other institutions. The collections of documentary records are naturally sifted through the filter of the personal interests of individuals who present themselves as professional scholars and researchers. The postwar movement to locate and preserve the historical records of the Edo Era certainly was successful in inculcating a higher awareness of the importance of historical documents. Ironically, however, because of the manner in which this work was undertaken, many of the records that were brought to light were again condemned to oblivion because they did not match the personal interests of the particular researcher. It is only recently that we have begun to develop a better understanding of the negative ramifications of selective collection and cataloging.

These projects for locating documentary records gave rise to several crucial questions regarding how best to store and to preserve these records. After a particular cache of documents is collated and cataloged, they may be stored in the home of the owner, but more often they are consigned to the university or institution which has undertaken the study. Many university libraries in Japan have an active program for collecting local and designated regional historical materials because these materials are viewed as constituting an important element in university library collections. Some materials are purchased on the open market while others are either deeded or consigned to the universities by individual patrons. It is not rare to find documents in these collections which were borrowed from their owners long ago for collection and cataloging but have since come to be treated as the possession of the research institution. These have been instances of trouble between rightful owners and researchers when owners have requested the return of such materials for preservation in newly built local museums and archives. These arguments between owners and researchers completely overlook the public nature of historical documents and exhibit an unfortunate lack of awareness of the significance of historical documents as the common legacy of the entire nation. What we see instead is a very strong tendency among collectors and preservers to view these documents as their

own exclusive personal possessions. This human tendency points to the urgent need to develop a system for the collection and preservation of historical documents even as they are being generated.

However, the reality of the situation is that the finders and collators exert a strong influence on how historical documents are treated. Furthermore, various limitations are introduced regarding how the materials can be used. Given this background, Japan must undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the results of the postwar programs for locating and cataloging historical documents which were focused on the Edo and Meiji Eras. The outcome of such an evaluation will have critical implications for Japan's efforts to preserve historical records and to establish a new series of archival institutions for the future. A partial evaluation of earlier efforts can be found in the Comprehensive Survey of Catalogs of Medieval and Modern Historical Materials which was compiled by the Ministry of Education's Archives for Historical Documents, the predecessor to today's National Institute of Japanese Literature, Department of Historical Documents.

The Ad Hoc Imperial Editorial Board and the Bureau for the Collation of Meiji Restoration Historical Materials played pioneering roles in undertaking the collection of modern and contemporary historical documents, including documents from the Meiji Era. This work was later taken up by the archival projects of the House of Representatives and House of Peers which were initiated in 1938. In the postwar period, the Archives for Materials on Constitutional Government was established in 1949 within the National Diet Library, and this institution was later reorganized into the present-day Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room. The aim of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room is to promote the study of modern Japanese history and has been involved in collecting, collating and preserving the documentary records in the possession of families whose members served in important government posts. Some of the highlights of the collection include the following : the documentary records of Sanetomi Sanjo who served the Meiji Restoration government for many years as state minister; documentary records concerning the drafting and promulgation of the Meiji Imperial Constitution which were in the possession of Miyoji Itoh who was directly involved in the process; documentary records concerning the renegotiation of Japan's basic foreign treaties and the Sino-Japanese War which were in the possession of the former Foreign Minister, Munemitsu Mutsu; and, documentary files concerning military and diplomatic affairs and the activities of the Government-General of Korea which were in the possession of Army Minister Masatake Terauchi who served as

Governor-General of Korea. These historical records provide important background information for understanding the world portrayed in official documents. The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room is also involved in taping and preserving the memoirs of politicians and bureaucrats and as such is playing a leading role in the preservation of the historical records of contemporary Japan.

The original petition for the establishment of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room emphasized the need for the creation of a national institution for the preservation and use of historical documents and records of national importance. However, this plan did not reach fruition until 1971 when the National Archives was created under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. The National Archives has also been forced to operate under various restrictions and limitations. While its objective is the creation of a single and unified archives, it must continue to work in tandem with the independently operated archives of various branches of the government. These include the Diplomatic Record Office, the Archives and Mausolea Department and the Library of the National Institute for Defense Studies operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Imperial Household Agency and the Defense Agency, respectively.

The postwar projects for the collection of historical documents began with the search and cataloging of materials in private hands and generated a broadly based realization of the need for institutions dedicated to the preservation and presentation of public documents. Notwithstanding this realization, dedicated archival institutions were not immediately established in Japan. As a result, the function of managing the documents that had become available was consigned to libraries, museums and the research institutes of various universities. Such institutions have tended to rely on the personal relations of their staff and other members to proceed with the task of locating and collecting historical documents. It is true that because of the very personal nature of this approach, archival projects are often handicapped by a lack of continuity. The establishment of dedicated archives in Japan must be predicated on a full appreciation of the past history of the discovery and collection of historical records in this country.

III. Various Modes for the Preservation of Documentary Records

There are several reasons why libraries have come to play a pivotal role in the management of local historical documents in Japan. First of all, libraries offered

a convenient place for storing the historical records which had been used in compiling local histories. Secondly, the descendants of the former feudal lords and other prominent families were inclined toward donating or consigning their documentary records to local libraries. By accepting these records from the former rulers of the feudal society, Japanese libraries naturally took on certain archival functions.

In the case of Yamaguchi Prefecture, the documentary records of the Mohri family, the former feudal lords of this region, were donated to the prefectural government in 1952. In order to organize and manage these documents, Japan's first archives was established in 1959 in Yamaguchi. The functions of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives include the management of a collection of the original documents of the Mohri Family and other historical documents pertaining to the former feudal domains of this region, and the management of documents and records pertaining to prefectural government administration, industry, society and popular customs of Yamaguchi Prefecture. This institution is also charged with the responsibility for preparing these documents for research and other use, and contributing to the promotion of regional cultural developing. The aim of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives is to promote a better understanding of contemporary affairs and to contribute to the future advancement of society by presenting documentary records as a source of information concerning the politics, economics and culture of the past, as well as all other human activities of the past, and preparing these records for use as an indispensable resource in all forms of scholarship, research and investigations.

These high hopes and expectations are a reflection of the desire to reclaim the documentary records which have too often been commandeered by historians and researchers, and instead to open up these recorded for use in promoting the general development of local, regional and national culture. It was in fact this strong desire that led to the creation of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives, and it is the same desire that has defined one of the primary orientations of Japanese archives.

In reality, however, most documentary records remain in the domain of libraries and museums where, at best; they are consigned to a documents room or a niche display. Documents whose origins and provenance are clearly known are given special treatment and are preserved and displayed in special collection rooms. In the general chaos which followed the Second World War, many of the descendants of the feudal daimyo and locally prominent families fell on hard times and were unable to maintain their ancestral documents and records. Consequently, numerous

valuable collections were consigned to libraries and museums for storage and management. The case of the Mohri family in Yamaguchi is a leading example. Other important instances include the consignment of the Satake family documents to Akita Prefecture and the documents of the Ikeda family of Okayama to Okayama University. In numerous other similar cases throughout Japan, libraries and museums have come into the possession of substantial collections of historical records and documents.

Some Japanese libraries and museums have endeavored to achieve distinction by acquiring historical materials and records which are related to the history of their particular locality or region. The Nagasaki Prefectural Library is a case in point with its collection of no less than 2,500 documents pertaining to the *Nagasaki bugyosho* (local administrative headquarters of the Tokugawa government). The functions of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* can be summarized as follows : (1) To govern Nagasaki as a directly-ruled domain of the Tokugawa government and to manage and control all aspects of its diplomatic negotiations, cultural exchange, international trade and fiscal affairs, including the collection and delivery of taxes to the Tokugawa government. (2) To exclusively supervise all diplomatic and trade-related matters throughout the period of Japan's formal isolation; to supervise the implementation of the ban on Christianity in all of western Japan; to direct the defense of Nagasaki; and to oversee all matters related to naval defense, including the prevention of smuggling and the handling of problems related to shipwrecked persons. (3) To oversee the distribution and shipment of copper and marine products throughout Japan. Given its extremely broad charter, the documentary records of *Nagasaki bugyosho* are large in volume and highly diverse and complicated in content. At the present time, these documents are scattered among several libraries and museums.

With the financial backing by the central government, the Nagasaki Prefectural Board of Education has sponsored a study of the documentary records and historical materials of the *Nagasaki bugyosho*. This study which was led by Professor Tadashi Nakamura of Kyushu University provided a valuable overall view of the documents on hand. The Report on the Survey of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* Documents published in 1997 covers those documents in the possession of the Nagasaki Prefectural Library and other related organizations and institutions located in Nagasaki Prefecture. As outlined below, this report testifies to the extent to which these documents have been scattered.

(1) The Nagasaki Prefectural Library is in possession of the following materials and documents : a catalog of the directives issued to the *Nagasaki bugyosho* by the Tokugawa government (*gohosho onkakitsukerui mokuroku*); the record of criminals punished by the *bugyosho* (*hanka-cho*); directives to the *bugyosho* regarding the governance of the Tokugawa government's direct-rule in Nagasaki; reports and petitions from the *bugyosho* to the Tokugawa government; reports concerning the international trade of silk, ginseng, exporting marine products (*tawaramono*), copper and other products; documents pertaining to transactions and rules and regulations of trade with China and Holland; documents related to the defense of Nagasaki; documents related to the ban on Christianity; correspondence between the *bugyosho* and various feudal lords of western Japan concerning defensive measures against foreign ships; and documents pertaining to treaties, diplomatic negotiations and routine contact with Russia, the Netherlands, the United States, France, England and China since the end of the 18th century. In addition to these documents, the Nagasaki Prefectural Library is in possession of various charts and implements, such as gate passes.

(2) The Department of Economics Annex of the Nagasaki University Library is in possession of some fifteen items, including records pertaining to the visit of a British vessel in 1673, and the Russian Rezanov mission of 1804

(3) The Nagasaki Municipal Museum is in possession of the family history of a family which served as Dutch translators in Nagasaki, the work log and journal of a translator involved in the Chinese trade, and documents pertaining to routine matters of Nagasaki's international trade.

(4) The Siebold Memorial Museum is in possession of the documents of the Nakayama family which served as Dutch translators in Nagasaki, and various documents and materials pertaining to the Dutch Factory in Nagasaki and its medical officer, Dr Siebold. Included in these are the records of Siebold's attempted violation of the strict ban on the exportation of maps of Japan, and a Japanese translation of the report concerning foreign affairs and conditions written by the head of the Dutch Factory and submitted to the *Nagasaki bugyosho*.

(5) The Isahaya Municipal Library is in possession of a complete collection of documents pertaining to the visit of a Russian vessel to Nagasaki.

(6) The Shimabara Municipal Library is in possession of "Overseas Reports" concerning China, Korea, Southeast Asia, the Netherlands and the Ryukyu Islands. These documents are said to have belonged to the Matsudaira family of Shimabara.

(7) A collection of the original documents of the So family of the Nagasaki Prefectural Tsushima Folk Museum is in possession of the records pertaining to the exchange and transfer of shipwrecked persons. This collection houses the historical records and documents which were left in Tsushima when the So family, the feudal lords of Tsushima, donated portions of their historical records and documents to the Government-General of Korea in 1926. Those portions which were transferred to Korea are now in the possession of the National History Compilation Committee of the Republic of Korea.

(8) The Omura Municipal Archives and the Hirado Matsuura Museum are in possession of records pertaining to naval surveillance of foreign vessels as these two regions played subsidiary roles in the defense of Nagasaki.

The report concerning the documentary records of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* reflects the strong desire of the Prefectural Board of Education to reconfirm the unique historical role which was given to this city as Japan's single window to the outside world during the entire Tokugawa Period. This project was made possible through the voluntary services of numerous researchers who were driven by the passion which comes from intellectual curiosity. Unfortunately, similar projects for cataloging large bodies of scattered documents remain relatively rare. Rather, the general tendency is for libraries and museums to assign unique and independent importance to the documents in their possession. This tendency becomes stronger for documents which are deemed to have particular significance for the locality. Such institutions often opt to idolize the particular set of documents in their possession and attempt to use it as their "ticket to fame". This approach can result in the emergence of a gap between the historical records on hand and the institution's normal operations. The project to catalog the records and documents of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* successfully brought together many separate pieces of a single entity and created an added value in the whole which was lacking in its individual component parts. This project has succeeded in promoting a fuller overall appreciation by placing a special collection of documents within the context of a universal view of the world.

Notwithstanding this reality, it is the acquisition of a "ticket to fame" which has provided the impetus for the establishment of most archival institutions. No matter how important and large their collections of historical documents may be, it is unfortunate that these institutions continue to be designed and built as museums. An example of this can be found in the Tojo Historical Museum which was founded by the municipal government of Matsudo in Chiba Prefecture to house the historical

records and documents of the Tokugawa Akitake family, the last feudal lord of the Mito domain. Tokugawa Akitake also claimed a place in history as the representative of his brother, Tokugawa Yoshinobu, the fifteenth Tokugawa Shogun, at the Paris Exposition. When the retirement home of Akitake was turned into a historical park in 1987, the Tojo Historical Museum was also built as an archives of historical materials and records pertaining to the Tokugawa clan of Matsudo. The future of this institution depends on whether it can continue to develop as a museum of the Tokugawa Akitake family.

Such institutions which have been built to preserve historical documents and materials face a difficult challenge in developing into repositories of public documents. The more daunting this challenge, the greater the tendency for these institutions to try to establish their *raison d'être* by seeking to augment their "ticket to fame" by generating appendages to the central piece in their collection. The Numazu Archives of Meiji History is noteworthy in its efforts to develop as a documentary archives.

The Numazu Municipal Archives of Meiji Historical materials was opened in 1984 in Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture following the deeding of the estate of Soroku Ebara to the city of Numazu. Ebara was a state minister in the Tokugawa regime and went on to serve in the House of Representatives and the House of Peers in Meiji Japan. He was also a noted Christian and educator. The aim of this institution is to catalog, preserve and display the historical documents and records which have been donated by the Ebara family and to collect materials and records pertaining to the Numazu Military Academy with which Ebara was closely involved. In addition to this, this institution has an ongoing project for surveying and locating documentary records of the districts within the city of Numazu. These district documents include the directives of district administrative offices and include significant volumes of materials which can be identified as public records. In the absence of local archives, this institution is in fact performing the functions of an archives and has opened the way to collecting, cataloging and utilizing the documentary records of local communities.

Another institution which shares the same characteristics is the Yokohama Archives of History which was opened in 1981. The Yokohama Archives of History houses the materials and records collected for the compilation of a municipal history which was started in 1954. Its collections span the period between the final years of the Tokugawa government and the Great Kanto Earthquake. In order to better understand the unique role of Yokohama port in the opening of Japan to the rest of the

world, this institution is making special efforts to collect materials and records from overseas sources including the United States, Britain, France and Shanghai. The experience of Yokohama is indicative of the difficulty of finding a proper place to store and preserve the materials and records used in compiling municipal histories. Often there was no choice but to consign the preservation of such materials to quasi libraries and museums bearing a wide range of differing appellations, such as “local history halls” and “Historical archives”.

The absence of a unified format for the preservation of historical records has certain negative effects. For instance, even if there is an understanding that historical records constitute a source of information concerning the politics, economics and culture of the past, the diversity of preservation formats distracts the public from appreciating the organic nature of historical records and realization that new documentary records are being constantly generated. Instead, such records tend to be seen as a vestige of past ages and merely the material for historiographical research. To avoid this pitfall, there is a real need to create dedicated archival facilities to nurture the understanding that historical records are constantly being generated and to present these records as legacies of the past which are directly linked to the present and the future. For this purpose, a new view must be adopted concerning historical records. Furthermore, we must not allow ourselves to be dazzled and distracted by the broad diversity in the types of institutions which are being used for the preservation of its historical records as we must continue our efforts to clear the path to the establishment of dedicated archival institutions.

The reason why many historical documents and records have been preserved in libraries and museums where they have been given special treatment is that these institutions have had a real interest in using these records to stake their claim to fame and to justify their own existence. This fact will complicate the relation between these existing institutions and the dedicated archives of the future and presents a major problem which must be satisfactorily resolved if Japan is to make real and concrete progress toward the goal of establishing archives.

IV. The Jurisdiction of the Public Archives Law

There is now a great diversity in the types of institutions where documentary records are preserved and made available for use. Given this situation, it is generally understood that all matters related to the preservation and use of such records is subject to the prior consent of the individual institutions and their curators. For this

reason, the movement for the preservation and use of historical records has had a dual focus. That is, while the movement has endeavored to promote the better preservation of widely dispersed documents, it has also championed the cause of promoting freer public access to these materials.

The first step toward securing public access to the documentary records pertaining to the central government was taken in 1971 with the establishment of the National Archives under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. At about the same time, measures were taken to open other government archives to the public. Specifically, the diplomatic papers held in the Diplomatic Record Office and documents pertaining to the Imperial Japanese Army held in the Defense Agency's War History Room of the Institute for Defense Studies, currently the Library of the National Institute for Defense Studies, were made public.

The growing interest in the establishment of dedicated archives for the preservation, opening to the public and the use of public records paralleled the mushrooming of projects for the compilation of local histories. Encouraged by these developments, a movement was launched advocating the creation of new legislation to provide a legally defined status for archival institutions and their expert staff. This movement finally reached its fruition in 1987 with the enactment of the Public Archives Law.

While the National Archives was established within this legal process, it was predated by various institutions, such as the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives which opened in 1959, the Tokyo Metropolitan Archives which opened in 1968, and the Saitama Prefectural Archives which opened in 1969. Other similar archival Institutions, such as the Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives which opened in 1963, and the Fukushima Prefectural Historical Archives which opened in 1970, also predated the National Archives.

The establishment of the National Archives and the enactment of the Public Archives Law greatly encouraged the creation of prefectural archives and similar institutions. While these institutions are generally referred to as archives, the fact remains that the collection of each institution bears the imprint of the institution's particular purpose of establishment and is heavily influenced by its own historical background and development.

There is a wide divergence in the types of records and documents collected and handled by the prefectural and municipal archives. For instance, in the case of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives, it is chartered to deal with both public records

and documents, and historical records and documents. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives and the Kanagawa Prefectural Archives are chartered to handle public records and other records. The prefectural archives of Aichi, Tottori, Akita, Hiroshima, Tokushima and Kagawa emphasize public records with historical value and important historical documents and materials. The Kyoto Prefectural Archives stresses the collection of local documents, while the Ibaraki Prefectural Archives is committed to the collection of historically important materials and documents. The latter cases are examples of archives which are basically geared toward the preservation and research of ancient documents of foreign origin and other ancient records. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives stands at the opposite side of the spectrum where it is committed to the collection and preservation of public records, as well as administrative documents. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives follows in the footsteps of the project for the compilation of the history of city of Tokyo and grew directly out of the Tokyo Municipal Archives for Administrative Documents which was created in 1952. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives in its current form was established in 1968 when certain functions of the Records Section of the General Affairs Department of the municipal government were assigned to this newly created institution.

To repeat, there is a significant diversity in the range of functions performed by these local and regional archives. For example, the Tokyo Metropolitan Archives makes its mission to collect, preserve and offer for use such public records pertaining to the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo, going back to the days when it was referred to as the “city of Tokyo.” On the other hand, there are numerous archives whose focus is on the reflection of the fact that Japan’s history as a modern nation-state goes back little more than a century to the Meiji Restoration, while the nation must continue to grapple with the weight of its pre-modern history which goes back many centuries.

Thus, the archives of Japan must be Janus-like in their outlook. One face must be turned toward the ancient and medieval annals which predate the birth of modern Japan, while another face must be turned toward the preservation and use of contemporary documents and records which are being continuously generated. However, even those institutions which are formally referred to as public record archives are easily thrown off the track by a tendency to assign special value to documents of recognized historical importance and ancient documents. Therefore, a conscious effort must be made by these institutions to establish and reconfirm their identities as repositories of contemporary records which in due time will come to have a very great significance.

This process of building a new identity can be promoted by a concerted effort to clarify the respective responsibilities of archival institutions on the national, prefectural and municipal levels. National and prefectural archives should commit themselves to the task of creating a unified catalog of all the public records of the area under their jurisdiction and moving with due speed toward securing public access to these collections. While maintaining their current collections of ancient documents of recognized historical importance, these institutions should not squander their resources on the acquisition of additional materials from the ancient and medieval periods. It is probably best to leave this latter function to libraries and museums which have traditionally emphasized this aspect of their collections. There is a very urgent need for all related institutions to recognize their respective areas of responsibility. This will prove to be a key point in creating a firm foundation for the development of archival institutions in Japan.

Along the same lines, a clear line of demarcation should be drawn between municipal archives and various institutions for the preservation of local historical materials. The principal function of municipal archives should be the establishment of a system for the centralized management of public records. An example of a centralized management system can be found in the Fujisawa City Archives. Established in 1974 as the first municipal archives in Japan, this institution has formulated a comprehensive protocol for the management of public documents and records through a long process of trial and error.

The Fujisawa City Archives functions as a repository for all current administrative documents generated by the city government. The Fujisawa Municipal Archives repeats a process of evaluation and selection as these documents pass through subsequent stages of being current, semi-current and non-current. In the process, it has created an integrated and systematic approach to document preservation. Given the strong tendency for public records and other documentary materials to be discarded because of the arbitrary judgement of individual curators, the establishment of such systems is highly significant in securing the full life-cycle of documentary records. Moreover, the formulation of objective protocols can be used by municipal archives to further justify their existence.

Unfortunately, however, local and municipal archives remain essentially focused on the preservation and use of historical public records and documents from past ages. Hence, the task of evaluating, selecting and preserving contemporary records for future use is often left to the discretion of others. This state of mind is reflected in how prefectural archives view the preservation of contemporary public

records and can be taken as evidence of the low level of general awareness of the true functions of archives. What is needed is a strong reassertion of the basic purpose for the preservation of public records : more than being an instrument for examining the past, public records must be used as a tool for developing insights into the future.

In order to consciously develop an awareness of this fundamental purpose, the archives of Japan must endeavor to escape the spell of old documents and records and to commit themselves to the collection of contemporary documents which portary the activities of living people. To do this, archives should support their collections of public records with the testimonies and memoirs of the people who actually took part in the events and developments recorded. A reader is able to find the full meaning contained in the public records only when he is able to supplement his research with the reading of personal recollections and papers on the same subject.

Archival institutions are not paying full attention to the need to compile the memoirs and life histories of the principal participants in contemporary developments. Certainly, one of the advantages of contemporary records is that they lend themselves to being read and understood in light of the personal recollections with which they are often juxtaposed. Hence, archival institutions should make it their task to record the personal memories of participants which lend vivid color to an otherwise staid collection of documents.

My own limited experiences with interviewing and debriefing have made me aware of the potential for bringing out the latent colors in a document. new meanings can be discovered when documentary records are combined with the recollections of the people who were present at the event. The following example comes to mind. A certain officer in the Japanese colonial government in Sakhalin secretly brought back a document when the Japanese were forced to leave the island. This document consisted of no more than a jumble of initials. When combined with the memory of the officer, however, this inscrutable document was transformed into a full list of the names of people who were employed by the colonial authority and come to be used as documentary evidence for establishing the identify of some of these former colonial employees.

War-related documents tend to take the form of ciphers and shortland notations. Thus, the memory of those who produced the original documents has a very important bearing on our understanding of such documents. Taking a lesson form this, archival institutions should endeavor to record the memories of those responsible for producing the documents as they go about their business of collecting contemporary documents. This regeneration of memories can have a profound

transforming effect on documents which otherwise would be trapped in the past. It is this regeneration of memories which prepares the documentary records of today for future use.

V. Conclusions

Many of the archival institutions in Japan were created as repositories for historical documents. As such, their main focus has often been on the preservation of ancient and medieval records and materials. However, Japan does have a system for true archives of public records and is now endeavoring to prepare these institutions to develop into an arena for the preservation and use of such documents in directing the future history of the nation. If we take the archives of Europe and America as a normative model, these Japanese endeavors may well appear to be strange and unusual. However, if we accept the proposition that archival institutions constitute an expression of a country's political culture, then there certainly should be ample room for diversity. In fact, the establishment of archival institutions may fail to be realized in the absence of proper leeway given to certain elements of national character.

The history of Japanese archives as a framework for the preservation and use of documentary records is said to contain numerous problems from the perspective of Western standards, particularly in regard to public access. Such criticisms obviously should not be denied. On the other hand, we must be cognizant of the fact that these characteristics and shortcomings reflect the road which Japan has traveled as a modern nation-state and are the products of the particular vision which the Japanese people have developed in dealing with matters related to spirit and culture. I propose that the future of Japanese archives should be considered in light of this historical reality.

This requires a clear understanding of the historical role which archival institutions and other related cultural institutions have played in Japan. Armed with this understanding, we should be able to establish a rational division of functions and responsibilities among these institutions. In this context, probably the principal mission of an archives is the creation of a system for the preservation and use of public records and documents, and the preparation of an arena for examining the direction of the nation's future history.

The survival of archival institutions should not be hinged on the display of

some historical document or material which stands as its “ticket to fame.” Rather, the development and growth of these institutions should depend on their capacity to follow through on the entire lifecycle of contemporary documentary records by formulating effective systems for their objective selection and preservation. While paying due respect to the diverse modes of collection and preservation, Japanese archival institutions are endeavoring to create a unified vision of the materials on hand. This process continues to be one of trial and error. However, I believe that the archival institutions which I have introduced here are endowed with great potential and that this itself should be taken as evidence that Japan has already taken an important step toward the realization of the message embodied in the words of Jesus that “the truth shall make you free.” It is my sincerest hope that the Asian nations gathered here today will be able to share in the truth of this message and that we will be empowered to deepen our ties of mutual trust and in so doing discover a source of new vitality to live the world of tomorrow in a spirit of concord. I conclude my report with hope that our discussions of the current status of the archival institutions in each of our countries will bear many wonderful results and that our mutual appreciation will be furthered through our better understanding of each other’s historical background and developments.

Report by Resource Person from Japan
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“Japanese Archives : Issues for Current Consideration”

- I. *How Are Archives Viewed*
- II. *The Collection of Historical Materials in Postwar Japan*
- III. *Various Modes for the Preservation of Documentary Records*
- IV. *The Jurisdiction of the Public Archives Law*
- V. *Conclusions*

1. How are Archives Viewed

Let me begin with a personal story which goes back to my days as a university student some 35 years ago. I was collecting materials for my graduation thesis when I chanced upon a report written by an American Christian missionary visiting Japan towards the end of the 19th century. This is the gist of the missionary's report : “The Japanese are a people who show little interest in keeping records of the work of the mission and examining the results of the projects of the church to determine what has been successful and what has not been. The Japanese do not think about passing these records on to the next generation to enable those in the future to learn from the past. Therefore, one of the responsibilities of missionary must be to instruct the Japanese in the importance of maintaining full records of the missionary work.” As I continued my study of the records of the Christian churches in Japan, I came to share the same regret voiced by this American missionary. The records that I was studying were less than a century old, but again and again I came across churches which had neglected even to retain a list of their congregation. Church records, consisting of membership lists, activity journals and accounting records were often lost or destroyed when the minister of the church died or was reassigned.

Church records were likely to be taken as purely personal records but not as official documents of the congregation. Thus, they followed the geographic movement of the ministers and other church officers and seldom remained in one place. The fate of such records commonly followed two patterns. In the first instance, they became increasingly dispersed or lost with every move made by the minister. Alternatively, they were brought together and collated to produce a 50th

anniversary or 100th anniversary history of the church. In the latter case, sadly enough, all the collected records and materials were often lost or became impossible to locate shortly after the history had been written and published. As I continued my research, I was saddened by the realization that people were utterly lacking in the awareness that the records of their lives and activities could be used by future generations to arrive at new and important discoveries.

The disappointment which I tasted in this minor personal experience has been repeated time and again whenever I have attempted to do something in the field of historical studies. This disappointment certainly is not unique to me, but rather is the common experience of many historians. From this perspective, we can say that the keeping of proper historical records and preserving them for posterity is an issue which has a direct bearing on the status of the culture of a nation. It seems to me that we in Japan have a strong interest in the history which has been passed down to us in the form of legends and mythology. On the other hand, we are less than adroit when it comes to directly examining the living and first-hand materials of which history is made. Thus, the work of inspecting and reviewing the archival institutions of Japan leads us to reconsider our view of history and to reach for a higher awareness of the significance of historical records and documents.

Japan experienced a crucial revolution in 1868 which has come to be known as the Meiji Restoration. In this period when Japan was taking its first steps toward creating a modern, unified nation-state, various missions were dispatched to Europe and the United States to inspect the West. These missions proved to be a source of much learning for Japan. The well-known Iwakura Mission sailed from the port of Yokohama in 1871 and traveled throughout Europe and the United States for a period of 22 months to inspect a wide range of Western products and systems. The itinerary of the Iwakura Mission took its members on inspection tours of parliaments, schools, prisons, slums, libraries, museums and various other public institutions. The report of the Iwakura Mission was later published under the title of Memorandum of the Mission of America and Europe. The editor of this work, Kunitake Kume, was deeply impressed by the importance which the Western nations assigned to their national traditions and the pivotal role played by their museums and libraries in providing an arena for examining the justification for their existence as nations. During their tour of the archives of Venice (referred to as the “*aruchifu*”) the members of the Iwakura Mission were shown the 16th century letters to written to the Pope by Japanese Christians. The Japanese Christians. The Japanese visitors were very surprised and were made aware of the importance attached to historical

documents in countries of high culture and learning. The experience of coming face to face with these letters which had traveled the long distance between Japan and Rome nearly 300 years ago left an indelible impression on Kume, as well as the other members of the Mission.

Unfortunately, however, this enlightening experience was never fully translated into policy and action after the Iwakura Mission returned to Japan. With the parliamentary cabinet system in 1885, a Bureau of Records was in fact created, but this never developed into a national archives. In 1892, a certain Japanese historian wrote a paper concerning some historical documents which he had discovered in the Vatican Archives in Rome. In the course of his paper, this scholar provided a description of the national archives maintained by the European countries. He explained that these archives were staffed by specialist in such fields as history, linguistics, law and government administration, that their task entailed the cataloging and preservation of documents and the decision on whether to retain or to discard documents which had been nullified, and that their work included the filing and collation of documents, as well as the undertaking of academic research and publications. The Japanese historian went on to explain that staff members are called on by government agencies to investigate historical precedents on specific subjects of interest and that they are charged with the responsibility of tracing lost documents and producing copies of them. Finally, the historian warns that a nation which neglects to recover and collect its ancient and historical documents and fails to assign experts to the task of systematically filing and retaining the documents generated on daily basis by the agencies of the government is a nation that will deprive its future scholars of valuable research materials. Finally, he warns, such a nation will also be denying its politicians ready access to essential information and reference materials for the formulation of new policies and lines of action. In this conclusion, the historian makes a plea for the creation of a full-fledged national archives in Japan where all important documents can be systematically filed and preserved.

Thus, we find that Japan had been made aware of the fact through various means that Western progress was backed up by a well-focused view of the past and that the existence of archival institutions played an important role in this function of history. However, Japan quickly lost sight of this discovery. All the energies of the nation were immediately turned toward the most pressing question of how Japan was to regain its independence from the influences and pressures of the western powers. The establishment of a national archives was soon forgotten. To achieve rapid

modernization, Japan accepted the culture of West and its institutions and systems as the emanations of the “light of civilization.” At the same time, this modernization was achieved through a conscious effort to become oblivious to the awareness that the foundation for the history of the future is created through a continuous process of recording the daily activities of the nation and the preservation of these records. Why did Japan make a conscious effort to forget? The reason is that Japan did not have enough time to make a proper determination of its bearings, and instead had to rely on the trappings of tribal mythologies to force open the door to modernization.

This course of development is also a reflection of the fact that, although the Iwakura Mission was deeply impressed with the Venetian Archives and realized the importance assigned to historical documents in the centers of Western learning and culture, the newly found awareness was not profound enough to cause these men to turn their sights on themselves in the light of this truth. The flourishing of Western culture and learning was based on the message of Jesus that “the truth shall make you free.”

However, the Japanese were unable to envision the world in which this message found its meaning. Consequently, they were unable to grasp the full significance of the role of an archives in generating a sense of dignity and freedom in a people.

A sense of anguish with this situation is found in the words of a certain Japanese historian written in 1958. “Archival institutions are one of the cultural institutions which any country with any pretensions of standing among the civilized nations of the world must have today. How strange that as a nation which immediately imports, emulates and copies all that is Western, regardless of whether it is good or bad, we have yet to establish even a single archives. This sense of anguish and remorse marks the point of departure where Japan stands today.

II. The Collection of Historical Materials in Postwar Japan

Japanese historians traveling to the West to study the historical records pertaining to Japan which are preserved in the archives of these countries have come back to Japan convinced of the importance of establishing appropriate archives. The pleas of these historians, however, were ignored and the government failed to create an institution dedicated to systematically cataloging and maintaining public records

and documents.

It is true that archival work was undertaken in certain cases. For instance, in the study of the Meiji Restoration which gave birth to modern Japan, documents and records maintained by the various feudal lords (*daimyo*) were extensively collected and studied in the process of historical verification. Similarly, the study of the establishment of constitutional government in Japan has been coupled with the collection of materials and documents which had been left in the hands of the participants in the process of developing a constitutional framework. Efforts were also made to preserve the private memoirs of such persons. While such projects made a vital contribution to the development of a foundation for historical research in medieval and modern Japanese history, researchers were barred from extending their studies to the collection and collation of government documents and records, such as the document files of the various government ministries and agencies. Such government ministries and agencies. Such government documents occasionally came to light in the writing of the memoirs and autobiographies of politicians who were witnesses to historical events. However, such instances were handled as the revelation of privately held historical materials. In this respect, the publication of Documents on Japanese Foreign Policy must be seen as a rare exception to the rule of silence. The implication of this silence is that no broad consensus has been reached in Japan on how to examine and verify the actions and activities of the state.

The end of the Pacific War in 1945 provided Japan with an opportunity to look back to its past and to try to understand how and why modern Japan had taken the path to war. When the Japanese people stopped to question the veracity of the version of history that they had long been fed, a very strong interest in unearthing the documentary records of the past was born. These developments rendered the Japanese painfully aware of the need to utilize historical materials as the common heritage of the entire nation and a new awareness began to emerge which viewed the creation of institutions dedicated to the collection and study of public documents as an indispensable requirement.

Given the general state of social chaos which followed the end of the war and the period of American occupation, a large portion of the public documents were lost or dispersed. When defeat in the war began to appear inevitable, it is said that in some cases certain government ministries began to dispose of their documents. For this reason, some documents. For this reason, some documents and records pertaining to military affairs and other strategic matters appear to have been destroyed.

Privately held records and documents were also lost when large collections were sold as scrap paper in this period of destitution and chaos. A large part of the documents which were lost in this way consisted of official village records which had been kept by local registrars since the Edo Eras. Because these records were viewed to be the private papers of the registrars and their descendants, little effort was made to prevent their destruction.

This presented a most regrettable state of affairs for postwar historians hoping to create a new vision of Japanese history for the newly dawning age. It was not until 1947 that the Ministry of Education acted to protect historical documents and records of the Edo and Meiji Eras from destruction. A program was started for collecting, collating and preserving such documents.

With the cooperation of researchers throughout the country, extensive investigations were undertaken to determine the location of existing records. Eventually, these projects would come to play a significant role in determining the direction of historical studies in Japan. In the course of their research work, historians were made aware of the urgent need for action to preserve historical documents. Hence, in 1949 they submitted an "Appeal for the Establishment of Historical Archives" to the House of Representatives. This led to the creation in 1951 of an Archives of Historical Documents placed under the jurisdiction of the Science Division of the Ministry of Education's Bureau for University and Academic Affairs. The newly established archives was primarily charged with the responsibility for collecting, preserving and preparing for use historical materials and documents from the Edo and Meiji Eras. This institution provided an important impetus to historical studies in Japan by cataloging all available information on existing historical records on a national scale.

The Archives of Historical Documents was created in the hope that it would serve as the central institution in collecting historical records from the Edo Eras. However, because of various limitations, it has never been able to fully live up to its original purpose. Particularly, in the area of Edo Era materials, it has been out-distanced by Institute of Folk Study to which Keizo Shibusawa gave his support. The same can be said for the collection and study of village records, a field of research in which various private universities has excelled.

The research of village records constitutes a crucial academic issue in the effort to examine the roots of Japanese feudalism in the Edo Era and this pursuit

would soon become one of the major currents in Japan's postwar historiographical research. Surveys of village records entailed going into the warehouses of village heads and other prominent families to examine, catalog, preserve and to open the way to the future use of the materials held by such families.

Many of the materials that were discovered in these surveys were removed from the villages where they had been found and were eventually deeded to the research centers of the universities which had conducted the studies. This work would eventually dovetail into the collating of historical materials for the preparation of village, municipal and provincial histories which was to become highly popular in the 1960s. As such, the task of maintaining and investigating these historical records often devolved upon the research sections of various local and municipal governments. Hence, projects for collating and compiling historical records tended to become locally based with particular attention being given to the discovery and collection of materials located within the jurisdiction of the local government in question. materials thus collected were stored and maintained by the editorial committee in charge of producing the local history. This arrangement invited a new challenge. What was to be done with these materials and records once the editorial committee had completed its work and the local history had been published?

The most common response was either to seal the documents and records for preservation in the municipal files, or to transfer them to local libraries, museums and other cultural institutions. Since the prewar period, Japanese libraries and museums have substituted as archives and have been collecting documentary records of the areas which they serve. For instance, over the years, various prefectural libraries have accepted donations of outstanding personal documentary records, such as a collection of the original documents of the Yamanouchi Family which was deeded to Kochi Prefecture in 1946 and a collection of the original documents of the Date Family which was deeded to Miyagi Prefecture in 1949. As such, local libraries have continued to collect documentary records of their areas of jurisdiction and have created "local history rooms" to present their collections to researchers and interested persons. A great deal of effort continues to be made by these local history rooms to collect and preserve documentary records from the local areas.

In the absence of a local archives, the effectiveness of libraries and museums in collecting documentary records depends greatly on the personal interests and curiosity of individual librarians, curators and other members of the staff. This implies that the collected materials will be well taken care of as long as the interested

person remains at his post. However, once that person leaves his post, there is little guarantee that the systematic collection work will be continued. Unfortunately, in the absence of the original collector, these precious historical records tend to become neglected and abandoned. On the surface it may appear that these libraries and museums are taking a systematic approach to collecting materials and documents. In fact, however, it is no exaggeration to state that these collections remain at the mercy of the particular personal interests of the librarians and curators in charge.

Unfortunately, the same tendency exists in the research facilities of our universities and other institutions. The collections of documentary records are naturally sifted through the filter of the personal interests of individuals who present themselves as professional scholars and researchers. The postwar movement to locate and preserve the historical records of the Edo Era certainly was successful in inculcating a higher awareness of the importance of historical documents. Ironically, however, because of the manner in which this work was undertaken, many of the records that were brought to light were again condemned to oblivion because they did not match the personal interests of the particular researcher. It is only recently that we have begun to develop a better understanding of the negative ramifications of selective collection and cataloging.

These projects for locating documentary records gave rise to several crucial questions regarding how best to store and to preserve these records. After a particular cache of documents is collated and cataloged, they may be stored in the home of the owner, but more often they are consigned to the university or institution which has undertaken the study. Many university libraries in Japan have an active program for collecting local and designated regional historical materials because these materials are viewed as constituting an important element in university library collections. Some materials are purchased on the open market while others are either deeded or consigned to the universities by individual patrons. It is not rare to find documents in these collections which were borrowed from their owners long ago for collection and cataloging but have since come to be treated as the possession of the research institution. These have been instances of trouble between rightful owners and researchers when owners have requested the return of such materials for preservation in newly built local museums and archives. These arguments between owners and researchers completely overlook the public nature of historical documents and exhibit an unfortunate lack of awareness of the significance of historical documents as the common legacy of the entire nation. What we see instead is a very strong tendency among collectors and preservers to view these documents as their

own exclusive personal possessions. This human tendency points to the urgent need to develop a system for the collection and preservation of historical documents even as they are being generated.

However, the reality of the situation is that the finders and collators exert a strong influence on how historical documents are treated. Furthermore, various limitations are introduced regarding how the materials can be used. Given this background, Japan must undertake a comprehensive evaluation of the results of the postwar programs for locating and cataloging historical documents which were focused on the Edo and Meiji Eras. The outcome of such an evaluation will have critical implications for Japan's efforts to preserve historical records and to establish a new series of archival institutions for the future. A partial evaluation of earlier efforts can be found in the Comprehensive Survey of Catalogs of Medieval and Modern Historical Materials which was compiled by the Ministry of Education's Archives for Historical Documents, the predecessor to today's National Institute of Japanese Literature, Department of Historical Documents.

The Ad Hoc Imperial Editorial Board and the Bureau for the Collation of Meiji Restoration Historical Materials played pioneering roles in undertaking the collection of modern and contemporary historical documents, including documents from the Meiji Era. This work was later taken up by the archival projects of the House of Representatives and House of Peers which were initiated in 1938. In the postwar period, the Archives for Materials on Constitutional Government was established in 1949 within the National Diet Library, and this institution was later reorganized into the present-day Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room. The aim of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room is to promote the study of modern Japanese history and has been involved in collecting, collating and preserving the documentary records in the possession of families whose members served in important government posts. Some of the highlights of the collection include the following : the documentary records of Sanetomi Sanjo who served the Meiji Restoration government for many years as state minister; documentary records concerning the drafting and promulgation of the Meiji Imperial Constitution which were in the possession of Miyoji Itoh who was directly involved in the process; documentary records concerning the renegotiation of Japan's basic foreign treaties and the Sino-Japanese War which were in the possession of the former Foreign Minister, Munemitsu Mutsu; and, documentary files concerning military and diplomatic affairs and the activities of the Government-General of Korea which were in the possession of Army Minister Masatake Terauchi who served as

Governor-General of Korea. These historical records provide important background information for understanding the world portrayed in official documents. The Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room is also involved in taping and preserving the memoirs of politicians and bureaucrats and as such is playing a leading role in the preservation of the historical records of contemporary Japan.

The original petition for the establishment of the Modern Japanese Political History Materials Room emphasized the need for the creation of a national institution for the preservation and use of historical documents and records of national importance. However, this plan did not reach fruition until 1971 when the National Archives was created under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. The National Archives has also been forced to operate under various restrictions and limitations. While its objective is the creation of a single and unified archives, it must continue to work in tandem with the independently operated archives of various branches of the government. These include the Diplomatic Record Office, the Archives and Mausolea Department and the Library of the National Institute for Defense Studies operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Imperial Household Agency and the Defense Agency, respectively.

The postwar projects for the collection of historical documents began with the search and cataloging of materials in private hands and generated a broadly based realization of the need for institutions dedicated to the preservation and presentation of public documents. Notwithstanding this realization, dedicated archival institutions were not immediately established in Japan. As a result, the function of managing the documents that had become available was consigned to libraries, museums and the research institutes of various universities. Such institutions have tended to rely on the personal relations of their staff and other members to proceed with the task of locating and collecting historical documents. It is true that because of the very personal nature of this approach, archival projects are often handicapped by a lack of continuity. The establishment of dedicated archives in Japan must be predicated on a full appreciation of the past history of the discovery and collection of historical records in this country.

III. Various Modes for the Preservation of Documentary Records

There are several reasons why libraries have come to play a pivotal role in the management of local historical documents in Japan. First of all, libraries offered

a convenient place for storing the historical records which had been used in compiling local histories. Secondly, the descendants of the former feudal lords and other prominent families were inclined toward donating or consigning their documentary records to local libraries. By accepting these records from the former rulers of the feudal society, Japanese libraries naturally took on certain archival functions.

In the case of Yamaguchi Prefecture, the documentary records of the Mohri family, the former feudal lords of this region, were donated to the prefectural government in 1952. In order to organize and manage these documents, Japan's first archives was established in 1959 in Yamaguchi. The functions of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives include the management of a collection of the original documents of the Mohri Family and other historical documents pertaining to the former feudal domains of this region, and the management of documents and records pertaining to prefectural government administration, industry, society and popular customs of Yamaguchi Prefecture. This institution is also charged with the responsibility for preparing these documents for research and other use, and contributing to the promotion of regional cultural developing. The aim of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives is to promote a better understanding of contemporary affairs and to contribute to the future advancement of society by presenting documentary records as a source of information concerning the politics, economics and culture of the past, as well as all other human activities of the past, and preparing these records for use as an indispensable resource in all forms of scholarship, research and investigations.

These high hopes and expectations are a reflection of the desire to reclaim the documentary records which have too often been commandeered by historians and researchers, and instead to open up these recorded for use in promoting the general development of local, regional and national culture. It was in fact this strong desire that led to the creation of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives, and it is the same desire that has defined one of the primary orientations of Japanese archives.

In reality, however, most documentary records remain in the domain of libraries and museums where, at best; they are consigned to a documents room or a niche display. Documents whose origins and provenance are clearly known are given special treatment and are preserved and displayed in special collection rooms. In the general chaos which followed the Second World War, many of the descendants of the feudal daimyo and locally prominent families fell on hard times and were unable to maintain their ancestral documents and records. Consequently, numerous

valuable collections were consigned to libraries and museums for storage and management. The case of the Mohri family in Yamaguchi is a leading example. Other important instances include the consignment of the Satake family documents to Akita Prefecture and the documents of the Ikeda family of Okayama to Okayama University. In numerous other similar cases throughout Japan, libraries and museums have come into the possession of substantial collections of historical records and documents.

Some Japanese libraries and museums have endeavored to achieve distinction by acquiring historical materials and records which are related to the history of their particular locality or region. The Nagasaki Prefectural Library is a case in point with its collection of no less than 2,500 documents pertaining to the *Nagasaki bugyosho* (local administrative headquarters of the Tokugawa government). The functions of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* can be summarized as follows : (1) To govern Nagasaki as a directly-ruled domain of the Tokugawa government and to manage and control all aspects of its diplomatic negotiations, cultural exchange, international trade and fiscal affairs, including the collection and delivery of taxes to the Tokugawa government. (2) To exclusively supervise all diplomatic and trade-related matters throughout the period of Japan's formal isolation; to supervise the implementation of the ban on Christianity in all of western Japan; to direct the defense of Nagasaki; and to oversee all matters related to naval defense, including the prevention of smuggling and the handling of problems related to shipwrecked persons. (3) To oversee the distribution and shipment of copper and marine products throughout Japan. Given its extremely broad charter, the documentary records of *Nagasaki bugyosho* are large in volume and highly diverse and complicated in content. At the present time, these documents are scattered among several libraries and museums.

With the financial backing by the central government, the Nagasaki Prefectural Board of Education has sponsored a study of the documentary records and historical materials of the *Nagasaki bugyosho*. This study which was led by Professor Tadashi Nakamura of Kyushu University provided a valuable overall view of the documents on hand. The Report on the Survey of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* Documents published in 1997 covers those documents in the possession of the Nagasaki Prefectural Library and other related organizations and institutions located in Nagasaki Prefecture. As outlined below, this report testifies to the extent to which these documents have been scattered.

(1) The Nagasaki Prefectural Library is in possession of the following materials and documents : a catalog of the directives issued to the *Nagasaki bugyosho* by the Tokugawa government (*gohosho onkakitsukerui mokuroku*); the record of criminals punished by the *bugyosho* (*hanka-cho*); directives to the *bugyosho* regarding the governance of the Tokugawa government's direct-rule in Nagasaki; reports and petitions from the *bugyosho* to the Tokugawa government; reports concerning the international trade of silk, ginseng, exporting marine products (*tawaramono*), copper and other products; documents pertaining to transactions and rules and regulations of trade with China and Holland; documents related to the defense of Nagasaki; documents related to the ban on Christianity; correspondence between the *bugyosho* and various feudal lords of western Japan concerning defensive measures against foreign ships; and documents pertaining to treaties, diplomatic negotiations and routine contact with Russia, the Netherlands, the United States, France, England and China since the end of the 18th century. In addition to these documents, the Nagasaki Prefectural Library is in possession of various charts and implements, such as gate passes.

(2) The Department of Economics Annex of the Nagasaki University Library is in possession of some fifteen items, including records pertaining to the visit of a British vessel in 1673, and the Russian Rezanov mission of 1804

(3) The Nagasaki Municipal Museum is in possession of the family history of a family which served as Dutch translators in Nagasaki, the work log and journal of a translator involved in the Chinese trade, and documents pertaining to routine matters of Nagasaki's international trade.

(4) The Siebold Memorial Museum is in possession of the documents of the Nakayama family which served as Dutch translators in Nagasaki, and various documents and materials pertaining to the Dutch Factory in Nagasaki and its medical officer, Dr Siebold. Included in these are the records of Siebold's attempted violation of the strict ban on the exportation of maps of Japan, and a Japanese translation of the report concerning foreign affairs and conditions written by the head of the Dutch Factory and submitted to the *Nagasaki bugyosho*.

(5) The Isahaya Municipal Library is in possession of a complete collection of documents pertaining to the visit of a Russian vessel to Nagasaki.

(6) The Shimabara Municipal Library is in possession of "Overseas Reports" concerning China, Korea, Southeast Asia, the Netherlands and the Ryukyu Islands. These documents are said to have belonged to the Matsudaira family of Shimabara.

(7) A collection of the original documents of the So family of the Nagasaki Prefectural Tsushima Folk Museum is in possession of the records pertaining to the exchange and transfer of shipwrecked persons. This collection houses the historical records and documents which were left in Tsushima when the So family, the feudal lords of Tsushima, donated portions of their historical records and documents to the Government-General of Korea in 1926. Those portions which were transferred to Korea are now in the possession of the National History Compilation Committee of the Republic of Korea.

(8) The Omura Municipal Archives and the Hirado Matsuura Museum are in possession of records pertaining to naval surveillance of foreign vessels as these two regions played subsidiary roles in the defense of Nagasaki.

The report concerning the documentary records of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* reflects the strong desire of the Prefectural Board of Education to reconfirm the unique historical role which was given to this city as Japan's single window to the outside world during the entire Tokugawa Period. This project was made possible through the voluntary services of numerous researchers who were driven by the passion which comes from intellectual curiosity. Unfortunately, similar projects for cataloging large bodies of scattered documents remain relatively rare. Rather, the general tendency is for libraries and museums to assign unique and independent importance to the documents in their possession. This tendency becomes stronger for documents which are deemed to have particular significance for the locality. Such institutions often opt to idolize the particular set of documents in their possession and attempt to use it as their "ticket to fame". This approach can result in the emergence of a gap between the historical records on hand and the institution's normal operations. The project to catalog the records and documents of the *Nagasaki bugyosho* successfully brought together many separate pieces of a single entity and created an added value in the whole which was lacking in its individual component parts. This project has succeeded in promoting a fuller overall appreciation by placing a special collection of documents within the context of a universal view of the world.

Notwithstanding this reality, it is the acquisition of a "ticket to fame" which has provided the impetus for the establishment of most archival institutions. No matter how important and large their collections of historical documents may be, it is unfortunate that these institutions continue to be designed and built as museums. An example of this can be found in the Tojo Historical Museum which was founded by the municipal government of Matsudo in Chiba Prefecture to house the historical

records and documents of the Tokugawa Akitake family, the last feudal lord of the Mito domain. Tokugawa Akitake also claimed a place in history as the representative of his brother, Tokugawa Yoshinobu, the fifteenth Tokugawa Shogun, at the Paris Exposition. When the retirement home of Akitake was turned into a historical park in 1987, the Tojo Historical Museum was also built as an archives of historical materials and records pertaining to the Tokugawa clan of Matsudo. The future of this institution depends on whether it can continue to develop as a museum of the Tokugawa Akitake family.

Such institutions which have been built to preserve historical documents and materials face a difficult challenge in developing into repositories of public documents. The more daunting this challenge, the greater the tendency for these institutions to try to establish their *raison d'être* by seeking to augment their "ticket to fame" by generating appendages to the central piece in their collection. The Numazu Archives of Meiji History is noteworthy in its efforts to develop as a documentary archives.

The Numazu Municipal Archives of Meiji Historical materials was opened in 1984 in Numazu City, Shizuoka Prefecture following the deeding of the estate of Soroku Ebara to the city of Numazu. Ebara was a state minister in the Tokugawa regime and went on to serve in the House of Representatives and the House of Peers in Meiji Japan. He was also a noted Christian and educator. The aim of this institution is to catalog, preserve and display the historical documents and records which have been donated by the Ebara family and to collect materials and records pertaining to the Numazu Military Academy with which Ebara was closely involved. In addition to this, this institution has an ongoing project for surveying and locating documentary records of the districts within the city of Numazu. These district documents include the directives of district administrative offices and include significant volumes of materials which can be identified as public records. In the absence of local archives, this institution is in fact performing the functions of an archives and has opened the way to collecting, cataloging and utilizing the documentary records of local communities.

Another institution which shares the same characteristics is the Yokohama Archives of History which was opened in 1981. The Yokohama Archives of History houses the materials and records collected for the compilation of a municipal history which was started in 1954. Its collections span the period between the final years of the Tokugawa government and the Great Kanto Earthquake. In order to better understand the unique role of Yokohama port in the opening of Japan to the rest of the

world, this institution is making special efforts to collect materials and records from overseas sources including the United States, Britain, France and Shanghai. The experience of Yokohama is indicative of the difficulty of finding a proper place to store and preserve the materials and records used in compiling municipal histories. Often there was no choice but to consign the preservation of such materials to quasi libraries and museums bearing a wide range of differing appellations, such as “local history halls” and “Historical archives”.

The absence of a unified format for the preservation of historical records has certain negative effects. For instance, even if there is an understanding that historical records constitute a source of information concerning the politics, economics and culture of the past, the diversity of preservation formats distracts the public from appreciating the organic nature of historical records and realization that new documentary records are being constantly generated. Instead, such records tend to be seen as a vestige of past ages and merely the material for historiographical research. To avoid this pitfall, there is a real need to create dedicated archival facilities to nurture the understanding that historical records are constantly being generated and to present these records as legacies of the past which are directly linked to the present and the future. For this purpose, a new view must be adopted concerning historical records. Furthermore, we must not allow ourselves to be dazzled and distracted by the broad diversity in the types of institutions which are being used for the preservation of its historical records as we must continue our efforts to clear the path to the establishment of dedicated archival institutions.

The reason why many historical documents and records have been preserved in libraries and museums where they have been given special treatment is that these institutions have had a real interest in using these records to stake their claim to fame and to justify their own existence. This fact will complicate the relation between these existing institutions and the dedicated archives of the future and presents a major problem which must be satisfactorily resolved if Japan is to make real and concrete progress toward the goal of establishing archives.

IV. The Jurisdiction of the Public Archives Law

There is now a great diversity in the types of institutions where documentary records are preserved and made available for use. Given this situation, it is generally understood that all matters related to the preservation and use of such records is subject to the prior consent of the individual institutions and their curators. For this

reason, the movement for the preservation and use of historical records has had a dual focus. That is, while the movement has endeavored to promote the better preservation of widely dispersed documents, it has also championed the cause of promoting freer public access to these materials.

The first step toward securing public access to the documentary records pertaining to the central government was taken in 1971 with the establishment of the National Archives under the aegis of the Prime Minister's Office. At about the same time, measures were taken to open other government archives to the public. Specifically, the diplomatic papers held in the Diplomatic Record Office and documents pertaining to the Imperial Japanese Army held in the Defense Agency's War History Room of the Institute for Defense Studies, currently the Library of the National Institute for Defense Studies, were made public.

The growing interest in the establishment of dedicated archives for the preservation, opening to the public and the use of public records paralleled the mushrooming of projects for the compilation of local histories. Encouraged by these developments, a movement was launched advocating the creation of new legislation to provide a legally defined status for archival institutions and their expert staff. This movement finally reached its fruition in 1987 with the enactment of the Public Archives Law.

While the National Archives was established within this legal process, it was predated by various institutions, such as the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives which opened in 1959, the Tokyo Metropolitan Archives which opened in 1968, and the Saitama Prefectural Archives which opened in 1969. Other similar archival Institutions, such as the Kyoto Prefectural Library and Archives which opened in 1963, and the Fukushima Prefectural Historical Archives which opened in 1970, also predated the National Archives.

The establishment of the National Archives and the enactment of the Public Archives Law greatly encouraged the creation of prefectural archives and similar institutions. While these institutions are generally referred to as archives, the fact remains that the collection of each institution bears the imprint of the institution's particular purpose of establishment and is heavily influenced by its own historical background and development.

There is a wide divergence in the types of records and documents collected and handled by the prefectural and municipal archives. For instance, in the case of the Yamaguchi Prefectural Archives, it is chartered to deal with both public records

and documents, and historical records and documents. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives and the Kanagawa Prefectural Archives are chartered to handle public records and other records. The prefectural archives of Aichi, Tottori, Akita, Hiroshima, Tokushima and Kagawa emphasize public records with historical value and important historical documents and materials. The Kyoto Prefectural Archives stresses the collection of local documents, while the Ibaraki Prefectural Archives is committed to the collection of historically important materials and documents. The latter cases are examples of archives which are basically geared toward the preservation and research of ancient documents of foreign origin and other ancient records. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives stands at the opposite side of the spectrum where it is committed to the collection and preservation of public records, as well as administrative documents. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives follows in the footsteps of the project for the compilation of the history of city of Tokyo and grew directly out of the Tokyo Municipal Archives for Administrative Documents which was created in 1952. The Tokyo Metropolitan Archives in its current form was established in 1968 when certain functions of the Records Section of the General Affairs Department of the municipal government were assigned to this newly created institution.

To repeat, there is a significant diversity in the range of functions performed by these local and regional archives. For example, the Tokyo Metropolitan Archives makes its mission to collect, preserve and offer for use such public records pertaining to the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo, going back to the days when it was referred to as the “city of Tokyo.” On the other hand, there are numerous archives whose focus is on the reflection of the fact that Japan’s history as a modern nation-state goes back little more than a century to the Meiji Restoration, while the nation must continue to grapple with the weight of its pre-modern history which goes back many centuries.

Thus, the archives of Japan must be Janus-like in their outlook. One face must be turned toward the ancient and medieval annals which predate the birth of modern Japan, while another face must be turned toward the preservation and use of contemporary documents and records which are being continuously generated. However, even those institutions which are formally referred to as public record archives are easily thrown off the track by a tendency to assign special value to documents of recognized historical importance and ancient documents. Therefore, a conscious effort must be made by these institutions to establish and reconfirm their identities as repositories of contemporary records which in due time will come to have a very great significance.

This process of building a new identity can be promoted by a concerted effort to clarify the respective responsibilities of archival institutions on the national, prefectural and municipal levels. National and prefectural archives should commit themselves to the task of creating a unified catalog of all the public records of the area under their jurisdiction and moving with due speed toward securing public access to these collections. While maintaining their current collections of ancient documents of recognized historical importance, these institutions should not squander their resources on the acquisition of additional materials from the ancient and medieval periods. It is probably best to leave this latter function to libraries and museums which have traditionally emphasized this aspect of their collections. There is a very urgent need for all related institutions to recognize their respective areas of responsibility. This will prove to be a key point in creating a firm foundation for the development of archival institutions in Japan.

Along the same lines, a clear line of demarcation should be drawn between municipal archives and various institutions for the preservation of local historical materials. The principal function of municipal archives should be the establishment of a system for the centralized management of public records. An example of a centralized management system can be found in the Fujisawa City Archives. Established in 1974 as the first municipal archives in Japan, this institution has formulated a comprehensive protocol for the management of public documents and records through a long process of trial and error.

The Fujisawa City Archives functions as a repository for all current administrative documents generated by the city government. The Fujisawa Municipal Archives repeats a process of evaluation and selection as these documents pass through subsequent stages of being current, semi-current and non-current. In the process, it has created an integrated and systematic approach to document preservation. Given the strong tendency for public records and other documentary materials to be discarded because of the arbitrary judgement of individual curators, the establishment of such systems is highly significant in securing the full life-cycle of documentary records. Moreover, the formulation of objective protocols can be used by municipal archives to further justify their existence.

Unfortunately, however, local and municipal archives remain essentially focused on the preservation and use of historical public records and documents from past ages. Hence, the task of evaluating, selecting and preserving contemporary records for future use is often left to the discretion of others. This state of mind is reflected in how prefectural archives view the preservation of contemporary public

records and can be taken as evidence of the low level of general awareness of the true functions of archives. What is needed is a strong reassertion of the basic purpose for the preservation of public records : more than being an instrument for examining the past, public records must be used as a tool for developing insights into the future.

In order to consciously develop an awareness of this fundamental purpose, the archives of Japan must endeavor to escape the spell of old documents and records and to commit themselves to the collection of contemporary documents which portary the activities of living people. To do this, archives should support their collections of public records with the testimonies and memoirs of the people who actually took part in the events and developments recorded. A reader is able to find the full meaning contained in the public records only when he is able to supplement his research with the reading of personal recollections and papers on the same subject.

Archival institutions are not paying full attention to the need to compile the memoirs and life histories of the principal participants in contemporary developments. Certainly, one of the advantages of contemporary records is that they lend themselves to being read and understood in light of the personal recollections with which they are often juxtaposed. Hence, archival institutions should make it their task to record the personal memories of participants which lend vivid color to an otherwise staid collection of documents.

My own limited experiences with interviewing and debriefing have made me aware of the potential for bringing out the latent colors in a document. new meanings can be discovered when documentary records are combined with the recollections of the people who were present at the event. The following example comes to mind. A certain officer in the Japanese colonial government in Sakhalin secretly brought back a document when the Japanese were forced to leave the island. This document consisted of no more than a jumble of initials. When combined with the memory of the officer, however, this inscrutable document was transformed into a full list of the names of people who were employed by the colonial authority and come to be used as documentary evidence for establishing the identify of some of these former colonial employees.

War-related documents tend to take the form of ciphers and shortland notations. Thus, the memory of those who produced the original documents has a very important bearing on our understanding of such documents. Taking a lesson form this, archival institutions should endeavor to record the memories of those responsible for producing the documents as they go about their business of collecting contemporary documents. This regeneration of memories can have a profound

transforming effect on documents which otherwise would be trapped in the past. It is this regeneration of memories which prepares the documentary records of today for future use.

V. Conclusions

Many of the archival institutions in Japan were created as repositories for historical documents. As such, their main focus has often been on the preservation of ancient and medieval records and materials. However, Japan does have a system for true archives of public records and is now endeavoring to prepare these institutions to develop into an arena for the preservation and use of such documents in directing the future history of the nation. If we take the archives of Europe and America as a normative model, these Japanese endeavors may well appear to be strange and unusual. However, if we accept the proposition that archival institutions constitute an expression of a country's political culture, then there certainly should be ample room for diversity. In fact, the establishment of archival institutions may fail to be realized in the absence of proper leeway given to certain elements of national character.

The history of Japanese archives as a framework for the preservation and use of documentary records is said to contain numerous problems from the perspective of Western standards, particularly in regard to public access. Such criticisms obviously should not be denied. On the other hand, we must be cognizant of the fact that these characteristics and shortcomings reflect the road which Japan has traveled as a modern nation-state and are the products of the particular vision which the Japanese people have developed in dealing with matters related to spirit and culture. I propose that the future of Japanese archives should be considered in light of this historical reality.

This requires a clear understanding of the historical role which archival institutions and other related cultural institutions have played in Japan. Armed with this understanding, we should be able to establish a rational division of functions and responsibilities among these institutions. In this context, probably the principal mission of an archives is the creation of a system for the preservation and use of public records and documents, and the preparation of an arena for examining the direction of the nation's future history.

The survival of archival institutions should not be hinged on the display of

some historical document or material which stands as its “ticket to fame.” Rather, the development and growth of these institutions should depend on their capacity to follow through on the entire lifecycle of contemporary documentary records by formulating effective systems for their objective selection and preservation. While paying due respect to the diverse modes of collection and preservation, Japanese archival institutions are endeavoring to create a unified vision of the materials on hand. This process continues to be one of trial and error. However, I believe that the archival institutions which I have introduced here are endowed with great potential and that this itself should be taken as evidence that Japan has already taken an important step toward the realization of the message embodied in the words of Jesus that “the truth shall make you free.” It is my sincerest hope that the Asian nations gathered here today will be able to share in the truth of this message and that we will be empowered to deepen our ties of mutual trust and in so doing discover a source of new vitality to live the world of tomorrow in a spirit of concord. I conclude my report with hope that our discussions of the current status of the archival institutions in each of our countries will bear many wonderful results and that our mutual appreciation will be furthered through our better understanding of each other’s historical background and developments.