

Okimawra
by Yamada

沖繩繪物語

山田真山著

No. 1

OKinawa

—Her beauties and tradition—

NO. 1

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Painted by

Shinzan Yamada

FOREWORD

Pictures historic, genre and scenic of Ryukyu drawn by Mr. Shinzan Yamada, member of Ryukyuan Fine Art Association, which appeared successively in the 'Daily Okinawan', an English paper published in Okinawa after the termination of the World War II, stood high in public reputation among the Allied personnel and played an important role for introducing Okinawa.

It was with our great regret to have seen their appearance ceased with the discontinuance of the said paper.

However, it is indeed a matter of congratulation that Mr. Yamada has happily succeeded in collecting these pictures in a form of one volume for republication purpose.

Mr. Yamada is one of the most precious treasures which Ryukyu makes a boast of in the artistic world and the supreme authority as well.

His peculiar style has been recognized long among the Japanese artistic circles in the metropolis and his fresco work 'Establishment of Ryukyuan Feudal Government' is still decorating a part of the sacred Virtue Memorial Picture Gallery in the outer garden of the Meiji Shrine, Tokyo, Japan.

He has also produced numerous masterpieces of sculptures and distinctive merit he has rendered in the artistic world is too great to be sounded.

Trusting that the collection under the present projected by Mr. Yamada may make invaluable data for introducing Ryukyu both ancient and modern, I herein dare to make recommendation to general public.

10, Oct., 1952

Shuhei Higa

Executive Chief, Ryukyuan Government

序 文

戦後、沖縄に於いて発刊されていた英字新聞「ディリーオキナワン」紙に琉球美術協会員山田真山氏の揮毫になる琉球の歴史画、風俗習慣画、風景画が連載されて、外人に随分と親しまれ、且つ沖縄紹介に役立ついたのであるが、新聞の廃刊とともに連載中止となつたことを遺憾に思つていたのであります。

幸ひ、山田氏が之等の連載画を取り纏めて一巻の画集として再び世に出すことになつた事は慶びに堪えない次第であります。

山田氏は琉球の誇る美術工芸界の至宝であり最高の権威者であります。

その特殊な画風はつとに日本の中央画壇に於いても認められ「琉球藩設置」の図は明治神宮外苑聖徳記念絵画館の壁画になつており、彫刻に於いても数々の逸品を生み、美術工芸界に捧げた功績は枚挙に遑ないほどであります。

今回の山田氏の企画になる画集は琉球の古代現代を紹介する上の貴重な資料たり得ると信じ茲に江湖各位に推賞する所以であります。

一九五二年十月

琉 球 政 府

行 政 主 席 比 嘉 秀 平

FORWORD

Mr. Shinzan Yamada is the most outstanding figure that Okinawa has ever produced, in the world of the fine arts of Japanese style and carving.

Seven years have elapsed since the war ended, and the general public, in spite of hard living, are seeking after truth and beauty.

It is very natural that great hopes are entertained of this great artists Yamada. He has also found many friends among the American officers, soldiers and civilians who are here on the island.

These patrons of the arts would ask him to paint or to carve what may help them understand Okinawa and its people.

I hope this collection of beautiful pictures, 16 in color and 24 in black, will gratify these desires.

Atsuo Yamashiro

Former Vice-Governor,

Okinawa Gunto Government.

推 賞 の 言 葉

山田真山画伯は郷土琉球の生んだ日本画壇の耆宿であり、彫刻界の明星である。

戦塵収まりてより茲に七星霜、未だ去らざる不安や生活のあえぎの裡にも、人々は真実を探り美を求めること切なるものがある。かくて山田先生の作品は知己はもとより一般の社会から深く期待を寄せられるようになった。

加之沖縄在住米国軍民の間にも先生の画風に敬慕する者極めて多く其の揮毫は遠く米本国にも歓迎されて居る。

「沖縄絵物語」の出版はかかる熱願の結晶であつて人と時と所を得た計画である。

太平洋の西隅に浮べる群島——沖縄の島々と人々が画伯の高き魂より湧き出づる内容となつて円熟した麗筆によつて正しく美しく読者を魅することであらう。

本書の出版に際し寸言を呈し内外の読者各位に推賞いたしたいと思ひます。

元沖縄群島副知事

山 城 篤 男

PREFACE

The Ryukyu Islands which float on the ocean like a necklace that connects the continent of China to Japan were no more than a dot on the map until the end of recent great war and very few knew that they had had rich and fragrant culture of their own reflected on their ancient art.

It is a strange fate that the long-buried Ryukyus under the ocean have emerged like a pearl on the surface from among the waves of the great sacrifice inflicted by the great war, furnishing a moment to reveal their real value. And it is not too much to say that the desire to see the Ryukyus and to get informations about the Ryukyus is now in vogue throughout the world.

In 1946, immediately after the termination of the great war, I painted scenery and historical events of Okinawa and published them serially in an English paper titled "Daily Okinawan", complying with their request.

Though it was my desire to introduce an aspect of the burnt-down Ryukyus through the pictures, I found it very hard to fulfil as I had not only lost all my referencial materials, but also had no brushes and colours at hand. In spite of these situations, it was fortunate for me that I had once been requested by Japanese Government to paint the fresco of "Ryukyu Han Setchi" for the Meiji Shrine before the war, and that I had had an opportunity to investigate historical materials of Okinawa on that occasion. And these pictures in this collection are all the productions of this memory of mine. Should these pictures be able to take a part to introduce the Ryukyus, it will be a greatest glory for me.

I sincerely thank Messrs. P. H. Skuse, and N. A. Porter for their great help and Messrs. Eihan Asato, Atsuo Yamashiro and Teikichi Harada for their co-operation offered to me in publishing this book.

10, Nov., 1952.

Shinzan Yamada.

発刊に際して

日本と中国大陸とを「瓊路」のやうにつなぎ浮ぶ琉球は今次大戦迄は単に地図上の一点として知られているだけで、芸術の島として知る人は少なかつた。

大洋中に永く埋もれていたこの島が、今次大戦の犠牲の波に洗はれて真珠のやうに浮び上がつて、その真価を發揮するに至つたのも奇しき因縁である、今や琉球を見たい知りたいと云ふのは広く世界の関心とさへいえるのである。

私は一九四六年終戦後、沖縄に於いて発刊されていた英字新聞の「ディリーオキナワン」の乞を入れ沖縄の歴史及風物画を連載した。

これは今次大戦に依り灰燼に歸した琉球のかつての姿を絵を通して一般に紹介したいと云ふ私の念願でもあつた。しかしながら一切の記録や参考資料を失なつたばかりでなく筆墨にも事欠きまことに不自由を極めたのであるが、幸い私は戦前明治神宮の壁面琉球藩設置の絵を日本から委嘱された時、沖縄の歴史の資料を調査する機会を得ていたので新聞社から乞はれるまゝ記憶をたどりつゝ描きつゞけたのが此の画集となつた訳である。

この出版は世に出るまで意外にも長い月日を経過したが、米軍側でスキューズ氏ポーター氏、民間側では山城篤男、安里榮繁、原田貞吉諸氏などから一方ならぬ御援助を賜はつたことにたいし心から感謝いたします。尚ほ琉球政府主席比嘉秀平氏並びに元沖縄群島政府副知事山城篤男両氏から序文を寄せられたことは、本書に光彩を添えられ著者として衷心感激にたえぬものである。

一九五二年 中秋

著者 山 田 眞 山

CONTENTS 目次

Page		
1	Gate of Courtesy.....	守禮之門
2	The Famous Pond	龍潭池より王城を望む
3	Sei-mei-sai	清明祭
4	A Famous Garden	識名園
5	Sales Girls.....	昔の沖縄の物賣り女
6	Madambashi Bridge	眞玉橋
7	An Okinawan Miss	古琉球の娘
8	Bezaiten-do.....	辨財天堂
9	Sogenji Temple	崇元寺
10	The Silk Maker	機織る女
11	The Introduction of the Sweet-Potato	野國總宮
12	Gosamaru	忠誠, 護佐丸
13	Urashima Taro—Okinawan Rip Van Winkle.....	浦島太郎(傳説)
14	Futemma Shrine	普天満権現
15	The Funeral Procession.....	葬式
16	Horse Riding.....	乗馬
17	Women's Day	三月あそび
18	Naha Harbour	那覇港
19	A shin-ko-sen.....	進貢船
20	The water-Point	井戸
21	Pottery Baker	壺屋の陶器窯
22	A pottery plant	壺屋の陶器工場
23	The Palanquin	駕籠
24	Shishi-mai	獅子舞
25	Boar Hunting	昔の八重山島の猪狩り
26	Bull-fighting	闘牛
27	A Cow Boy.....	牧童
28	Okinawan Mothers	モンペー
29	On Okinawa the Tanme.....	閑日月
30	Izumi-zaki Bridge.....	那覇の名橋, 泉崎橋
31	A Fishing Boat	サバニ
32	Female Dancers	クルシマ口説
33	A Horse Wagon	荷馬車
34	The farmer's lunch.....	田植
35	Amamiko and Shineriko.....	沖縄の開祖
36	A kara-shi-shi	唐獅子
37	Masks	面
38	Hachimaki	帨(ハチマキ)
39	Female Fish-vendors of Itoman	糸満の女性
40	Demon Clouds	入道雲



守禮之門

首里城門に通ずる路上の門である。明の皇帝から授けられた沖縄島の敬称「守礼之邦」の扁額を掲げて終戦直前迄残っていた。琉球に於ける芸術的な名門で首里城と共に国宝に指定されていた。

Gate of Courtesy

This picture shows one of the gates to the Shuri Castle, which had been seen still standing till the end of the war on the high-way about 150 yards from the castle. It was widely known for the tablet hung up on it with the inscription of the "Land of Courtesy," the name given to the island in the 14th century by a Chinese emperor in the Ming dynasty. Artistically famous, the gate together with the castle had been appointed one of the national treasures.



龍潭池より王城を望む

竜潭池は首里森ヘンタン山の峽谷に築かれ、首里城内から流れる瑞泉の下流の水深く、紺碧の淵をたたえ樹木鬱蒼として王都第一の幽仙境であつた。支那冊封使来琉の際は上図のように池に竜頭の舟を浮かべ国をあげて接待につとめた。

The Famous Pond

Above is shown Ryutan, the most famous pond on Okinawa, just north of Shuri Castle. It is a little less than one half of a mile wide. The clear water and many trees and flowers growing around the edge of the pond make it one of the most beautiful sights on Okinawa.

In the background can be seen the roof of Shuri Castle, the present site of the Ryukyu University.

清明祭は凡そ六百年前三十六姓の久米村人（渡来せし支那人）が祖先の霊を祭る道教の風習を行つていた事に起源する。現在では沖縄の年中行事の一つとなつた。上図は祖先の墓参りに行く家族である。墓前で祖先に供えた酒肴をとりひろげて一日を楽しむのである。



Sei-mei-sai

This is an Okinawa family about to picnic after having carried flowers to the family tomb on Sei-mei-sai (any day in April given over to visiting the family tomb.) A Meshi-tsukai (servant) follows the family carrying food and water for the picnic meal.