

Article introducing the Senkaku Islands and their development

No.39 The situation of the Senkaku Islands (an article in *Ryukyu Shimpo*, a local newspaper) July 17, 1898

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尖閣郡島の八重山列島の一にして従来魚釣島と稱する無人島なり之れより東北に拾六海里を隔て久場島と稱する一島あり海圖に低牙吾蘇島と記せり何れも異名同島なるべし其詳は別紙を待て此處は拓殖事業を企圖し其地を以て尾瀨延太郎氏の漁農夫并余命を引連れ那覇港と出帆したるは本年五月二十四日近頃阿氏より黒川島宛通信の要領を得たり該島の状況を窺ふに足るべきは付左に之を掲ぐ

尖閣郡島は數個より成れる島嶼にして東經百二十四度四十分北緯二十五度五十分位せる東支那海中の小群島なり其島大なる者は周圍凡そ二里高サ一千百八十一フートニ達し釣魚島(ホアソニス)と稱し之れに亞く者は周圍二里高サ六百フートあり黃尾島(チャウニス)と云ふ是れ實に予か今回船より放棄せられたる無人の孤島なり當島の南北に長く東西に短くして恰も隨圓形をなし圍らずに岩石を以てし島中到處を累ね跳止歩行すへき處なし然れども山嶺及山腹に數ヶ處の大凹處あり底は平坦にして石なく且極めて肥沃なる黒色土なり此土は數百年來鳥糞と混交し殆んど人工肥料の如し草木蔚蒼其重なる樹木は久場樹、青桐、藤、菘等の類にして久場樹の如きは長さ拾八九間廻り五六尺に至るものあり當島は四圍巖石屹立し恰も銀齒の如く港灣の船を寄する處あり然れども天恵にや西岸に當り狀の一大凸處あり此は天然の良港にして水深く二三の暗礁を除きすれば容易に五六十噸の船舶を容るゝことを得へし従來渡航したる者の皆此海岸に住居を構へ吾等も茲に居所を構へたり氣候は渡航後日も尙淺ければ未だ判明せざれども沖繩本島より暑さを覺ゆ(寒暖計破損して温度明かすを得ず遺憾とす)未だ各郡島皆跋渉せざるを以て探險の上后日更に報告する處あるべし云々

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Overview

An article from *Ryukyu Shimpo*, dated July 17, 1898, on the development of the Senkaku Islands. It introduces the situation on the Senkaku Islands through the publication of correspondence from Entaro OTAKI, who was engaged in the development work.

Before citing OTAKI's correspondence, the article states that Tatsushiro KOGA had obtained official permission and was planning to engage in development projects on the Senkaku Islands. Entaro OTAKI, as the supervisor for the projects, took with him more than 30 fishermen and farmers and departed from Naha Port for the Senkaku Islands on May 24.

Excerpt [English translation]

The Situation of the Senkaku Islands

The Senkaku Islands, part of the Yaeyama Islands, comprise an uninhabited island conventionally called Uotsurishima (Uotsuri Island), and sixteen nautical miles to the northeast of this, the island known as Kubashima (Kuba Island). On nautical charts, it is called Tiau-Su. In any case, it is surely the same island by a different name. Tatsushiro KOGA was granted official permission to plan a development project here. Entaro OTAKI, supervisor of the project, brought more than 30 fishermen and farmers, sailing from Naha Port on May 24 this year. (text omitted)

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