

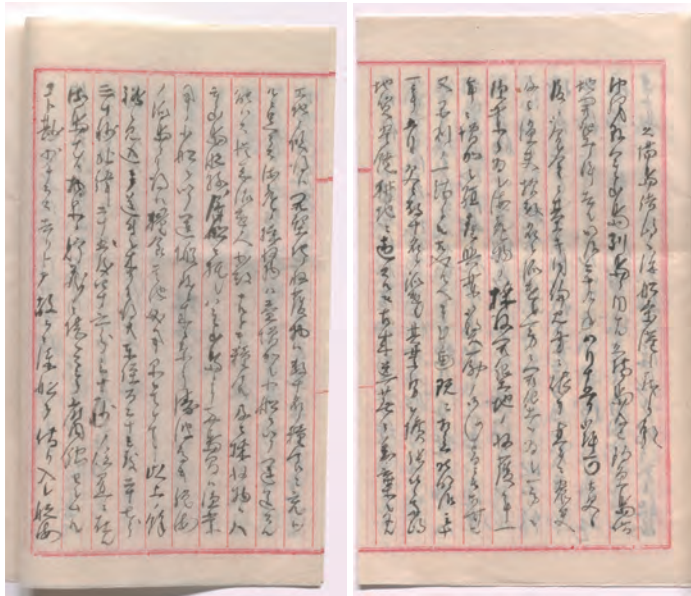
Period III (4) – Documents related to the development of the Senkaku Islands

Letter from a developer of the Senkaku Islands to the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture requesting his mediation in getting steamers to call at the islands

No.41 On the matter of requesting for making a port call at Kuba Island from Tatsushiro KOGA:

FY2016/P13

Letter dated January 1899 from Tatsushiro KOGA to the Governor of Okinawa Prefecture [Shigeru NARAHARA] [January 19,1899]



Repository: Naha City Museum of History

Excerpt [English translation]

Petition on the matter of requesting steamers to make a port call at Kuba Island
 I was granted permission to lease and develop the land on Kuba Island and Uotsuri Island in the Yaeyama Islands of Okinawa Prefecture on August 15, 1896. Based on the order and in accordance with the prospectus, I sent a dozen farmers and fishermen to the islands to commence farming and fishing. Harvest and marine product outputs from the developed lands are increasing each year. This meets the aim of promoting and encouraging Japanese industry, and we have good prospects of serving the best interests of Japan. (text omitted) This business has already been established and I cannot suppress my zeal – barely remembering to eat or sleep – for wanting to contribute to Japan by expanding the project continuously. For the sake of this project, I ask that you please give your special consideration to ask Osaka Shosen Kabushiki Kaisha (Osaka Mercantile Steamship Co. Ltd.) to arrange three or four round trips with its steamers. I am willing to sign a detailed agreement with the company. Thank you very much for your help.
 23 Aza-Nishi, Naha-ku, Okinawa Prefecture,
 January 1899, Tatsushiro KOGA (commoner) To: Okinawa Prefectural Governor

I verified this letter. January 13, 1899
 Mayor of Naha-ku (Official Seal)

Overview

This is a copy of a request from Tatsushiro KOGA to the Okinawa Prefectural Governor. Upon being granted permission for developing the Senkaku Islands from the Prefecture on August 15, 1896, Tatsushiro sent farmers and fishermen to the islands. In May 1898, he sent more people to expand the project. (The supervisor was Tatsushiro’s nephew Nobutaro OTAKI. See the “Senkaku Gunto Jijyo [Senkaku Islands Situation],” an article of the Ryukyu Shimpo on the July 17, 1898.)

This enabled to promote further development in the islands. Harvest and marine product outputs from the developed lands were increasing each year. However, since Tatsushiro used small fishing boats for transportation at that time, their carrying capacity was limited and time necessary for transposition was not tolerable. In order to secure reliable traffic transportation means, Tatsushiro requested the prefectural governor to contact Osaka Shosen to ask if the company could arrange steamers to perform three or four round trips per year to the islands.

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