

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

Photographs showing scenes of the development of the Senkaku Islands
No.44 Photographs attached to “On the matter of the bestowing of the Medal with Blue Ribbon to Tatsushiro KOGA” 1900,1908
 FY2017/P10

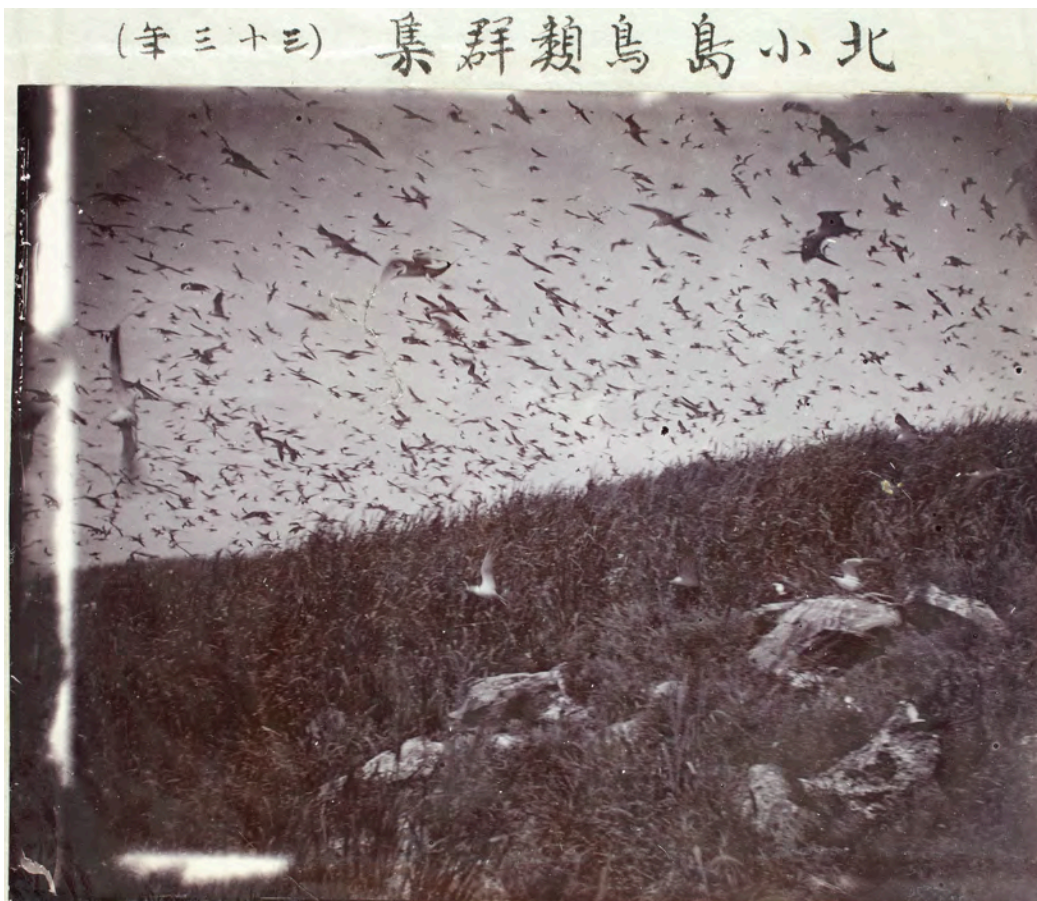
Overview

On May 31, 1909, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture Shigeaki HIBI made a request to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce Kanetake OURA regarding the bestowing of the Medal with Blue Ribbon to Tatsushiro KOGA for his contributions, including the development of the Senkaku Islands. In response to the request, on September 8, 1909, the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce (Kanetake OURA) sent a request to that effect to Count Sanemasa OGIMACHI, President of the Decoration Bureau.

These photographs are included in the business management book “16 (Appendix) map and photographs” that was prepared by Tatsushiro KOGA and was attached to the request document from the Governor of Okinawa to the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce. The request document was, in turn, attached as a separate sheet to the document from the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce to the President of the Decoration Bureau. In this material, photographs related to the development of the Senkaku Islands (taken in 1900 and 1908) are included.

Tatsushiro KOGA was awarded the Medal with Blue Ribbon on November 22, 1909, in recognition by the Government of Japan for his contribution to the progress of the fishery industry in Okinawa Prefecture and the achievements in the development of the Senkaku Islands.

Date Created	1900, 1908
Author(s) & Editor(s)	-
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Kitakojima Island (1900)
 The photo titled “Kitakojima Island bird community” shows a flock of seabirds (sooty terns) covering the whole photo. KOGA used this bird as material to decorate hats, processing them semi-stuffed to be exported in large amounts to Europe.

Excerpt [English translation]

Minamikojima Island fishing ground (1900)
 Road construction on Minamikojima Island (1900)
 Kitakojima Island bird community (1900)
 Full view of Kobi-sho (1900)
 Waheyama office (1908)
 Waheyama office (1908)

(年三十三) 場業漁島小南



(年三十三) 鑿開路道島小南

Minamikojima Island
(1900)

Both the upper left and left photos show the area near the northwest coast of Minamikojima Island. In the photograph titled "Minamikojima Island fishery ground," three Japanese boats can be seen in front, and another three small boats, "sabani," which were used by fishermen of Okinawa, can be seen in the back. In the back, there are stone walls and two thatched huts, indicating that there were pioneers living on Minamikojima Island at the time. The photo titled "Road construction on Minamikojima Island" shows the place where the pioneers presumably transported rocks, people holding a basket called "baki," and people constructing stone walls to surround the thatched huts.



Uotsuri Island (1908)

The left photo titled “Waheyama office” shows a dried bonito factory on Uotsuri Island. This photo is taken from a viewpoint overlooking the whole factory from a distance. It shows that the entire dried bonito factory is surrounded by stone walls, and that there are thatched huts in various sizes built inside the walls. The photo below was taken in front of one of the huts. It shows women wearing kimono, people with headbands, men wearing shirts and western-style outfits, and also a little boy. It is assumed that there were a variety of people living on Uotsuri Island at the time and the development was going well. Although the details of this photograph are not clear, it is highly likely that it was taken as a commemorative photograph of some sort because everyone gathered and lined-up for it.



Kuba Island (1900)

The photo titled “Full view of Kobi-sho,” which is a photo of Kuba Island taken from a ship, shows several thatched huts built facing the coast and a large Japanese flag. Another photo “Kobi-sho,” (*) taken by Mikinosuke MIYAJIMA also shows an image seemingly of a Japanese flag, and these two photographs are considered to have been taken during the same period.

*See document No. 2 (p. 8-9) of this research report.

