

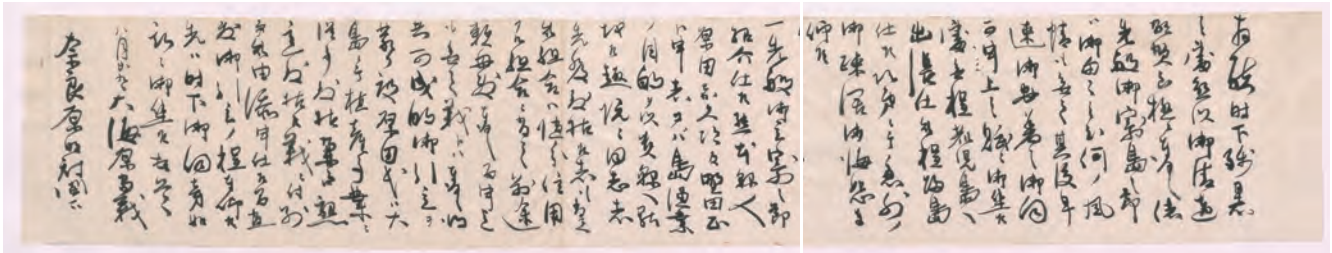
Period II (3) – i. Documents concerning the advance into the Senkaku Islands by people from Kumamoto Prefecture

A letter requesting assistance for a fishing operator who would start activities around the Senkaku Islands

No.15 A letter from OMIBARA to Governor NARAHARA

NEW

August 29, 1893



Repository: Naha City Museum of History

Overview

A letter from Hisayoshi OMIBARA (Head of the Oshima Island Branch Office, Kagoshima Prefecture) to Shigeru NARAHARA, Governor of Okinawa Prefecture, dated August 29, 1893. The letter introduces Tadashi NODA(*1) and Yoshikuji HARADA(*2), pioneering explorers from Kumamoto Prefecture.

The letter explains that the group of NODA and HARADA intends to visit Okinawa Prefecture and aims to engage in fishing activities around Koba Island (the Senkaku Islands), and states that the group is trustworthy and that the Oshima Island Branch Office is on familiar terms with them. It then requests the Okinawa Prefectural Government to grant the group patronage and favor.

The fishing activities by NODA and HARADA around the Senkaku Islands during this time were also recorded in publications such as *Nanto Tanken [The Exploration of Southern Islands]* as well as newspapers such as the *Yomiuri Shimbun*, and the *Kyushu Nichinichi Shimbun*.

*1 Tadashi NODA: Leader of the Tonan Group (refer to p.33)

*2 Yoshikuji HARADA: Member of the Tonan Group

Excerpt [English translation]

I hope this finds you well during this period of late summer.

I was busy when you came to inspect this island recently, and was unable to offer any hospitality. While I should have inquired immediately after that visit if you had returned safely, I had to leave for a business trip to Kagoshima soon after and have just returned to the island. Please accept my apologies for the unexpected delay in getting in touch with you.

During your recent visit, I introduced to you Yoshikuji HARADA and Tadashi NODA from Kumamoto Prefecture. They wish to visit Okinawa Prefecture for the purpose of engaging in fishing activities around Koba Island. Other associates of theirs have already departed in advance.

Their group is very reliable, and they are dependable men with bright prospects for the future. Therefore, I would appreciate it if you could take notice of them and grant them your patronage. Mr. HARADA is engaged in a production business on Oshima Island and I am very well acquainted with him, so I ask that you extend your special favor to them.

But first, please tell me about how you have been recently.

Respectfully yours,

Hisayoshi OMIBARA August 29

To: His Excellency, Governor NARAHARA of Okinawa Prefecture

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