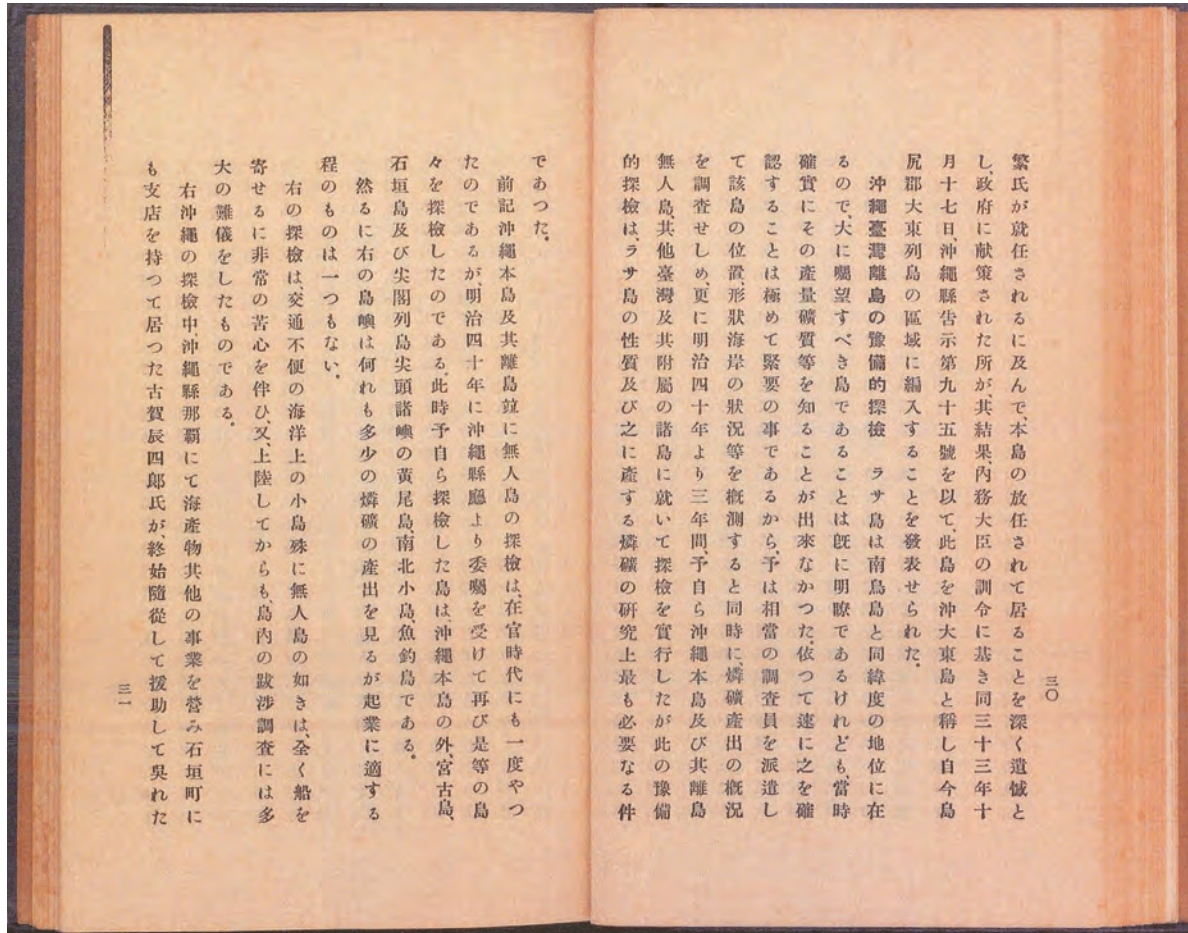


Account of phosphate mining surveys conducted on the Senkaku Islands

No.38 Myself and my exploration for phosphate ores

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Overview

This is a part of the memoirs of Noritaka TSUNETO, one of the first people to become a Doctor of Agriculture in Japan after the Meiji Restoration. He had served as the head of the Soil Property Department of the Geological Survey Office of Japan under the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce, as well as the first Director of the Fertilizer and Minerals Survey Office of the same Ministry. This document provides detailed descriptions of Kuba Island (Section 1), Minamikojima Island, Kitakojima Island (Section 2), and Uotsuri Island (Section 3) as islands under the jurisdiction of Okinawa Prefecture (Chapter 6 of the second edition).

TSUNETO conducted surveys throughout Japan studying the geographical distributions of phosphate ore, a raw material for fertilizers, including surveys of the Senkaku Islands and Hateruma Island in Okinawa, and the results of these surveys were reported in his book *Minaminihon no Fugen* (Rich Resources of South Japan).

This account describes an event when TSUNETO and his colleagues were conducting a phosphorous ore survey on Minamikojima Island in 1907, commissioned by Okinawa Prefecture, when he lost consciousness after accidentally ingesting the water solution of arsenious acid that was used to create stuffed specimens of seabirds. He also describes the scenes of the families departing to visit loved ones who were working as migrant workers on the Senkaku Islands.

Excerpt [English translation]

- Preparatory exploration of isolated islands in Okinawa and Taiwan
(text omitted) The islands I myself explored at this time, besides Okinawa Main Island, were Miyako Island and Ishigaki Island, as well as Kobi-sho (Kuba Island), Minamikojima Island and Kitakojima Island, and Uotsuri Island in the Sento Islands of the Senkaku Islands.

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