

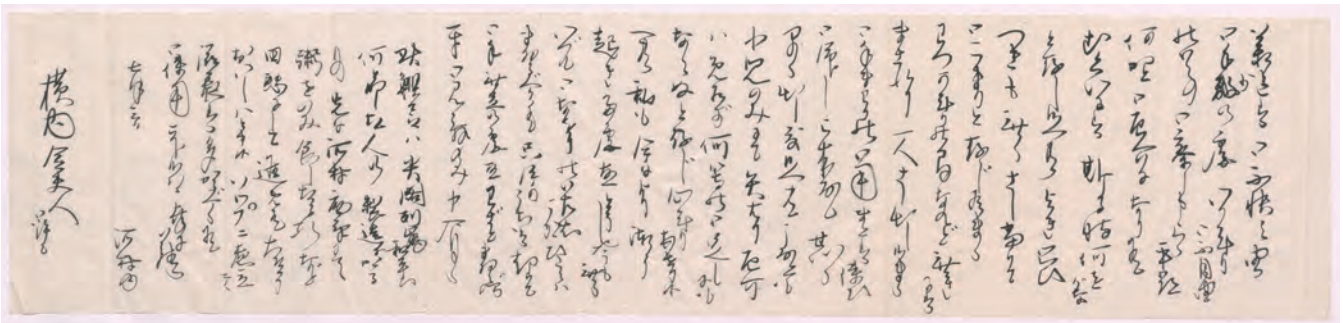
Period III (4) – Documents on the development of the Senkaku Islands

A letter showing that dried bonito from the Senkaku Islands was being used

**No.43** Letter from a family member of a former government official of Okinawa Prefecture (wife of Yasaburo KAWAMURA) to a family member of a government official of Okinawa Prefecture (wife of Tasuku YOKOUCHI)

NEW

Around 1907



Repository: Naha City Museum of History

Overview

This is a letter containing an exchange between the wives of Yasaburo KAWAMURA, an administrative official of Okinawa Prefecture, and of Tasuku YOKOUCHI, who was working in the Governor's Secretariat of Okinawa Prefecture. It is believed to have been sent from KAWAMURA's wife to YOKOUCHI's wife, inquiring after the latter's health.

The letter mentions a gift of dried bonito produced at Waheisan of the Senkaku Islands (Uotsuri Island\*1), and confirms that dried bonito from the Senkaku Islands was used in Okinawa Prefecture around 1907 (estimated).

\*1 Waheisan is another name for Uotsuri Island. (The production of bonito fish and dried bonito at Uotsuri Island began in 1905. Refer to p.73.)

Excerpt [English translation]

I learned of your illness and that you are short of help, and thought of how much discomfort and inconvenience you must be suffering. You have always taken such care of us, and I felt that we should repay your kindness at such a time. While I have not yet come up with any good plans, I believe you are surely facing difficulties finding help in the meantime. Even if it is for a short while, it will be better than not having anyone, so I will be sending one helper there. Please instruct her on any matters you need assistance with. I wish to send someone as soon as possible, but as we only have young servants, I felt that they would cause trouble instead and not be of any help, so I picked someone that I knew of who might help you. However, I, too, have only just managed to get up today and am helpless to do anything. In any case, I will call on you when I hear that you have recovered. Meanwhile, I will just send my well wishes rather than visiting in person, which would cause greater inconvenience instead.

This dried bonito was produced by someone at Waheisan of the Senkaku Islands. The other day, when KAWAMURA was ill, and could eat only rice porridge, I made *denbu* (mashed and seasoned fish, similar to *tsukudani*) with this dried bonito for him. After having some, he said that it was very delicious. If you cook it in soup and drink it, I think it will be very nourishing.

I hope you will find some use for it.

July 3

Respectfully yours, Mrs. KAWAMURA (Wife of Yasaburo KAWAMURA)

To: Mrs. YOKOUCHI (Wife of Tasuku YOKOUCHI)

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Date Created           | Around 1907   |
| Author(s) & Editor(s)  | Wife of Yasaburo KAWAMURA   |
| Publisher              | -   |
| Name of Publication    | Letter (491_H215)[From KAWAMURA's wife to YOKOUCHI's wife](The Yokouchi Family Documents) |
| Language               | Japanese  |
| Medium                 | Paper   |
| Public Access          | Available to the public   |
| Repository             | Naha City Museum of History   |
| Reference& Information | Available at the Naha City Museum of History  |