

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

Photographs of the Senkaku Islands in the Meiji Era
No.45 [Photographs of the development Uotsuri Island, Kuba Island]

FY2017/P14 1908



Private collection of Tsukasa ISHIZAWA, Okinawa postal historian

Overview

Privately owned photographs. The photos of Uotsuri Island show the same people as in the “Photograph of the Senkaku Islands in the Meiji Era (Photographs attached to “On the matter of the bestowing of Medal with Blue Ribbon to Tatsushiro KOGA”) (→No. 44). Therefore, it is assumed that these photographs were taken during the same period (1908).

Date Created	1908
Author(s) & Editor(s)	Photographer unknown
Publisher	-
Name of Publication	-
Language	Japanese
Medium	Paper
Public Access	Closed
Repository	Private collection of Tsukasa ISHIZAWA, Okinawa postal historian
Reference & Information	Follow the instruction at Senkaku Portal Website

Kuba Island

The inscription “Land clearance of Koga, Kobi-sho...” on the pillar in front of the hut (behind the third person from the right in the back row in the group photo) in the background of the photo suggests that the photo was of “Koga village” (→No. 37) taken on Kuba Island. Among the 20 men, a little girl held in one person’s arms can also be confirmed. This is a very clear photo and is interesting in that even small details such as the facial expressions of the pioneers and their clothes can be seen.



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Uotsuri Island

The above is a group photo taken at the dried bonito factory on the island. Placing a Japanese flag at the center, on the right side of the photo is a group assumed to be bonito fishermen with headbands on. The left side of the photo shows women in kimono (possibly female factory workers engaging in the dried bonito shaving business), while the men in both Japanese and Western style clothes at the center of the photo seem to be those visiting the island. The photo below shows the factory taken from the rear hill with several huts standing along the coast. The steamship sailing offshore is assumed to be the *Kyuyo Maru* of Koun Inc. (*1) that called at the Senkaku Islands at that time.

*1 A shipping company established in the Meiji era and financed by the Sho clan (the royal family of the former Ryukyu Kingdom.)