

Takeshima before WWII

Before WWII: The Incorporation of Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture and Peaceful and Continuous Exercise of Sovereignty.

Around 1900, sea lion hunting became active around Takeshima. Nakai Yozaburo, a resident of the Oki Islands in Shimane Prefecture who had engaged in sea lion hunting since 1903, became concerned about excessive competition and submitted a request in September 1904 to three government ministers (the Minister of Home Affairs, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, and the Minister of Agriculture and Commerce) for leasing Takeshima, which was called the "Lyanko Islands" at the time. Upon the request from Nakai, the Japanese Government incorporated Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture by a Cabinet decision. Based on this decision, on February 22 the same year, the Governor of Shimane Prefecture issued an official notice to name the island “Takeshima*” and put it under the jurisdiction of the Director of Oki Islands Branch Office. These announcements were also published in newspapers of the time

and widely disseminated to the general public. After that, the Japanese Government openly exercised administrative rights over Takeshima for the purpose of managing sea lion hunting, etc. For example, in 1905, the Governor of Shimane Prefecture registered Takeshima in the State Land Register and designated the sea lion hunting as a fishery activity that required a license. Shimane Prefecture also allowed sea lion hunting by having Nakai and three other experienced people form a joint company, and in 1921, it granted these sea lion hunters permission to collect seaweed and shellfish on Takeshima. Sea lion hunting by the people of Oki continued until 1941.

*Since the early Meiji period, Takeshima was called "Lyanko Island" in Japan after its western name of “Liancourt Rocks”

September 29, 1904

Nakai Yozaburo, who lived on Oki Island, submitted a request to the Government to lease Takeshima.

Nakai Yozaburo

Born in Ogamo Village, Tohaku County, Tottori Prefecture, in 1864 (Genji 1). He lived in various places including Kyushu, San'in and Hokuriku, traveled to Russia (Vladivostok), Korea and other places, and was involved in the development of marine product businesses such as sea cucumber and abalone fishing business. He also received a commission from the Oki Fisheries Cooperative Association to conduct experimental fishing.



Source: Photographs in the collection of Mitsu Kaiu

- 1903 (Meiji 36) Tried sea lion hunting on Takeshima for the first time.
- 1904 (Meiji 37) Submitted a request to the Japanese Government to lease Takeshima.
- 1905 (Meiji 38) Received permission to hunt sea lions on Takeshima.
- 1929 (Showa 4) Became the mayor of Saigo Town (until 1932 (Showa 7)).
- 1934 (Showa 9) Passed away (age 70).



January 28, 1905

Cabinet decision to incorporate Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture



February 22, 1905

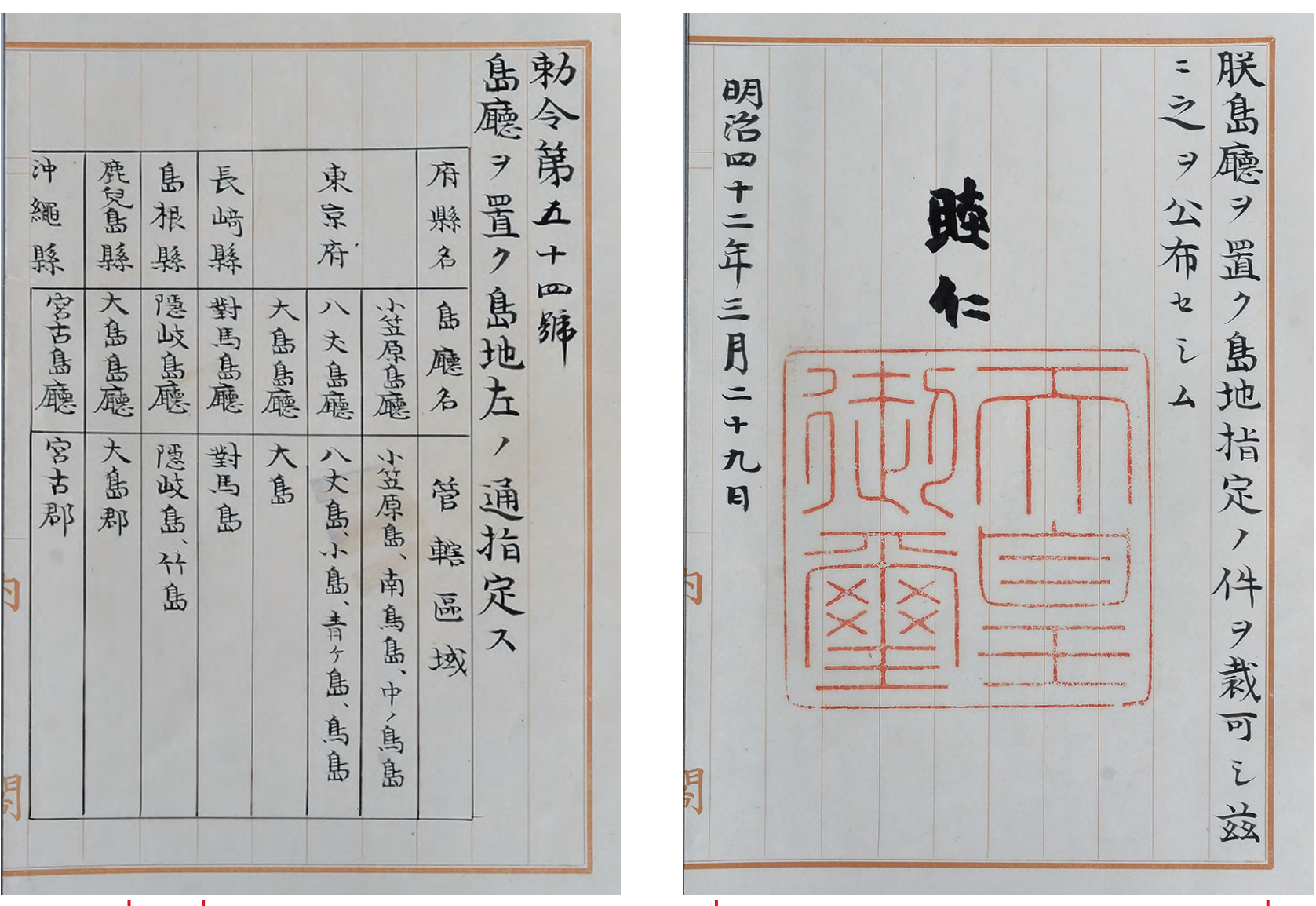
The Governor of Shimane Prefecture issued a public notice regarding the location, affiliation, name and jurisdiction of Takeshima.

Examples of the exercise of administrative authority over Takeshima (after the incorporation of Shimane Prefecture)

March 29, 1909

Takeshima was included in the jurisdiction area of the Oki Islands by an Imperial Edict

In 1909 (Meiji 42), an Imperial Edict was issued to designate the Oki Islands as one of the islands to establish the Island Branch Office and to designate Takeshima, along with the Oki Islands, as part of the jurisdiction of the Oki Island Branch Office.



Imperial Edict No. 54 of 1909
Repository: National Archives of Japan

June 5, 1905

Issue of a permit for sea lion hunting

Shimane Prefecture granted a permit to Yozaburo Nakai and others to engage in sea lion hunting on Takeshima. One permit was issued. After that, permits were issued every five years.

April 1, 1921

Permission granted to collect nori and wakame seaweed around Takeshima

Shimane Prefecture revised the Shimane Prefecture Fishery Control Regulations at the time, and decided to allow sea lion fishermen to collect seaweed and shellfish in a specified area around Takeshima.

So, the incorporation of Takeshima into Shimane Prefecture was triggered by the increase in sea lion hunting! The Japanese Government took various measures to manage Takeshima, but there was no opposition from any country!

