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YOKOHAMA CITY UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES THE LARGEST COLLECTION OF CORPORATE HISTORIES IN JAPAN

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September 16, 2014

The Largest Collection in Japan
Nagao Bunko at Ryukoku University in Kyoto Prefecture has been known in Japan as having a large collection of corporate histories. The University of Tsukuba Library comments that, “the Nagao Bunko in the Fukakusa Library at Ryukoku University holds the largest collection of corporate and organizational histories in Japan” (UTL, 2008). The University of Tsukuba is an authoritative Japanese university. In actuality however, as of 2014, the largest collection of corporate histories in Japan is not Nagao Bunko, but the collection named the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories in Yokohama City University Library & Information Center. Yokohama City University is located in Kanagawa Prefecture. The Nikkei, the most popular economic newspaper in Japan, had not covered the establishment of this corner by the 2014 AAA meeting.

Yokohama City University established the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories on October 1, 2013. The Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories holds 18,000 pieces of literature and this collection is thought to be the largest corporate collection in Japan at present. Yokohama City University Library & Information Center is promoting this collection, indicating that financial data is also included in this collection (YCULIC, 2013). The Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories is a useful collection for accounting historians.

Nagao Bunko possesses slightly fewer than 18,000 pieces of material, however, the majority of these materials are not corporate histories and includes other materials. Nagao Bunko only possesses fewer than 7,000 corporate histories (CCP, 2012). On other hand, most of the material in the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories are corporate or organizational histories.

The Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories is open to the public and researchers may not reserve to use its materials. Nagao Bunko is not open access and researchers must reserve materials if they wish to use them. Yokohama City University has permitted the use of the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories and of course, foreign researchers are also free to use this corner. The Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories is more convenient for researchers than Nagao Bunko.

Foreign researchers can reach Yokohama City University Library & Information Center from Haneda Airport by taking the Keikyu Line to Kanazawa Hakkei Station and then walking several minutes. The collection at the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories is recommended for researchers who are able to read Japanese.

Another Collection in Kanagawa
The collection that is possibly the second largest collection of corporate histories in Japan is also in Kanagawa Prefecture. This collection is in the Kanagawa Prefectural Kawasaki Library and the name of this collection is the Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor

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Union Histories. This collection is in principle open to all and researchers do not need to make reservations to use this collection. If researchers would like to go to the Kanagawa Prefectural Library after using the Corner of Corporate and Organizational History, they should ride the Keikyu Line from Kanazawa Hakkei Station to Kawasaki Station, and then take the Kawasaki City Bus. Because Yokohama City University and the Kanagawa Prefectural Kawasaki Library are located near each other, it is recommended that foreign researchers who come to Japan in order to use the Corner of Corporate and Organizational History also go to the Kanagawa Prefectural Library in order to use the Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor Union Histories.

The Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor Union holds approximately 16,000 pieces of literature. Most of this collection is corporate histories. It seemed that the Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor Union was the largest collection of corporate histories in Japan until Yokohama City University established the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories in 2008. Kanagawa Prefectural Kawasaki Library has supposed that Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor Union Histories was the largest collection of corporate histories in eastern Japan and Nagao Bunko was the largest collection of corporate histories in western Japan just before Yokohama City University established the Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories (DSIKPKL, 2013). Thus, it is considered that Corner of Corporate and Organizational Histories newly became the largest collection of corporate histories in Japan. Kanagawa prefecture is a more relevant location than Kyoto Prefecture for researchers who are looking for Japanese corporate history because the largest and second largest collections of corporate histories are in Kawasaki City.

Not-for-Profit Organizational Histories

The Corner of Corporate and Organizational History possesses more not-for-profit organization histories than Nagao Bunko and the Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor Union Histories. Some not-for-profit organization histories in the Corner of Corporate and Organizational History are rare and have never been for sale. Researchers can easily find not-for-profit organization histories by looking for the “377 Universities and Other Higher Education Institutes”, “061 Academic or Research Institutes”, and “490 Medical Sciences” tags. There is also accounting-related literature in each of the tabs above.

The Corner of Corporate and Organizational History also holds histories of private hospitals. This corner is recommended for researchers who are researching Japanese not-for-profit accounting, even if they are not accounting historians, considering that Japanese private hospitals seldom publish their accounting information.

A librarian at the Kanagawa Prefectural Kawasaki Library told me that the library basically only collects literature related to profit-oriented entities as part of the Special Collection of Corporate, Employer Organization, and Labor Union Histories. In actuality, the majority of the collection is literature related to profit-oriented entities, though there are a number of items of literature regarding not-for-profit organizations also in the collection. Nagao Bunko also has an online catalog called the Nagao Bunko Web Catalogue. There catalog contains various industry categories and also includes certain types of government organizations as categories. However, Nagao Bunko holds almost no not-for-profit histo-
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ries, and categories for the not-for-profit organizations themselves do not exist in this catalog (RUL, 2014).

It is remarkable fact that the Corner of Corporate and Organizational History holds numerous not-for-profit organization histories, considering that the Japanese not-for-profit sector is much duller than the U.S. Corner of Corporate and Organizational History. The corner is especially useful for researching Japanese not-for-profit accounting history.

REFERENCES
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RG Klein Stock Market Museum and Library
Massillon, Ohio

Rodney G. Klein was an entrepreneur, collector, educator and historian. Born in Massillon, Ohio, and educated at Western Reserve University, Dartmouth College, Columbia University and the University of California, he developed a great entrepreneurial spirit. He founded several real estate companies and taught courses in finance and the stock market at UCLA. After he retired from all active businesses in 1974, he began to travel the world in search of all things related to the market. That included books, art, games, movies and movie posters, ticker tape machines, and stock exchange paraphernalia. In 2006, he purchased a vacant federal post office building in Massillon, Ohio, to house his collection. He had great plans for developing a stock market museum and library. Unfortunately, Rodney passed away in 2009 before he was able to see his dream become a reality. The museum, a 501(c)(3), is being developed by a seven member board which is in the process of cataloging the 20,000 books, art collection and stock market artifacts. To view their progress or make an inquiry, go to rgkleinmuseum.org.

Federal Post Office Building circa 1913

Federal Post Office Building in 2014

Published by eGrove, 2014