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Forest Methods: Revised Japanese and English Translations of Sai On’s Somayama Houshikichou (山法式帳) (Collected Provisions Related to Mountain Forests)

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Abstract:
The contents of ‘Forest Methods’ can be divided into three main sections: the classification of mountain forest terrains, the care and administration of forests and descriptions of different mountain forest types, with eleven articles out of the main 19 articles devoted to mountain forest terrain. ‘Forest Methods’ begins with a discussion of terrain analysis. It divides terrain into steep mountain slope and gentle mountain slope categories and discusses the merits and demerits of surrounding mountain forest conditions including the height differences and relative distance between mountains. The purpose of this is to outline the criteria necessary in order to assess the most appropriate locations for forest planting.

The first main feature of ‘Forest Methods’ relates to the ideal configuration of terrain for the purpose of preserving the essential energy (qi) of the mountain forest, or ‘sanqi’. The most important concept outlined therein is that of ‘embraced protection’ (hougo). In ‘Forest Methods’, embraced protection is described as “the condition in which surrounding mountains serve to prevent the loss of mountain forest qi”. This ‘embraced protection’ concept can still be utilized today in bringing about environmental improvements to rural and urban areas by developing techniques that preserve qi through strategic tree planting. Such techniques were applied in early-modern Ryukyu, including roads lined with Ryukyu Pine trees, forested areas of embraced protection strategically planted to surround a village, trees strategically planted to provide embraced protection along stretches of coastline and Fukugi trees strategically planted to surround individual residences.

The second main feature of ‘Forest Methods’ is an emphasis on the importance of preserving qi from the perspective of forest care and maintenance. ‘Forest Methods’ stresses that if trees are cut down or burned down at the most critical place in the forest, known as the ‘gate of embraced protection’ (hougo), where the tips of the ridge-lines of the embraced protection mountains overlap just like the collar of a shirt overlaps when fixed, wind can enter through such man-made gaps and ultimately this will lead to the ruin of the forest. In order to preserve this vital mountain forest qi, ‘Forest Methods’ instructs that thorough maintenance work for the protection of the forest be focused on the gate of embraced protection.

The third main feature of ‘Forest Methods’ is the use of illustrations for the purpose of teaching the reader how to understand different types of mountain forests. The illustrations are of an Itajii (castanopsis sieboldii) forest in the northern part of Okinawa Island. They show forests at progressive stages from the initial growth phase through to maturity and also the impact of human involvement by showing the condition of forests in the aftermath of tree felling. Commentary is provided alongside each illustration.

I 序論 Preface

この「山法式帳」は、よく知られている「林政八書」の冒頭に出る規定集の1つで、「山奉行所規模帳」とともに、乾隆2年（1737年）に出された初期のものである。その内容構成は、山の地形区分、山の保育・管理、山の林相の3部から成る。この「山法式帳」は、一部、その内容が「山林真秘」（1768年）と重なるものもあるが、「山林真秘」については、すでに琉球大学農学部学術報告（第56号、
The contents are divided into three main sections: the published in 1737 (the 2nd year of the Qianlong Era in China) and
part of a well-known collection of provisions on Ryukyuans forestry practices called the 'Eight Writings on
Forest Administration' (Rinsei Hassho). 'Forest Methods' is the opening set of provisions in Rinsei Hassho.

The translation from modern Japanese into English by John Purves, and the digitization of the original text and layout of the current document by Bixia Chen. In terms of language order in this document, the early-modern souroubun text will be followed by the modern Japanese version and then the English translation.

II (桜山見様之事)
Aspects of Mountain Forest Terrain

First Section: Mountain Terrains and Descriptions of Mountain Forests
do overlap to a certain extent with those of the aforementioned publications that include 'The Secrets of Forestry' (Sanrin Shinpi) from 1768. Since these were discussed in detail in the introduction to our translation of 'The Secrets of Forestry' in 2009, however, we are omitting any content comparisons herein.

Forest Methods' has been published in Japanese on several occasions as part of the aforementioned 'Rinsei Hassho'. The following is not a complete list of publications that include 'Forest Methods' but is a full listing of those that were made reference to for the translation herein: 1) 'Rinsei Hassho', Doi Ringaku Shinkoukai, 1976, 2) 'Rinsei Hassho' in Sakihama Shuumei's 'Sai On Zenshuu', Honpo Shoseki Kabushiki Kaisha, 1984, 3) 'Okinawa-ken Shinrin Shisatsu Fukumeisho', Noshoumushou Sanrinkyoku Kaisha, 1990, 4) Tatetsu Shunpo, 'Rinsei Hassho', Tokyo Tosho Kabushiki Kaisha, 1937 and 5) 'Rinsei Hassho' in 'Nihon Sangyou Shiryou Taikai, Daisankan: Nouringyou', Chuugai Shougyou Shimposha, 1926.

As to the division of responsibilities for this project, the writing of the preface and abstract as well as the translation of the early-modern Japanese souroubun (souroubun) text of 'Forest Methods' into modern Japanese was conducted by Nakama Yuei, the translation from modern Japanese into English by John Purves, and the digitization of the original text and layout of the current document by Bixia Chen. In terms of language order in this document, the early-modern souroubun text will be followed by the modern Japanese version and then the English translation.

Article I
A mountain slope with a steep gradient is called a steep slope (houchi). A mountain slope with a gentle gradient is called a gentle slope (reichi). Both steep and gentle slopes can be separated into high, medium and low grades according to the angle of slope. These conditions are shown in the following illustration (Fig. 1).

Second Section: Mountain Terrains and Descriptions of Mountain Forests

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Notes:
http://ir.lib.u-ryukyu.ac.jp/handle/123456789/16827

2. 'Sonayama Houshikichou' was translated into English as 'The Wooden Mountains Method Book' and published in the 'Eight Volumes on Ryukyu Forest Administration by Saion (sic)' in 1952. United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands [USCAR]. 'Eight Volumes on Ryukyu Forest Administration by Saion'. Forestry Bureau, Department of Natural Resources, Government of the Ryukyu Islands, 1952.
The flat terrain located between two high mountains is called a valley (kanchi). A high mountain facing a gentle slope is called a facing mountain (taiji). A high mountain located behind a gentle slope is called an ancestral mountain (sozan). Two high mountains facing one another are called mutually facing mountains (aitaiji). The place where the tips of the ridge-lines of the embraced protection mountains overlap, much like the way parts of a collar (eri) of a shirt overlap when fixed, is called the 'gate of embraced protection' (hougo no toji).

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Article 4
Steep slopes are also ranked high-, medium- and low-grade. A high-grade site is where the embraced protection mountains are high and are closely grouped to the extent that there are no gaps. A medium-grade site is where the embraced protection mountains are closely grouped but there are deficiencies in the embraced protection. A low-grade site is where the qi is not in harmony as a result of the embraced protection mountains being too distant even though they are closely grouped and there are no gaps.

Article 5
Valleys are similarly ranked high-, medium- and low-grade. A high-grade site is where the valley area is expansive. A medium-grade site is where a valley is located between two gentle slopes. A low-grade site is where a valley is located between two high steep slopes.

Article 6
In terms of mountain forest terrain, gentle slopes are places in harmony with both Yin and Yang (inyou) and therefore the best choice of all possible sites. Since steep slopes are weak in Yin and strong in Yang they are the second best of all possible sites. Because valleys are weak in Yang and strong in Yin they are the third best of all possible sites.

Supplementary:
The next best location after gentle slopes, wide flat areas are good places for growing trees but because this type of land has traditionally been used for agriculture it has long been excluded from use as forest land.

The first essential step in planning a forest is to select an expansive area of land on a gentle slope. The kind of timber required for the masts of large ships is produced in wide land areas on the best possible grade of gentle slope. It is critically important that this is understood, that Kuyouzan (Cunnighamia lanceolata) and other trees are planted and that these are carefully nurtured so that they will thrive.

総合地の広い所は、たとえ抱護や対峙が無くても、樹木はそれなりに生育する。また二つの低い総合地の間（すそ）に続く広地でも、それ相対的に樹木は生育する。

Article 8
Even in the absence of embraced protection or facing mountains trees can grow well enough on an expanse of gentle slope. Additionally, trees can even grow relatively well in a valley that extends from the foot (suso) of two low gentle slopes.

第九条 對峙高抱護相廃候総地は、其頂並諸木能生春仕候。然ど総地之裔對峙近く寄詰、潤地に似掛候候は、樹木勝不申候。総地對峙之間依遠近善惡之有候。亦亦對峙卑微総地高有之候所は、對峙之頂より相下り候所は、諸木相應に生、上之方是立兼申事候。抱護之卑亦同斷候事。

第十条 総地之高之樹之豊島は、其頂上までも諸木はよく生育する。しかし、総地の璽が対峙に接近して、潤地に似たような所では、樹木の生長はよくない。総地と対峙の遠近によって、林地の善し悪しそ決まる。対峙が卑微総地が高い所で、対峙の頂上より低い総地では、諸木はそれ相応に生育する。しかし、対峙の頂上より上の方の総地では、樹木の生育は困難である。抱護と総地との頂上の高低差の場合も同じである。

Article 9
Trees grow very well all the way up to the summit of a high gentle slope with embraced protection and facing mountains. However, trees do not grow well in places that are similar to valleys where the foot of the gentle slope is in close proximity to a facing mountain. The suitability of land for forest is determined according to the distance between the gentle slope and facing mountains. Where the gentle slope is high and the facing mountains low, trees grow relatively well on a gentle slope at a point lower than the summit of the facing mountain. However, it is difficult to grow trees on a gentle slope at a point higher than the summit of the facing mountain. The same conditions apply in the case that there is a difference in height at the summit of the gentle slope and embraced protection.

第十条 峯地之内に少々嶺地相交候所も有之、亦嶺地之内に峯地相交候所も有之。其見分け可有之事。

Article 10
There are places where a few gentle slopes are found intermingled with steep slopes in an area consisting predominantly of steep slopes. There are also places where steep slopes are found intermingled with gentle slopes in an area consisting predominantly of gentle slopes. It is critically important to be able to distinguish the differences.

第十一條 総地對峙之間に卑き岳有之候は、夫と総地同前諸木能生立候、左右之峯地高立候にて、卑き岳有之候者、潤地同断にて、然々之木生立不申候。亦右総地之間廣候くて、其場所卑き岳有之候は、潤地之之上悪より相増候事。

第十二条 峯地與對峙之間之低い山があれば、そこには嶺地と同じように、諸木もよく生育する。2つの高い峯地の間に、低い山があれば、潤地と同じで、そこには意図する木は生育しない。また峯地の広い所に低い山があれば、潤地の上位の嶺地より、さらに良い。

Article 11
In the case that there is a low mountain located between a gentle slope and facing mountain trees can grow as well there as they would do on a gentle slope. In the case of a low mountain located between two high steep slopes the intended trees will not grow there since the conditions are the same as with a valley. If a low mountain is located in an expansive area between steep slopes these are actually better conditions than with the highest grade of valley.

第十三條 柘山之儀人作次第、盛衰有之候。抱護堅固相閉、諸木能立候得ば、山気相閉、諸木自然と生立延、其山盛り申積に候。亦抱護開口之諸木伐開得ば、山気相閉、山奥屈出裡諸木相傾、其次に生立候小木は、高下相立候に於て栽山と相成候。依之抱護開口の場所可成程又一番日之開口より樹木植茂候儀専一候。若然數々、百姓飯料難續候は、無是非二番抱護より可閉置候事。

附 抱護開口の場所より至山工候儀不可然候。

第十四条 柘山は手入の仕方によって、樹木が繁茂したり衰えたりする。抱護で固く閉じられて、諸木がよく生育していれば、山

7 柘山とは、近世琉球における山の大区分名の1つで、他に里山＝山野がある。18世紀の30年代から50年代の山の検地（測量）によって、それぞれの区分と面積が確定している。山の検地によって、柘山は各村ごとに区割りされ、その管理・利用の主体は村落共同体に帰属していた。柘山は主に王府御用達の用材を生産する場として、村内法や王府の森林規定等で、その利用が
気を含み、自然に著木も高く成長し、山は活気を帯びてくるだろう。抱擁の閉じ口の諸木を伐り開くと、山気が流れ、山奥まで次第に諸木が衰退し、その後に生えてくる小木は高く成長せず、終的には藪（やぶやま、雑草・雑木などが生えている荒廃した山）に成長してしまう。そのため抱擁の閉じ口の場所、できるだけ抱擁の1番外側の閉じ口から、樹木を植え茂らすことを第1に考えるべきである。もし畑の畑地が少なく、百姓が食糧生産に支障をきたすような所は、仕方がないので、1番目の抱擁の閉じ口は畑に利用し、2番目の抱擁から保護すること。

追記：抱擁の閉じ口の場所で山工（やまく、木の伐採・加工）するのはよろしくない。

Article 12
Trees in forests (somayama) can prosper or decline depending on how well they are cared for. If the embraced protection is effective by being closely grouped and trees are growing well mountain qi is accumulated, meaning that trees will naturally grow taller and the mountain will come to life. If trees are cut down at the mouth of the gate of embraced protection thereby leaving gaps, however, mountain qi will escape and trees located even in the inner part of the forest will gradually wither, resulting in the subsequent generation of young trees not growing as tall and the mountain forest ultimately deteriorating to the extent that it becomes literally a 'bushy mountain' (yabuyama).

Considering this, it is of paramount importance that trees be planted and grown as densely as possible from the first external mouth of the gate of embraced protection. In an area where agricultural land is scarce and where peasant farmers cannot produce enough food, however, there is no alternative but to use the area at the mouth of the first gate of embraced protection as agricultural land and focus on preserving the forest from the second gate of embraced protection.

Supplementary:
Tree-felling activities (yamaku) should not be carried out at the mouth of the gate of embraced protection.

第十三項 作毛之儀は土地の性質相異なる事候得共、柚山之儀は土性不相異、山形次第著木善悪有之事候。依之柚山敷地之儀は、題目山形を依時善候。然共右敷地之内山敷にして、為害不相異所著木植付候得ら、始ては立並或木木に成候得共、潮々と山気を含、次々小木よは能立延可申候間、山敷針苦之内也明地無之様に可入念事。

第13項 農作物は土地の性質を選ぶが、柚山は土地の性質に関係なく、山形の状態で樹木の生育の善し悪しが決まる。そのため柚山の敷地については、第1に山形の状態をよく調べ選定すべきである。しかし、柚山の敷地の中で山の敷地に適さない所でも、著木を植え付ければ、始めは成長が良くなく曲がってていても、次第に山気を含んで、その後、生育する幼木などは、よく成長するようになる。そのため柚山の敷地に廃い込まれた所は、空地がないように、樹木を植え付けておくべきである。
generations of young trees will come to grow and grow well. With this in mind, tree planting ought to be carried out in forest sites that are enclosed and open spaces avoided at all costs.

Article 14
If embraced protection is deficient in the four geographical points of southeast, northwest, northeast and southwest, this is an area gripped by the four diseases. Trees will not grow in that kind of place. If deficiencies in the embraced protection can be rectified in one of these geographical directions, however, the damage caused by disease can be reduced to some degree. When choosing the location of a forest site close attention should be paid to this point.

Article 15
In the case of mountain forests within which trees from large to small are uniformly superior in quality it is necessary that we be fully acquainted with the early signs of positive tree growth. Likewise, in the case of mountain forests in which trees from large to small are inferior in quality it is necessary that we be vigilant for the early signs of forest decline.

Supplementary:
When carrying out forest work it is important to keep a careful eye out for good quality growth, even with small trees.

Article 16
In terms of the distance and height conditions of embraced protection and facing mountains it is necessary to carefully assess these for oneself based on one’s own way of thinking. This is because these conditions are very difficult to adequately express in words. By physically viewing multiple forest sites while bearing in mind the contents of this document thus far one will naturally come to understand them. This is a very important point.

Ⅲ 柴山発生之事
柴山の保育・管理
The Care and Maintenance of Forests

Article 17
In the case of mountain forests which trees from large to small are uniformly superior in quality it is necessary that we be fully acquainted with the early signs of positive tree growth. Likewise, in the case of mountain forests in which trees from large to small are inferior in quality it is necessary that we be vigilant for the early signs of forest decline.
As previously mentioned with regard to the method of assessing mountain forest sites, the embraced protection conditions are of great significance. Above all, the gate of embraced protection is a critically important place through which the qi that contributes to the prosperity or decline of forests flows. If trees are cut or burned down at the gate of embraced protection the mountain qi will be able to escape and the trees of the forest will gradually decline right into its interior, the nature of the small trees will be inferior to the trees in the front row, and the forest will ultimately fall into utter decline. Being fully aware of this, it is important to pay special attention to the growth of trees at the gate of embraced protection and that dense growth is achieved in this area earlier than in other places.

When two trees are so close that they are in contact with each other it is important to be able to determine whether one of the trees needs to be cut down or whether both should be left just as they are. Branches hanging over the top of young trees must be cut and removed immediately. Moreover, at such time when peasant farmers find trees that might otherwise damage neighboring trees, they can make improvements when cutting tree branches care should be taken by forest workers that no harm comes to neighboring trees. They can then focus on the trees that do not meet the primary criteria and from among these identify trees of superior quality that are considered most likely to grow well and enter the forest they should identify trees of superior quality that are considered most likely to grow well and from among these select trees that were cut down or the mountains on which they stood.

Weeds are often removed from agricultural land, and when carried out properly this is an important factor in the good growth of grains. This basic principle is identical in the case of forests. However, the logic of this is not well understood, from local officials such as district administrators (sabakuri) and village heads all the way down to the peasant farmers who are asked to provide labor in the forests. As a result of this, trees do not grow and forests are falling into decline. In principle serving the same purpose as the removal of weeds from agricultural land, a few appropriate steps for the effective caring of forests are as follows. Firstly, when workers enter the forest they should identify trees of superior quality that are considered most likely to grow well and avoid cutting these. They can then focus on the trees that do not meet the primary criteria and from among these measure and cut down trees of the appropriate size for their timber requirements. Consonant with this principle, when cutting tree branches care should be taken by forest workers that no harm comes to neighboring trees. Moreover, at such time when peasant farmers find themselves without agricultural duties they should enter the forest in groups of 4 to 5 or 7 to 8 people to carry out important forest care work. They can make improvements by cutting and removing gnarled trees and branches or fallen trees that might otherwise damage neighboring trees. When trees are so close that they are in contact with each other it is important to be able to determine whether one of the trees needs to be cut down or whether both should be left just as they are. Branches hanging over the top of young trees must be cut and removed immediately. With a sound understanding of the ideas laid out above, and if the appropriate effort is made, young trees will grow.
naturally grow into trees of high quality and the whole forest will grow luxuriantly. Needless to say by now, perhaps, but the basic principle of removing weeds from agricultural lands in order to produce better grain is the same in the case of forest care because by removing any impediments to the growth of good trees the overall quality of the forest improves, and this holds true for a wide range of tree types, including Inumaki, Mokkoku, Okinawa Urajiorogashi, Isunoki and Ittaji, and others. This way of thinking about forest care is critically important.

If government-administered forests are cared for as laid out above it is possible for one person to look after 700-800 trees in one day or ten people look after 7,000-8,000 trees in a day. If each village is involved in this way, good timber can be accumulated in every forest and the result of this will be that regardless of the amount of tree felling forests will not fall into decline. On the contrary, tree felling to a certain extent may be a positive factor in forest care. In the past, as a consequence of there being no understanding of the rules for judging forest sites or the proper way of felling trees, gates of embraced protection were burned down and opened up, the local people neglected the care of the forest and selfishly cut down trees down. As a result, the growth of young trees was stunted, the number of gnarled trees increased, and each rank of forest dropped in quality, from high-grade forest to medium-grade forest, from medium-grade forest to low-grade, and low-grade forest became bush mountain, respectively. It is a very foolish situation that we allowed to occur, with forests dropping in quality from those of earlier times and forest workers relocating to far flung places, putting all their time and effort doing forest work there. However, if we remain attentive from now on, carry out forest work in accordance with the proper methods of forest care and administration (sanpou), young trees will grow, trees will grow even on bushy mountains (yabuya) and forest work will become easier. This, of course, means that peasant farmers will be able to carry out the work. The quality of forests in the Kunigami and Nakagami districts are now inferior to those of earlier times and this is attributable to the fact that the proper forest methods are not well understood. This inescapable fact must be carefully considered.

IV 近山樹木見模之 ghosts

Understanding Types of Mountain Forest

If government-administered forests are cared for as laid out above it is possible for one person to look after 700-800 trees in one day or ten people look after 7,000-8,000 trees in a day. If each village is involved in this way, good timber can be accumulated in every forest and the result of this will be that regardless of the amount of tree felling forests will not fall into decline. On the contrary, tree felling to a certain extent may be a positive factor in forest care. In the past, as a consequence of there being no understanding of the rules for judging forest sites or the proper way of felling trees, gates of embraced protection were burned down and opened up, the local people neglected the care of the forest and selfishly cut down trees down. As a result, the growth of young trees was stunted, the number of gnarled trees increased, and each rank of forest dropped in quality, from high-grade forest to medium-grade forest, from medium-grade forest to low-grade, and low-grade forest became bush mountain, respectively. It is a very foolish situation that we allowed to occur, with forests dropping in quality from those of earlier times and forest workers relocating to far flung places, putting all their time and effort doing forest work there. However, if we remain attentive from now on, carry out forest work in accordance with the proper methods of forest care and administration (sanpou), young trees will grow, trees will grow even on bushy mountains (yabuya) and forest work will become easier. This, of course, means that peasant farmers will be able to carry out the work. The quality of forests in the Kunigami and Nakagami districts are now inferior to those of earlier times and this is attributable to the fact that the proper forest methods are not well understood. This inescapable fact must be carefully considered.

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第20項 図のように樹木の桂が締まって林立している山は、若い山と判断すべきである。

Article 20
As shown in this illustration, a forest where the treec tops are growing in unison in this way should be judged a young forest.

第21項 右図の山は、樹木が均一に揃った初期成長の山と判断すべきである。

Article 21
A forest that appears as in this illustration where the trees grow evenly and uniformly should be judged a forest in the initial growth stage.

第22項 右図のように見える山は、樹木の成長が最前後に達した山と判断すべきである。

Article 22
A forest that appears as in this illustration should be judged a forest in which the trees have reached their maximum growth.

第23項 右図のように見える山は、樹木の成長が最高に達した山と判断すべきである。

第24項 右図のように見える山は、材木が伐採された跡と判断すべきである。

Article 23
Within a forest in which trees have reached their maximum growth stage but where gaps are clearly visible in places, as shown in this illustration, the judgment must be that these gaps show a forest in which trees have been cut down.

第25項 右図のように見える山は、材木が伐採された跡と判断すべきである。

Article 24
As shown in this illustration, within a forest in which white branchcs can be seen in places, like dead bamboo branches, although perfectly usable timber still remains this should be judged as a forest in which a significant number of large trees have been cut down.

第26項 右図のように見える山は、材木が伐採された跡と判断すべきである。
Article 25
As shown in this illustration, a forest in which the condition is that the majority of the tree branches are white, gnarled or sagging and where good usable trees are rarely found must be judged as a forest in the process of declining.

第25項　図のように木の白い枝が半分を占め、曲がったり垂れ下がった枝の状態になっている山は、利用可能な木は稀にしかなく、養えた山と判断すべきである。

第26項　図のように枯れた大枝や枯れ木などが、その他の枝木の上に飛び出して見えていれば、かなり養えた山と判断すべきである。

Article 26
If large withered branches or withered trees can be seen protruding out above other trees in the forest, as shown in the illustration, this should be judged a forest in significant decline.

第26項　図のように枯れた大枝や枯れ木などが、その他の枝木の上に飛び出して見えていれば、かなり養えた山と判断すべきである。

Article 27
As shown in the illustration, where there is dense tree foliage and the mountain appears to be covered in scrub brush and weeds, this is a forest that has fallen entirely into ruin.

第27項　図のように木の枝葉が茂り、雑草・雑木で覆われているように見える山は、養山（荒廃した山）と判断すべきである。

Article 28
As shown in the illustration, if the tree’s branches spread out in the four directions and the treetop is gnarled, this tree should be judged as one that is no longer growing.

第28項　図のように木の梢の中心が曲がり、四方に枝が広がっていても、その木はそれ以上に伸びない木と判断すべきである。

以上のことによつて、しっかり職務を遂行すべきである。

Article 29
As shown in the illustration, if the tree’s branches spread out in the four directions and the treetop is gnarled, this tree should be judged as one that is no longer growing.

第29項　図のように木の梢の中心が曲がり、四方に枝が広がっていても、その木はそれ以上に伸びない木と判断すべきである。

In accordance with everything outlined above, forest work must be carried out properly.

乾隆二年丁巳三月
March, the 2nd year of the KenriYuu [Ch’ien-lung] (乾隆二年) Era [1737]

1737年3月 (旧暦)
March, 1737 (Chinese lunar calendar)

評定所
Hyoujousho11
識名親方 Shikina Ueekata
具志頸親方 Gushichan Ueekata (Sai On)
伊江親方 Ie Ueekata

11 The Hyoujousho (Uinuzu in Ryukyu) in the case of Ryukyu was the highest decision-making body of the Royal Government at Shuri. Members of this ‘Council of State’ included the Chancellor (sessei 摂政) and Three-Member Council (sanshikan 三司) Just below the Sessei and Sanshikan in rank were the so-called ‘Fifteen Officials’ (omote jaugonin 表十五人) that consisted of the heads and deputies of the seven main departments within the two main branches of government that were the Board of Finance (Monobugyousho 物奉行所) and the Board of General Affiars (Moushikuchihou 申口方).
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山奉行
Forest Administration Bureau

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要約
この「琉珊公式帳」の内容構成は、琉山の地形の見方、琉山の保育・管理の仕方、山の林相の見方の3部から成るが、全19項目のうちの11項目は、琉山の地形解析に当てられていて。まず山の地形を大きく、急斜面から緩斜面に分け、その地形を取り囲む山の状態（山の高低差や遠近）の良否を論じている。その目的は、植林するときの適地を判断する基準を示すことにある。

その特徴の第1は、山の気を保全するための地形の配置を論じている点にある。その中で重要な観念として提示されているのが、抱護の考え方である。「琉珊公式帳」では、「山気がせれないように、山々を取り囲んでいる状態」のことを抱護と規定しているが、この規定はさらに都市や農村の環境整備に応用されて、植林による気の保全の技術へと発展していく。近世琉球における街道沿いの琉珊松並木、集落を囲む村抱護の林帯、海岸沿いの抱護の林帯、ramentoの墨敷林などは、その応用事例である。

この法式帳の第2の特徴は、琉山の管理の面での気の保全の重要性を説いている点である。抱護の山々が重なっている稜線の先端が、衣装の桟を重ね合わせたような所を、伐採したり、焼き明けたりすると、そこから風が吹き込み、終いには山が荒廃してしまう、とこの法式帳では強調する。山の気を保全するためには、抱護の閉じ口の森林の保全管理を徹底して行うよう指示している。

この法式帳の第3の特徴は、山の林相の見方を図で示している点である。その図は琉珊本島北部のイタリイの森をイメージして書かれているが、成長の初期段階から成熟した森、さらに人間によって抜き切られた状態の森林などについて、それぞれ図で示しながら解説している。