Nakama Yuei 1, John Michael Purves 2, Bixia Chen 3

1 Professor, Department of Subtropical Agriculture, the Faculty of Agriculture, University of the Ryukyus
2 Part time lecturer in Ryukyu-Okinawan History and Culture at the Faculty of Tourism Sciences and Industrial Management, University of the Ryukyus.
3 Postdoctoral Fellow, United Nations University-Institute of Advanced Studies Operating Unit Ishikawa Kanazawa

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’, 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「柾山法式帳」は、よく知られている『林政八書』の冒頭に出てくる規定集の1つで、「山奉行所規模帳」とともに、乾隆2年（1737）に出された初期のものである。その内容構成は、柾山の地形区分、柾山の保育・管理、山の林相の3部から成る。この「柾山法式帳」は、一部、その内容が「山林真秘」（1768）)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 

of a well-known collection of provisions on Ryukyuan forestry practices called the 'Eight Writings on Forest Administration' (Rinsei Hassho). 'Forest Methods' is the opening set of provisions in Rinsei Hassho.

The contents of 'Forest Methods' actually overlap to a certain extent with those of '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.

The classification of mountain forest (somayama) terrains, the care and maintenance of forests and descriptions of mountain forest types. The contents of 'Forest Methods' 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).

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 (候文) 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.

Aspects of Mountain Forest Terrain

第一項 山之急立候傍は箇地と申、亦平立候傍は箇地と申、箇地、箇地勾次第上中下有之候。其見様圖に記之。

Article 1

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

Left high mountains, and their bottom ground in such places is in the field and soil. The elevation before the high mountains is high, and the elevation after the high mountains is low. In such places, the high mountains and the mediums and high mountains are separated. The mediums and high mountains are separated from the low mountains. In such places, the high mountains and the mediums and high mountains are separated. The mediums and high mountains are separated from the low mountains. In such places, the high mountains and the mediums and high mountains are separated. The mediums and high mountains are separated from the low mountains.


2 'Somayama 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.
Forest Methods: Revised Japanese and English Translations of Sai On’s Somayama Houshikichou (Collect Provisions Related to Mountain Forests)

Article 2
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 both parts of a collar (eri) of a shirt overlap when fixed, is called the 'gate of embraced protection' (hougo no toji).

Fig. 1 Classification of Terrains

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 both parts of a collar (eri) of a shirt overlap when fixed, is called the 'gate of embraced protection' (hougo no toji).

Article 3
Gentle slopes are ranked high-, medium- and low-grade according to position. A high-grade site is where facing mountains are in a harmonious configuration, being neither too high nor too low and neither too close nor too distant, and where the embraced protection mountains are soundly configured. A medium-grade site is where the qi is not in harmony as a result of the facing mountains being too high, there being a gap in at least one place in the embraced protection mountains or that while the placement of both the facing mountains and embraced protection mountains is good they are too distant. A low-grade site is where the qi is escaping as a result of the facing mountains being too low and there being gaps in one or two places in the embraced protection mountains.

Third Article
A low-grade site is where the qi is escaping as a result of the facing mountains being too low and there being gaps in one or two places in the embraced protection mountains.
**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.

**Article 7**

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 *Kouyouzan* (*Cunninghamia lanceolata*) and other trees are planted and that these are carefully nurtured so that they will thrive.

**Note**

森林の広い所は、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。またこの低い森林の様（すそ）に続く溝地でも、それ相応に樹木は生育する。

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9項目 對峙高抱護相勝候縦地は、其頂迄諸木能盛生仕候。然ど縦地之裔對峙近く寄諸、溝地似掛り候所は、樹木勝不申候。縦地對峙之間依遠近善惡有之事候。亦對峙卑く縦地高有之候候は、對峙之頂よりも相下り候所是、諸木相應に生立。上之方は立兼申事候。抱護之卑同断候事。

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.

第十項 峯地之内に少々縦地相交候所も有之、亦縦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.

第十一項 峯地對峙之間に卑き岳有之候はぞ。夫と縦地同前に諸木能生立候。左右之峯地高立候に、卑き岳有之候者、溝地同断て、然々之木生立不申候、亦右峯地之間極しく候て、其場所へ卑き岳有之候はぞ、溝地之上敷りより相増候事。

第11項

縦地と対峙の間に低い山があれば、そこには縦地と同じように、諸木がよく生育する。2つの高い縦地の間に、低い山があれば、溝地と同じで、そこには意図する木は生育しない。また縦地の広い所にくい山があれば、溝地の上位の縦地より、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.

第十二項 檜山之儀人作次第、盛衰有之候。抱護堅固相閉、諸木能立候得ば、山気相和、諸木自然と庫立延、其山盛り申積に候、亦抱護開口之諸木伐開得ば、山気相和、山奧深深々諸木相疎、其次に生立候小木、高不相立候には豊山と相成候。依之抱護開口の場所可成程外一番目之閉口より樹木植茂候儀候申一に候。若晶数少く、百姓飯料難纏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豊山工候儀不可然候。

第12項

檜山は手入れの仕方によって、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
気を含み、自然に諸木も高く成長し、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、その後に生える小木は高く成長せず、絶えにいわば「嶽山」（やぶやま、雑草・雑木などが生えている荒廃した山）になってくる。そのため抱擁の閉じ口の場所は、できるだけ抱擁の一番外側の閉じ口から、樹木を移植茂らすことを第1に考えるべきである。もし畑の散地が少なく、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（やまやく、樹木の伐採、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 作毛の儀は土地之性相暇申事候得共、柚山之儀は土性不相稱、山形次第福田善悪有之事候。依之柚山敷地之儀は、題目山形を故吟味候、然共右敷地之内山敷にして、縫合不相称所諸植植付候得ば、始ては立兼或曲木に成候得共、漸々と山気を含、其次々小木よりは能立延可申候間、山敷針箋之内も亦明地無之様に可入念事。

第13項 農作物は土地の性質を遡るが、柚山は土地の性質には関係なく、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、諸木を植え付ければ、始末は成長が良くなく曲がった木になっていても、次第に山気を含んで、その後、生育してくる幼木などは、よく成長するようになる。そのため柚山の敷地に聞いていた所は、空地がないように、樹木を移植して付けておくべきである。

Article 13
For agricultural crops the quality of the soil is the primary determinant, but in the case of forests the relative merits and demerits of terrain condition is the preeminent factor, regardless of soil quality. Consequently, in terms of forest sites any decision on a location must be based on careful examination of terrain conditions. However, if trees are planted in a forest site that is located in an unsuitable area based on its terrain conditions, while the first generation of trees might be gnarled or may not grow out straight as the forest gradually accumulates mountain qi subsequent
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.

第十四項 泡瀬之内、晨戊丑未四ヶ所之方相欠候所は、四雄之病とて、樹木絶て盛生不仕候、其内一ヶ所にて相當候従、其病相違候、山敬見立候、此儀は能々気を可附事。

第14項
泡瀬の中で、西北、西南、東北、東南の4つの方位が欠落していたら、4つの病をかかえた場所である。そのような所には樹木は生育しない。その方位の1箇所でも存立して閉じていれば、その病は少し軽減される。山の散布を選定するときには、この事によより気をつけておくべきである。

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.

第十五項 大木より憚て小木立延素生相勝候山は、盛山之始と可心得候、亦大木より憚て小木之素生相劣候は、其山衰微之始と可心得候事。
附 至山工候侯、小木とても能立延候素生之木は相塗置候儀肝要候。

第15項
大木から小木まで全て揃って林立し、これらの木々の性質が勝っている山は、木々が盛んに成長し始めている、心得るべきである。また、大木から小木まで全て木々の性質が劣っているれば、そのような山は衰退し始めていると心得るべきである。

追記：山工するとき、小木でも成長のいい性質のものは、よく見て残して置くべきである。

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.

第十六項 對峙並抱瀬遠近高卑之列は、能々我気を以て見証可有之候。此儀は口上にて難申述候。右に記置候領條之趣を以て、山敬敬見次第、自然と可致合點候、此段可為題目事。

第16項
対峙や抱瀬の遠近、高低の状態については、自分なりの考え方にとづいて、よく見極めるべきである。この事は言葉ではよく説明できない。これまで述べてきた内容については、山の散布を数多く見ることで、自然に会得するくる。このことは大事なことである。

Item 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 柘山發生之事
柘山の保育・管理
The Care and Maintenance of Forests

第十七項 柘山之儀、山敬見様之法に申述置候通、抱瀬題目、就中其閉口は柘山盛衰之気脈に相係り、別て肝要候。然處右之閉口過ぎ伐明置候付て、山気相揺、山業委靡々相痛、小木之素生前々之木より相劣、終に柘山致衰微候。向後右之心得を以て、抱瀬閉口之樹木能々入念、別所よりも早々盛生させて儀候、可為專一事。

第17項
柘山については、山の散樋の判断の仕方で述べたように、抱瀬の状態が問題である。中でも抱瀬の閉じ口は、柘山の盛衰の気の流れにかかる非常に大切な所である。しかしながら、そのような抱瀬の閉じ口の場所を、火をつけて焼いたり、木を伐採したりすると、山気が濁れて、山業まで次第に衰退し、小木の性質を有する前々の木から劣り、終には柘山全体が荒廃してしまう。今後は、そのようなことを心得て、抱瀬の閉じ口の樹木については、特に気を付け、他の場所でも、早々に木を茂らすことを、第1に考えるべきである。

Article 17
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, the nature of the small trees will be that special attention is paid 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.

According to the Okinawa Encyclopedia, the word for "forest worker" (山工) is read 'yamakounin' and if the appropriate effort is made, young trees will 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 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 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 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 quality that are considered most likely to grow well and avoid cutting these.

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, the nature of the small trees will be that special attention is paid 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.

Article 18
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), 10 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 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 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 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 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 quality that are considered most likely to grow well and avoid cutting these.
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 Urajirogashi, Tsunoki and Ituji, 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. 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, 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 (yabuyama) 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 遠山樹木見様之事
山の林相の見方

Understanding Types of Mountain Forest
第20項 図のように樹木の梢が揃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 treecops are growing in unison in this way should be judged a young forest.

第21項 右図の様子に相見得候山は樹木稈来相揃盛初之山と可心得候事。

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 右図の様子に相見得候山は盛生相専候山と可心得候事。

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 右盛生相専候山右通所々ふけ目相見得候は其所材木伐取爲申と可心得候事。

第24項 右図の様子に竹の梢れ枝のように、所々に木の白い枝が見える山は、利用可能な木は強ければいるけれども、大木は多く切り取られた山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 右通竹之枝枝之様子に所々木自枝相見得候山は能木跡残り候得共大木多伐取候山と可心得候事。

Article 24
As shown in this illustration, within a forest in which white branches 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 右通木之白枝過半曲枝逆枝に相成候山は能木稀有之衰山と可心得候事。
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。

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26項 図のように枯れた大枝や枯れ木などが、その他の木の上に飛び出して見えていれば、かなり衰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、薫山（荒廃した山）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るれば、その木はそれ以上に伸びない木と判断すべきである。

以上のことに従って、しっかり職務を遂行すべきである。

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.

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
Hyoujousho

識名親方 Shikina Ueekata
具志頭親方 Gushichan Ueekata (Sai On)
伊江親方 Ie Ueekata

11 The Hyoujousho (Uinamza 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 三司官). 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 Affairs (Moushikuchihou 申口方).
北谷王子 Chatan Ooji

山奉行
Forest Administration Bureau

参考文献
References

崎浜秀明, 詩巣全集, 本邦書籍株式会社. 昭和59年．

瀧本誠一・向井鹿松. 日本産業資料大系(第3巻). 中外商
業新報社. 大正15年．

立津春方, 林政八書. 東京図書株式会社. 昭和12年．

琉球藩林制書 (『沖縄県森林模察復命書』所収), 農商務省
山林局. 明治39年．

林政八書(復刻版). 士井林学振興会. 昭和51年．

要約
この「沖縄森林」との内容構成は、沖縄の地理の見方、沖
山の保育・管理の仕方、山の林相の見方が3部から成るが、
全19項目のうちの11項目は、沖縄の森林解析に当てられて
いる。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。そこで重要な概念として提示され
ているのが、指紋の考え方である。「冲縄森林」では、「山
気を洗らないように、山が取り囲んでいる状態」のことを指
譲と規定しているが、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球松並木、集落を囲む
村指紋の林帯、海岸沿いの指紋の林帯、フカギの屋敷林な
どは、その応用事例である。

この法式帳の第2の特徴は、沖縄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。指紋の山々が重ねてい
る稜線の先端が、衣装の帯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
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、指紋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、山の林相の見方を円で示し
ている点である。その国は沖縄本島北部のイタジイの森をイ
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り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。