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Modern Japanese & English Translations and Content Analysis of ‘Provisions Related to Forest Planning [Somayama nitsuki Souhakarai no Joujou]’ from the ‘Eight Volumes on Forest Administration.’

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Abstract

By studying this collection of provisions we can understand three new points.

The initial point is that this is the first time forest planning for individual regions within the Ryukyu Kingdom has been mentioned. For example, because there are no areas of somayama (government-administered forest) in Agunijima, Tonakijima and Ieijima the timber requirements of these regions has to be covered using forest resources from the Kunigami and Nakagami districts of Okinawa Island. In contrast, Iheiyajima, Kumejima and Keramajima do have areas of somayama they can be entirely self-sufficient in terms of their timber requirements. In the case of Miyakojima, somayama will have to be developed there in order that it can eventually be self-sufficient in terms of timber.

The second point is that looking at the case of Miyakojima we can see that there was an extensive system of timber distribution in effect. For example, when a ship was to be built in Miyakojima it was necessary to travel to Yaeyama in order to get the required timber. Additionally, in the case of lumber required for house construction it was necessary for Miyako to purchase timber from Yaeyama or from Okinawa Island. The most expensive lumber was that purchased at high cost from local Ryukyuan maaramen or from Yamatobune out of Kagoshima. If one were to make a conjecture based on the contents of the document it would appear that by this time on Miyakojima there was already in place a system very much like a timber market with lumber transported to the islands by ship from locations within the kingdom and beyond.

The third point relates to the shift in the size of the population of Ryukyu. While in earlier times there were perhaps 70,000-80,000 inhabitants, by the time Sai On had become a sanshikan (member of the Council of Three) in 1728 the population had increased to 200,000. This population increase, along with the need for timber to build palaces at Shuri Castle or to build Chinese-style ships greatly increased the demand for wood. It is thought that this increased demand for timber was a major factor in determining the development of effective conservation and administration policies for the forest resources of Ryukyu.

Key word: 林政八書（Rinsei Hassho）, 柚山計画 (somayama keikaku), 茨温 (Sai On)

はじめに

Introduction

「就柚山専計條々」は、「ぞまやまにつき、そうはからいろのじょうじょう」と読む。簡単に言えば、柚山の計画に関する条項集である。1748年5月に御物奉行から山奉行所宛てに出されたもので、全項総8項目からなる短い条項集である。『林政八書』中、第5番目に出てくる規定で、その主内容は、琉球王国内における柚山計画の島ごとの位置づけである。

和訳に際しては、土井林学振興会の復刻版（1976）を基に、日本産業資料大系版（1926）、蔡温全集版（郷富、1984）、立津奉行版（1937）、などを参考にした。

原文からの和訳は仲間が、その英訳は John が、原文の整理を隠し、それぞれ担当した。

In modern Japanese ‘Shuu Somayama Soubakari Joujou’ can be rendered as “somayama ni tsuki, soubakarai no joujou.” In short, this is a collection of provisions related to government-administered forest planning.” It was issued in May 1748 by the Director of the Board of Finance (Omonobugyou) under the name of the Forest Administration Bureau (Yamabugyousho). It was a short collection of provisions numbering eight in total. It was the fifth book to be issued from the so-called ‘Eight Volumes on Forest Administration.’ The focus of the contents is on government-administered forest planning specific to individual island regions of the Ryukyu Kingdom.

This modern Japanese translation was based primarily on the Doi Ringaku Shinkoukai reprint edition of ‘Rinsei Hassho’ (1976), with reference made to other versions of ‘Rinsei Hassho’ including the ‘Nihon Sangyou Shiryou Taikei’ (1926), ‘Sai On Zenshu’ (Sakihama Shuumei, 1984), and Tatsuo Shunpou (1937).

1 In this case the month of May is in accordance with the old lunar calendar.
For the English translation reference was made to the ‘Eight Volumes on Ryukyu Forest Administration by Saion [sic]’ (1952).

As to the division of responsibilities for this project, the translation of the Japanese souroubun text into modern Japanese was conducted by Nakama Yumi, the translation from modern Japanese into English by John Michael Purves and the organization of the original souroubun text by Bixia Chen.

First Paragraph

1. In earlier times the Ryukyu Kingdom was inhabited by no more than 70,000-80,000 people. This meant that it was possible to procure almost all the wood required for use throughout the country domestically. Since then the population has gradually increased and it has now reached 200,000. Along with this population growth there has naturally also been an increase in demand for wood for house construction, shipbuilding, tools and other things. The construction of buildings at Shuri Castle and the building of tousen, 8 in particular, is completely impossible without timber from large trees. Unfortunately, because there was no technical guidance on the proper care of somayama 9 (somayama hoshiki) 10 in earlier days, forests were either cut down or cleared using the slash-and-burn agricultural method with little consideration, the result being that year after year there was less timber, with timber from large trees now particularly scarce. It should also be noted that it is a cause of great worry that even the somayama are approaching a state of deterioration. Because of this the post of yamabugyou 11 was created in 1735 and it was ordered that the management of somayama and the specific duties of forest-related workers would be in accordance with official instruction provided in Somayama Hoshikichou 12 and 12.

2. "Tousen" means 'Chinese ships.' There were two types: 'shinkousen' and 'sekkosen.' Both varieties of government-use ship were used for the round trip from Ryukyu to China to deliver tribute to the emperor during the Ming and Qing eras. The length of the ships was about 35.7 meters, with a width of about 9 meters. They were both Chinese junk-type vessels.

8 Chinese ships are called 'Tousen.' There were two types: 'shinkousen' and 'sekkosen.' Both varieties of government-use ship were used for the round trip from Ryukyu to China to deliver tribute to the emperor during the Ming and Qing eras. The length of the ships was about 35.7 meters, with a width of about 9 meters. They were both Chinese junk-type vessels.

9 During the Ryukyu Dynasty Era after 1737 forests were divided into two categories: somayama (strictly government-administered forests) and satoyama (forests that local people could freely use). The status of somayama was as an area of production for timber required predominantly for Royal Government use. Somayama administration was carried out at the village and magiri (county district) level under the jurisdiction of the Yamabugyoushou (Bureau of Forest Administration). Satoyama were located in proximity to village communities and were places where primarily green manure and firewood could be harvested.

10 Somayama hoshiki refers to the detailed guidance on the proper care of forests found throughout the officially issued ‘Somayama Hoshikichou [Forest Methods]’ from 1737.

11 A yamabugyou is the highest rank of forest administrator assigned to a region. According to Article 1 of ‘Yamabugyou Kimochu’ the rationale for creating the position was as follows: ‘In order to strengthen the administration of forests in these areas, therefore, we do hereby assign two yamabugyou and six hissha to the Kunigami region and one yamabugyou and two hissha to the Nakagami region. These individuals are placed under the jurisdiction of the Omonozono so as to make the administration of forests as thorough as possible.’ Within the Royal Government structure the ‘Omonozono’ was a department located in the Monobugyousho (Board of Forest Administration) responsible for matters such as finance, taxation, agriculture and forestry, commerce and industry. The Monobugyousho (Bureau of Forest Administration) was located under the umbrella of the Monobugyousho (Board of Finance) and it was a unified administrative structure for forests that worked in coordination with the forest administrators dispatched to the regions.

12 ‘Somayama Hoshikichou [Forest Methods]’ was the first collection of forest-related provisions later published as part of the so-called ‘Rinsei Hassho,’ or Eight Documents on Forest Administration.’ It was actually first issued in 1737. Its contents

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* Footnotes are not included in the natural text representation. They are part of the original document. 

**Footnotes:**

- 2. 船 (とせ)の2つ：進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 3. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 4. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 5. 神假神船（りんじかん）：1737年に出された松山法式桟の内容を指す。
- 6. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 7. 神假神船（りんじかん）：1737年に出された松山法式桟の内容を指す。
- 8. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 9. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 10. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 11. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）
- 12. 進貢船（しんこうせん）・接貢船（せっこうせん）

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*Notes:* For the English translation reference was made to the ‘Eight Volumes on Ryukyu Forest Administration by Saion [sic]’ (1952). As to the division of responsibilities for this project, the translation of the Japanese souroubun text into modern Japanese was conducted by Nakama Yumi, the translation from modern Japanese into English by John Michael Purves and the organization of the original souroubun text by Bixia Chen.
Yamabugyousho Kimochō. Additionally, a strict ban was placed on the building of kuri-fune (a type of canoe made by hollowing out large trees).

第二項

— 衣食之儀は年々人々之儀を以相調候故今より先給万人

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M*zffl

Food and clothing requirements can be provided for through the

secure their livelihoods. In the case of trees, however, the situation

from large trees, in particular, if

decades of growth timber will not be fit for use. In terms of timber

is entirely different from agricultural crops. Without several

management be regarded as of great importance to the realm.

afforestation techniques and punitive provisions. These were

types from afar. Somayama Houshikichō was issued under the

construction, the management of government-administered forests,

and one Royal Prince (called sessei). This indicates the high degree

royal troops and at least a 5,000-strong

Lord Shimazu of Satsuma permission to launch a punitive

conquered by Satsuma forces in

Kagoshima in mid-April. For the context of the conquest of

activities and the Satsuma domain. We cannot build such ships or

carry out construction on palace buildings at Shuri Castle without

use of timber from large trees. With the deterioration of the

Somayama and the lack of large trees, however, we are forced to

rely on the Satsuma domain in order to acquire such timber. This

obliged to contribute a certain amount of lumber for Royal

Government use on a yearly basis as a form of forest tax. Trees

designated as for government use were recorded in the

Gouyoubokuchō (御用木帳), or ‘Register-of-Government-Use

Trees,’ a set of documents that recorded a range of details about

the kind of trees required by the Royal Government for public

purposes. Details included tree types, locations of specific tree

types and tree trunk measurements. Individual sections were drawn

up in each of the various magiri while the entire volume of the

Gouyoubokuchō was administered by the Royal Government’s

Yamabugyousho (Bureau of Forest Administration). At such time

as the Royal Government required large lumber it assessed which

tree type was most appropriate by making reference to the

Yamabugyousho Kimocho. Additionally, a strict ban was placed

over the contents of

Somayama Houshikichō. This being the case, it is ordered that somayama management be regarded as of great importance to the realm.

included mainly technical details such as methods of selecting sites

for the plantings of government-administered forests, how to
grow for and manage forests and how to understand different forest

types from afar. Somayama Houshikichō was issued under the

joint signatures of the four highest decision-makers of the Royal Government, three individuals of ueekata rank (called sanshikan) and one Royal Prince (called sessei). This indicates the high degree of importance the Royal Government placed on the contents of Somayama Houshikichō.

13 ‘Yamabugyousho Kimochō’ (The Scope of the Bureau of Forest Administration) was issued in 1737. The Yamabugyousho Kimochō consists of thirty-one articles in total, the majority of these covering areas such as types of wood required for ship construction, the management of government-administered forests, afforestation techniques and punitive provisions. These were regulations for the use of officials with forest administration duties. Yamabugyousho Kimochō was issued under the joint signatures of the four highest decision-makers of the Royal Government, three individuals of ueekata rank (called sanshikan) and one Royal Prince (called sessei). These four individuals together constituted the Hyōjoushō (評定所), or Council of State.

In this context the type of dugout canoe is called ‘kuri-fune’ but they are sometimes referred to as ‘marukibune [丸舟],’ that is a ‘dugout canoe’ or ‘log canoe.’

15 ‘Gouyouboku’ was a term to describe lumber required for use by the Royal Government as building materials, firewood or for other special purposes. Each ‘magiri [間切]’ (county district) was

第三項

— 御御園之儀渡唐船作事不仕は不相叶且又御本殿も大材

木にて御用請不仕は不咸成儀於 най處暇状傾懸大材木相絶

候はゝ非御御園元へ請相越材木代料並積積持願資をも相授等

候至其時は御所帯方必至と当景懸不咸成儀然と諸上の百姓へ

出米出銭大分被仰国天下及時野候儀必定候右之御計得を

以永代之御爲に拙山大切に被仰渡御事候

第3項

1.琉球国は中国に渡る唐船の建造ができなければ、国を

してやられていくけ。その上にまた全島域も大材木でなければ

建築できない。それにのに拙山が荒廃して大木材がくわ

しないうちに、きっと薩摩に願ざるを得なくな、そのた

めの材木代金やその運賃支払でも支払うことになる。その結

果、王府の御所帯方(財務担当部署)に負担がかりか、も

し財政難に陥れば、自然と士族や百姓などに出米や出銭の形

で賂賄することになる。そうなると国上層から下層の人々

に至って、困窮するのは避けられないことである。そうなら

ないように計画を立て、将来のために拙山を大切にするよう

命じているのである。

Article 2

Food and clothing requirements can be provided for through the annual labor of the people. As such, and even if the population increases by 100,000 in the future, we will suffer no shortages of food and clothing as long as crops are grown according to the proper field cultivation practices and as long as people toil away to secure their livelihoods. In the case of trees, however, the situation is entirely different from agricultural crops. Without several decades of growth timber will not be fit for use. In terms of timber from large trees, in particular, if 70-80 years or even 100 years is not allowed for proper growth the wood will not be fit for use as gouyouboku. This being the case, it is ordered that somayama management be regarded as of great importance to the realm.

13 ‘Yamabugyousho Kimocho’ (The Scope of the Bureau of Forest Administration) was issued in 1737. The Yamabugyousho Kimochō consists of thirty-one articles in total, the majority of these covering areas such as types of wood required for ship construction, the management of government-administered forests, afforestation techniques and punitive provisions. These were regulations for the use of officials with forest administration duties. Yamabugyousho Kimochō was issued under the joint signatures of the four highest decision-makers of the Royal Government, three individuals of ueekata rank (called sanshikan) and one Royal Prince (called sessei). This indicates the high degree of importance the Royal Government placed on the contents of Somayama Houshikichō.

14 御所帯方 (ごしょたいほう)：王府行政機構の物奉行所の1

部門で、計画及び地方産物出納に関わる事務を統括する。

15 Located in Kyushu, Japan, Satsuma-han (薩摩藩) was one of the most powerful of Japan’s Edo-era feudal domains. Ryukyu was conquered by Satsuma forces in 1609 and was thereafter under the control of the Satsuma domain. In 1606, Tokugawa Ieyasu gave Lord Shimazu of Satsuma permission to launch a punitive expedition against the Ryukyu Kingdom. Commanding General Kabayama Hisataka set sail from Yamagawa Port in Kagoshima on 4th March 1609 with a military force of about 3,000 Satsuma troops and at least a 5,000-strong supporting cast of laborers and sailors in 100 ships. Satsuma forces finally took control of Shuri Castle on 5th April, returning with Ryukyu King Shou Nei to Kagoshima in mid-April. For the context of the conquest of Ryukyu by Satsuma, the military operation itself and its aftermath see: 安里達, 高良倉吉, 田名真之, 豊見山和行, 西里香行, 真栄
requires us to pay for the cost of the timber itself and transportation costs, thereby placing a financial burden on the Royal Government’s Shotaihou. Should we find ourselves in financial difficulty it will naturally result in us imposing rice or coin payment demands on aristocrats, peasant farmers and others. If that were to happen it would necessarily bring hardship to people at both the upper and lower strata of society in our country. We must therefore impose a financial burden on the Royal Government.

Article 4

Palace buildings at Shuri Castle have so far been rebuilt once every twenty years using various types of trees. It is a well-known fact that this has become a significant burden on the Okurahou as well as on aristocrat and peasant farmer alike. From now on, the plan being to use Inumaki in future not just for buildings at Shuri Castle but for other official government buildings that were constructed using other types of trees. Accordingly, it is ordered that the planting of Inumaki trees in particular be carried out with great care.

Article 5

Because these islands naturally lack mountain areas appropriate for forest planting we plan to provide for their wood requirements using timber produced in the somayama of the Kunigami and Nakagami districts of Okinawa Island.

Article 6

Therefore, the palace buildings at Shuri Castle have been rebuilt once every twenty years using various types of trees. It is a well-known fact that this has become a significant burden on the Okurahou, as well as on aristocrat and peasant farmer alike. From now on, the plan being to use Inumaki in future not just for buildings at Shuri Castle but for other official government buildings that were constructed using other types of trees. Accordingly, it is ordered that the planting of Inumaki trees in particular be carried out with great care.

Article 6

Because these islands naturally lack mountain areas appropriate for forest planting we plan to provide for their wood requirements using timber produced in the somayama of the Kunigami and Nakagami districts of Okinawa Island.

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Because these islands naturally lack mountain areas appropriate for forest planting we plan to provide for their wood requirements using timber produced in the somayama of the Kunigami and Nakagami districts of Okinawa Island.
山の境界を区分し、桜山の仕立て方について、特別に実行させていた。桜山さえ仕立てでなければ、この島の船の建造や家
の建築などは、他所に頼む事は出来ないので、ところが、このごろ船の建造は八重山島に限って、未木を注文して
を作っている。さらには屋根建築用の未木も八重山島から買い
取り、あるいは沖縄本島より売取り、また在日船23に馬
船24からも高価で買い取りている。そのため次第に出費が
多くなり、その島の損失になっている。結局、このことは古
島に桜山が無いためである。このことから新たに規則を設
けて、桜山の仕立て方について、詳しく申し渡してある。

Article 7

Miyakojima

No proper assessment of the location and extent of mountain areas
appropriate for forest planting in Miyakojima had ever been
carried out. However, there are substantial expanses of the island
covered with Susuki Grass. We have now classified the extent of
mountains on Miyakojima and have put great efforts into
developing somayama at appropriate locations. If we are able to
successfully plant and grow somayama here it will be possible to
build ships, construct houses and other buildings on Miyakojima
without the need to rely on other places for wood. In terms of
shipbuilding, however, vessels are currently made from lumber
now being developed at appropriate locations. If we are able to
build ships, construct houses and other buildings on Miyakojima
without the need to rely on other places for wood. In terms of

第8項

1. 八重山島

この島は現在人口が少なく、山の面積はかなりある。それ
でこの島の用木をまかなう分だけなら、特に不足するような
ことはない。沖縄本島には国頭・中頭地方の桜山だけがあっ
て、御用木の要請も多く、極めて人口密度も高い。その上、
栗国島・渡名喜島・伊江島などの用木までも確保しなければ
ならないので、これから先、国頭・中頭地方の桜山だけでは
調達できない事態も起こり得るのではないかと、とても心配
しているところである。幸いなことに、八重山島には桜山の
面積が広くあるため、これから先ずと、沖縄本島の桜山の
補助として位置づけられる。そこで八重山島の桜山について
は、特に森林の育成に力を入れるよう強く命じてある。

Article 8

Yaeyamajima

The current population of Yaeyama is small and the area of
mountain substantial. As such, this amount of mountain can cover
local timber requirements and in particular ensure that there will be
no timber shortage. Somayama is currently only found in the
Kunigami and Nakagami districts of Okinawa Island, but the
number of requests for goyouboku are many and the population
density there is extremely high. Additionally, because these
districts must cover the timber needs of islands such as Agunijima,
Tonakijima and leijima the possibility that somayama of Kunigami
and Nakagami may not alone be able to meet these requirements
is extremely worrying. Fortunately, given the expansive area of
somayama now being developed in Yaeyamajima, in the years
ahead this will become an area that can supplement the somayama
of Okinawa Island in terms of supplying timber. Accordingly, it
is ordered that great effort be put into the specific task of cultivating
somayama in Yaeyamajima.

21 大和船（やまとふね）：近世期に鹿児島と琉球の海運に従事し
た船のこと。船主は鹿児島の商人で、船頭も鹿児島の人が多
かった。
22 馬船（まねんせん）：シン式ジャンク型の船内船で、大きさ
は5〜8反帆船。
23 Ships engaged in transport and trade between Ryukyu and
Kagoshima (Japan) during the early-modern era. The ship owners
were Kagoshima merchants so the majority of the crew were also
from Kagoshima.
24 The Maaransens were Chinese junk-type vessel commonly used around Okinawa for (people and)
cargo transport, particularly in the north of Okinawa Island where
the road network was very limited. In urban Naha these vessels
were also referred to as ‘Yanbarusen’ (巻原船), presumably
because of their popularity in northern Okinawa Island. The
Maaransens had sails of 5-8 tan in size. 1 tan (反, a measurement
for cloth or fabric) = approximately 10.6 meters.
25 In this case the month of May is in accordance with the old lunar
calendar.
御物奉行
御物奉行
Oonobugyō

渡川親雲上
渡川親雲上
Hamakawa Pechin

山内親雲上
山内親雲上
Yauchichi Pechin

安里親方
安里親方
Asato Ueekata

山奉行所
山奉行所
Yamabugyousho

(Bureau of Forest Administration)

概要

この規定集から、新たに知り得た点は3つある。
1つは琉球王国国内における地域ごとの森林計画が、初めて述べられている点である。例えば、粟国島、渡名喜島、伊江島には柴山の面積がないので、沖縄本島の国頭・中頭地方の柴山の森林資源に依存することをしている。伊平屋島、久米島、慶良間岛などの柴山の面積があるので、「島内で利用材の自給体制をとることにしている。対古国の場合は、島内の柴山を仕立てさせて、島内で利用材の自給を行う。沖縄本島では、柴山の面積が広くあるので、柴山の利用材自給はもっととも、沖縄本島の自給林という位置づけになっている。

2つは、対古国の例だが、木材の流通が広範囲に行われていた点である。たとえば、船を建造するときに、わざわざ対古国から八重山に渡り、その地で木材を調達して作っている。また家庭建築用材を八重山から沖縄本島へ買い取り、さらに鹿児島県の太郎船や沖縄の馬箒舎などから高価で購入している事がみられる。これらのことを推測すると、このころには既に対古国では、島外から船で運ばれる木材が流通し、木材市場らしくものが形成されていたように読み取れる。

3つは、琉球の人口規模の推移についてである。以前は7～8万人の人口規模であったが、対古国の三寺時代には、すでに20万人規模に達している。この人口増加が、造船用材や首里城建築用材と合わせて、木材の需給を引き上げ、その結果、琉球国における柴山の森林資源の保全管理の在り方を決定づける大きな要因になっていた、と考えられる。

参考文献


