

Muse Newsletter No. 53

Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace

Publisher: Japanese Citizens Network for Museums for Peace
Editors: Ariyuki Fukushima, Ikuko Shimizu, Kazuyo Yamane & Ikuro Anzai
Translators: Miki Otsuka & Kazuyo Yamane
Illustrators : Erico Tosaki & Pegge Patten
Contact: musejapankyoto@gmail.com

Museum for Peace Activities

Exhibition Hall - Fukuryu Maru Voyage on the Internet

Tokyo Metropolitan Daigo Fukuryu Maru Exhibition Hall Kazuya Yasuda

Around March 1, the 70th anniversary of the Bikini Incident, there was a flurry of coverage and reports by media outlets, with columns and editorials covering the event and feature articles. Media coverage of the exhibition hall alone included the Chugoku Shimbun, Asahi, the same newspaper for elementary, junior high, and high school students, Mainichi, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Chunichi, Kyodo, Jiji, Yomiuri, NHK, Shizuoka Daiichi TV, and Ryukyu Shimpō (online).

The Fukuryu Maru's voyage of exposure to radiation is being reported from the exhibition hall in the style of a logbook, starting with the announcement by the United States on January 8, 1954 that it would conduct nuclear tests in the Pacific region in the spring, the departure of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru from Yaizu on January 22, an encounter with a hydrogen bomb test at 6:45 am on March 1, and the fall of ashes of death.... The people of Marshall Rongelap Island..." and other events, with illustrations, are being posted on Instagram and Facebook under the title of "The Fukuryu Maru Voyage." We will continue to post these stories on Instagram and Facebook until January 4 in 2024 (the day when the U.S. and Japanese governments signed an agreement on January 4 in 1955: the so-called "political settlement").

This project is promoted by young curators and university students of the museum. More than a dozen student volunteers (graduates) are participating in the exhibition. They are responsible for applying chemicals to the engines, removing soot from the hull, and working at events as staff, as well as learning about nuclear issues and radiation exposure and conducting fieldwork. Together with the volunteer guides, who are mostly veteran retired faculty members, they are the force behind the museum.

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In the Marshall Islands, a government-sponsored memorial ceremony is held every year on March 1. This year, as it was the Memorial Year, a representative of the U.S. government attended the ceremony (usually the U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands). A one-thirtieth scale model of the Daigo Fukuryu Maru, which was

handmade by former crew member Matashichi Oishi and presented to the survivors in the Marshall Islands, was displayed at the event. Several Japanese media companies, including Kyodo and Chugoku Newspaper, came to cover the event, reporting on the serious situation of radiation exposure and the rising sea level caused by the climate crisis. On this occasion, Mr. Seiichiro Takemine (professor at Meisei University and member of the museum's expert committee), students from his seminar, young people in Hiroshima working for peace, and student volunteers from the museum also traveled to Majuro to interact with local young people who were learning about the damage caused by the radiation exposure.

The Bikini Incident caused extensive damage not only to the Fukuryu Maru but also to a wide range of other vessels. There are many issues to be addressed, such as the ongoing lawsuit by former fishermen in Kochi Prefecture against the government, and the need to uncover truth, record, and pass on the damage caused by the Bikini Incident. We would like to promote our awareness of the postwar nuclear development and its damage (Hibakusha in the world) by incorporating it into our special exhibitions and permanent collection, and by connecting with researchers in Japan and abroad.

(Translated by Miki Otsuka)



Juichi Yamagiwa speaks at the "March 1 Bikini Commemoration Rally" on March 3.



Video message from Ms. Ariana Tibon, Representative of the Nuclear Commission, Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to the Gathering

Unobtrusive Exhibits: Peace Museum and Literary Works

Peace Aichi Yutaka Maruyama

It goes without saying that “museums let objects themselves talk.” However, if there are no captions at the history-related museums, especially for peace museums, the objects themselves cannot be understood. No one will read the caption of Unit 731 at the Iida City Peace Museum if it is just an endorsed precedent. There is also a concern that the museum can not convey the historical facts if it surmises the neutral stance and stands both sides of the story. That is why captions are especially important at the peace museums.

Peace Aichi has a small corner, “War and Literature,” which is unobtrusive and even our guides pass without noticing it. The highlight of the exhibit is how it displays the objects to visitors who have never read the works and how the captions introduce them. This exhibit is almost ignored, buried and hidden, but I appreciate it as a bright spot in Peace Aichi that cannot be found in other peace museums.

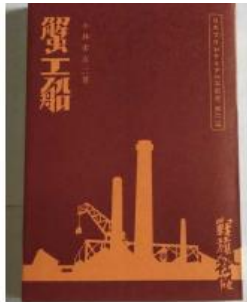


Here we would like to introduce the explanatory captions of five works by four authors introduced in the "War and Literature" section at Peace Aichi: Takiji Kobayashi, Ashihei Hino, Tatsuzo Ishikawa, and Yuriko Miyamoto. Although these have lots of explanation, I hope that they interest any one of visitors. The exhibited works are *The Crab Cannery Ship (kanikosen)* and *March 15, 1928* by Kobayashi, *Barley and Soldiers* by

Hino, *Soldiers Alive* by Ishikawa, and *The Banshu Plain* by Miyamoto. In particular, a magazine *Chuo Koron*, which was banned in 1938 for its reportage of the Nanjing Incident, is a rare and precious exhibit, and we sense the intelligence of the contributor.

【Introduction of the explanatory captions】

(1) 'Hey, we go to hell!': *The Crab Cannery Ship* 'Don't Forget March 15'; *March 15, 1928*



蟹工船初版復刻本* (1929.9)

Reprint of Takiji Kobayashi's first edition on September 25, 1929 (Published by Holp Shuppan Publications, Ltd. in April 1980)

The Crab Cannery Ship has drawn young people's interest in today's Japan, where disparity and poverty issues are on the rise. *March 15, 1928* is also collected in this edition. At the end of *The Crab Cannery Ship*, Takiji's insight into capitalism is evident: "This piece is a page of 'A History of Capitalist Intrusion in the Colonies'."

March 15, 1928 is the first novel to thoroughly expose the brutality of the Special Higher Police in the March 15 Incident. Takiji concluded his work with "Don't Forget March 15." This piece triggered the massacre of Takiji.

(2) Depicting the Japanese Army in China; Ashihei Hino; *Barley and Soldiers*



Published by Kaizosha on September 19, 1938.

In order to wipe out and beautify the barbaric image of the Japanese soldiers, the Japanese Army had Ashihei Hino who won the Akutagawa Prize (Japanese literary award) while serving in the war write *Barley and Soldiers* to replace Ishikawa. Hino said, "I must not write about the defeat of the Japanese Imperial Army. I must not write about the dark side of the war nor about women. I had to write about the enemy in a hateful and unpleasant manner." While struggling about this, Hino kept realism in the form of a "diary of his service in the Battle of Xuzhou."

(3) Hard-to-find *Chuo Koron* of March 1938; published by Chuo Koron Co., Ltd. in 1938.



ピースあいも所蔵の『中央公論』

From the end of 1937 to January 1938, Akutagawa Prize-winning author Tatsuzo Ishikawa visited the battlefields of China, and soon after his return to Japan, he wrote *Soldiers Alive* in *Chuo Koron*, exposing the barbaric acts by the Japanese Imperial Army in Nanjing (Nanjing Incident). Fearing that the magazine would be banned, the editor-in-chief countered in advance by omitting some parts of Ishikawa's work, but the magazine was banned on the same day. This March edition is a rare copy that had disappeared from bookstores. For this work, Tatsuzo Ishikawa and others involved with *Chuo Koron* were sentenced to four months in prison, suspended for three years.

(4) First postwar edition with the restoration of the omitted parts; *Soldiers Alive*, Tatsuzo Ishikawa



戦後(1945)の伏せ字復元初版本

Published by Kawade Shobo on December 20, 1945.

The complete version of Ishikawa's work *Soldiers Alive* was published four months after the end of the war, and 50,000 copies were printed. The manuscript was confiscated and disappeared, but Ishikawa managed to publish it by secretly concealing the first draft of the book. After the war, the public became aware of the fact of the Nanjing Massacre through reading this first edition. At the same time, the public understood Ishikawa's conscience as a writer who continuously wrote while preparing to have his work banned during the war.

(5) August 15 depicted by Yuriko Miyamoto; *The Banshu Plain*



Published by Kawade Shobo on April 15, 1947.

Projecting the author as the main character of the story, the work depicts "what wars, human beings, and beauty are." It says "The air was ablaze with the blazing heat of midday in August, and both the arable land and the mountains were enveloped in a boundless heat. But there was not a single sound in the village. The whole village was silent and voiceless. Hiroko felt it all over her body. From noon to 1 p.m. on August 15, while the whole of Japan was silent and still, history turned its huge pages without a sound."

It is an excellent portrayal of the historical turnaround and outlook.

【Connection with high school history education】

The names of the four authors and parts of their work appeared in high school history textbooks or resource books before the new education curriculum was introduced. One teacher tried to approach the Nanjing Massacre by using Ishikawa's *Soldiers Alive* with its omitted version as a teaching material, while making students think about the omitted parts. Another practice about Hino's *Barley and Soldiers* had students listen to the singer of the time, Rintaro Tokai, singing "Xuzhou, Xuzhou and the human and horse proceed," and tracing the Xuzhou Operation from a map of continental China. This Japanese language class made students learn from Ashihei Hino, who pursued realism on the battlefield to the limit.

One Japanese language teacher had the students read about the event of August 15, 1945 from a collection of documents, which was depicted in Yuriko Miyamoto's *The Banshu Plain* and had them think about how the people of Asia faced this day. The class expanded on the truth of the war, including Miyamoto's love for her husband, who opposed the war of aggression and was imprisoned under the Security Law, and her hope for a new history.

However, under the new curriculum (a combination of world history and Japanese history), such class activities are hardly practiced. From now on, we expect students to learn on their own initiative. The first step is to strengthen collaboration between museums and educational institutions. For this purpose, relearning is essential for not only school teachers but also museum personnels.

(Translated by Miki Otsuka)

Workshops in Okinawa and in Hawaii

Himeyuri Peace Museum

Noriko Koga, Curator

In FY2023, in cooperation with high schools in Okinawa and Okinawa Prefecture, we held four workshops for high school students to convey the message for peace to their peers. This was the first initiative aimed at having students who took the workshops pass them on to other students. Since many schools in Okinawa hold panel exhibitions and special classes on the Battle of Okinawa in June, students at Koyo High School used the museum's loaned panels to guide them through the exhibition. At Nanbu Commercial High School and Yaese High School for Special Needs, students from the library committee facilitated the workshops for all classes. Through the experience of communicating, the students deepened their understanding of the Battle of Okinawa and felt the difficulty and importance of communicating. Students who listened to the lectures commented that it was easy to understand them because they had questions similar to their own, and that it made them want to know more about the subject.

As a related project to the special exhibition "Himeyuri and Hawaii," a workshop was held on January 12 at the West Oahu library of the University of Hawaii. Fourteen participants, including university students, school teachers, and veterans, engaged in lively discussions. On January 13th, we held a workshop with third graders at Rainbow Gakuen, a Japanese school in Hawaii. One of the students commented, "In my regular classes, I

was always struggling to remember the history of the war, but in this workshop, I realized how important it is to think from the heart and consider the feelings of those who experienced the war.



Workshop at Koyo High School



Workshop at West Oahu Library of the University of Hawaii
ハワイ大学西オアフ校図書館でのワークショップ

Sumida Ward Heritage Museum: Recent News

Seishi Ishibashi: Curator

As in previous years, from August to March, we have been exhibiting U.S. air raid experience paintings as a permanent exhibit. On March 2, 2024 (Sat), we held a gallery talk by an air raid survivor, which was not held since the museum was temporarily closed in March 2020 to prevent the spread of the new type of coronavirus infection. The talk was held for the first time in about five years, since August 2019. The museum's gallery talk began in fiscal 2005 in conjunction with the exhibition of air raid experience paintings from the museum's collection, and there is a meeting where the person who drew the painting talks about his/her air raid experience. Since then, the event has continued as an opportunity for people other than those who drew the paintings to talk about their experiences.

This time, we invited Mr. Nobuyasu Kato, who was scheduled to speak in March 2020. Mr. Kato lived in a house in Ryogoku whose landlord was Ekoin, and the grounds of Ekoin were his main playground. He had three siblings, an older brother and a younger brother. Their parents fled separately, the elder brother fled with his father, and the younger brother and Mr. Kato fled with their mother. They survived the raging fire and were able to gather together the next morning without missing a single person. Instead, they were finally unable to attend the current Ryogoku Elementary School, which they were scheduled to enter in one month, and have not been able to attend to this day.

Another rare document that remains is a photo of his parents and younger brother with local residents on the morning after the air raid. It was taken by Mr. Tetsuro Kudo of Kudo Photo Studio, which had set up store near the house, and was taken in front of Ryogoku Station so that people from the same neighborhood association could take the picture before they were torn apart. On the day of the talk, he placed an enlarged and panelized version of the photo next to him.

The gallery talk was followed by a spring-only Peace Memorial Concert, and Mr. Kato was interviewed by a newspaper company. 50 or so guests attended the event.

In addition, about half of the 25 elementary schools in the ward hold peace assemblies around March 10 when Tokyo was air raided by the U.S. bombers and over 100,000 people were killed. We also dispatched lecturers to 9 schools to share their experiences there, and a total of 11 people shared their stories. School-wide assemblies are also returning, and more than half of the current students at many schools heard the stories. We will continue to receive similar requests until next year, and from the year after next, we hope to maintain as many opportunities as possible for the experiencers to speak, while also creating other programs. In addition to sending experiencers, I went to two schools to speak.



The 17th Workshop of the "Passing on the War Experiences at Peace Museums" Project

Utoro Peace Memorial Museum: How to preserve the history of life and movement

**Steering Committee Member, Peace Education and Research Institute,
Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University
Junko Kanekiyo**

This project in the Peace Education and Research Institute, Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan University, holds workshops to introduce practices and examine the challenges and possibilities of peace museums today, when the main axis of transmission of war experience is shifting from "non-experiencers to non-experiencers". In recent years, we have received reports on the "Colonial History Museum" (Korea) and the "Kitakyushu City Museum of Peace".

The 17th Workshop "Utoro Peace Memorial Museum - How to Preserve the History of Life and Movement" (Tuesday, February 20, 2024) featured presentations by Sohn Katada Aki (Department of Industrial Sociology, Ritsumeikan University) and Eunhwee Jeone (Osaka Public University).

In the Utoro area, where Korean laborers who were recruited to build airfields during the war failed to return home and continued to live, residents were forced to leave their homes due to land ownership issues, and with the support of Japanese and Korean citizens, they fought against the eviction. The Peace Memorial Museum appeals for human rights and peace through this history, but the construction of the Peace Museum, the brainchild of a blogger, and the creation of a museum with an emphasis on community, show how a new type of peace museum is being built. The exhibit, which focuses on living history, is developed with an emphasis on individual voices, but even so, the speakers talked about issues such as the challenges of having a master narrative that comes to the forefront, based on their experiences in creating the exhibit. Video of this workshop is available for viewing upon request; please register by the end of March. (To sign up, go to jkanekiyo@gmail.com)

Photo Exhibition of Ahagon Shoko

**Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels
Yukinori Okamura, Curator and Managing Director**

Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels has held the special exhibition "Ahagon Shoko: Photography, Resistance, and Island People" from February 23 to May 6, 2024. After the Battle of Okinawa, Ahagon joined with local farmers in nonviolent resistance over U.S.-occupied land on Iejima Island. Using the only camera on Iejima Island, Ahagon began documenting the island in photographs from 1955 to record the damage caused by the U.S. military, while taking numerous portraits and photographs of the islanders' daily lives.

In 1984, Ahagon built the "Wabiai-no-Sato." It is a community base consisting of two facilities; one is the "Yasuragi-no-Ie," where everyone, including people with disabilities, elderly, and children, can help each other to engage in productive activities according to their capacities, and the other is "Nuchido-takara-no-Ie (Life is Treasure House)," an anti-war peace museum. The artist couple Maruki Iri and Maruki Toshi also visited Iejima Island when they worked on the paintings "The Battle of Okinawa" and met with Ahagon to listen to his story.

This special exhibition was planned by curator Kohara Masashi and supported by the Ahagon Shoko Research Association, Tokyo Polytechnic University, and photographer Obara Sawako. Approximately 350 new digital prints were produced from over 3,000 negatives. The total number of exhibited materials exceeds 400. This is the first exhibition of Ahagon's photographs outside of Okinawa Prefecture, and is a significantly important opportunity as well to consider the current U.S. military base issues in Okinawa.



From the Photo Exhibition of Ahagon Shoko

(Translated by Miki Otsuka)



Erico

Review

Public Order Maintenance Law and Senji Yamamoto

Ikuro ANZAI

(Representative of the Erection Committee of the Monument to Poet Yun Dong-Ju)

On January 25, 2024, 32 professors and administrative staff from 15 universities from the Council of Korean Universities visited the "Poet Yun Dong-ju Monument of Memory and Reconciliation" as part of their Japan training program. The monument was erected in 2017 along the Uji River by the "Poet Yun Dong-ju Monument Erection Committee". The original tour schedule did not include a visit to the monument, but a contact person of the program living in Japan learned about the monument online and changed their plans to visit the monument. While studying at Doshisha University, Yun Dong-ju was arrested on charges under the Public Order Maintenance Law after his conversations in Korean language with his cousin Song Mong-kyu were perverted into "secret discussions on the Korean independence movement". He was sentenced to two years in the Kyoto District Court and then died a suspicious death in Fukuoka Prison at the young age of only 27.

On this day, the group from Korea visited the nearby "Hanayashiki Ukifune-en" to learn about Senji

Yamamoto, who was assassinated for his opposition to the Public Order Maintenance Law. Hanayashiki is the family home of Senji Yamamoto. The following is an explanation by Mr. Ikuro Anzai, a representative of the Monument Erection Committee.

You are now at "Hanayashiki Ukifune-en," a cooking inn where Senji Yamamoto, who was assassinated at the young age of 40 for his opposition as a Diet member to the so-called "Public Order Maintenance Law," a rare evil law in prewar Japan, had been the owner for two years before his death.

Japan had a bad law called the Public Order Maintenance Law from 1925 to 1945, sometimes translated into English as the Peace Preservation Act, but in reality it was a "political suppression law". It was a law that could punish those who plotted to change the country's political system or deny the capitalist system of private property. Later this afternoon, you visit the monument to the Korean poet Yun Dong-ju, who was also a victim of the Public Order Maintenance Law.

The main purpose of the Public Order Maintenance Law was to prevent socialist and communist forces from gaining a foothold in parliament through the universal suffrage system introduced at the same time. The Public Order Maintenance Law, which eventually added the death penalty as the maximum penalty, was also used to suppress political movements, pacifists, and new religions.

In order to reflect the will of the people in politics, the system to elect members of the Diet was initiated in Japan in 1890, the year after Senji Yamamoto was born. According to the "House of Representatives Election Law" established at that time, voters who had the right to elect members of the Diet were limited to "men aged 25 or older who had paid at least 15 yen in national tax," and only 1.1% of the population (about 450,000 voters) were eligible. In addition, the right of suffrage to run for the Diet was limited to "men 30 years of age or older who had paid at least 15 yen in national tax." In 1900, the tax payment was lowered from 15 yen to 10 yen, but the essence of the law remained the same.

Eventually, a movement began to move forward for a "universal suffrage law" that would allow people to exercise their right to vote and be elected without any discrimination. In the Taisho era, the trend of "Taisho democracy" based on political scientist Sakuzo Yoshino's Minponshugi, or the idea that policy decisions should follow the will of the people, spread, leading to the establishment of a party cabinet system and universal suffrage. A movement to protect the constitution arose, and tens of thousands of people held demonstrations demanding universal suffrage. After that, the Takashi Hara Cabinet lowered the tax eligibility for voting rights from 10 yen to 3 yen, but even then only 5.5% of the population was eligible to vote, and the movement to demand universal suffrage grew even stronger.

In 1925, the Kato Takaaki Cabinet removed the requirement to pay tax as an electoral qualification and enacted the Universal Suffrage Law, which granted men over the age of 25 the right to vote and men over the age of 30 the right to be elected. Although the number of voters increased to approximately 12.41 million people, or 20.8% of the population, women were still unable to participate in elections. The government feared that the realization of universal suffrage would lead to even more social movements and enacted the Public Order Maintenance Law as a preventive measure.

Already in 1922, the then cabinet of Korekiyo Takahashi had submitted to the Diet a "bill for the control of radical social movements," but the bill was scrapped without deliberation, and the following year, 1923, in order to restore the confusion after the Great Kanto Earthquake, the "Security Ordinance" was issued as an emergency imperial decree. The Public Order Maintenance Law was the successor to these developments.

When the first general election was held in February 1928 under the cabinet of Giichi Tanaka, eight members of the Socialist Party and two members of the Labor Peasant Party, including Senji Yamamoto, were elected. In 1928, the government carried out a crackdown on socialists and communists, resulting in the "March 15 Incident" and the "April 16 Incident." In addition, in an emergency imperial decree, the maximum penalty under the Public Order Maintenance Law was the death penalty, and a new "crime of accomplishment of purpose" was created to punish supporters of socialists and communists as well.

One who directly opposed this movement was Representative Senji Yamamoto. He ran in the first general election in Kyoto and was elected with over 14,000 votes. He opposed the amendment of the Public Order Maintenance Law in the 55th and 56th Diet sessions and was scheduled to debate the amendment in the House of Representatives on March 5, 1929, but a motion by the ruling party (Rikken Seiyukai) forced a vote on the amendment, which was passed without Yamamoto being able to debate the motion. That night, Senji Yamamoto

was stabbed to death by Hokuji Kuroda, a member of a right-wing group, at an inn in Tokyo where he was staying. Between 1925 and 1945, hundreds of thousands of Japanese were arrested on suspicion of violating the Public Order Maintenance Law, and about 75,000 were sent to prison. The death toll from torture and prison deaths reached approximately 2,000, including the Korean poet Yun Dong-ju.



Thoughts on the "Gunma Forest" Korean Memorial and its Removal

**Women's Active Museum "Women's War and Peace Museum" (wam)
Eriko Ikeda**

Memorial removed from park

Today, Japan is inundated with voices of historical revisionism that fade away memories of the war and colonial rule, justify the purpose of invasion, and deny the perpetration of the war. Just the other day, a memorial to the victims of forced labor was removed from a public place, an abhorrent incident. The monument erected in Gunma Forest, a prefectural park in Takasaki City, Gunma Prefecture, to commemorate the victims of the forced removal of Koreans from their homes, was established and maintained since the mid-1990s by a citizens' group that had conducted research on the conditions of Koreans who were mobilized to work in coal mines and munitions factories during the war. In 2001, the group called "Association for the Preservation of the Memorial to Memory, Reflection and Friendship" (hereinafter referred to as "the Association for the Preservation of the Memorial"), which has changed its name several times, petitioned the prefectural assembly to install the monument in Gunma Forest Park, and the assembly unanimously adopted the proposal and granted permission to use the site. However, after repeated discussions with the prefectural government, the word "forced labor mobilization" was changed from "forced labor mobilization" to "labor mobilization," and the monument was erected in April 2004. On the front of the monument, "Memory, Reflection, and Friendship" is inscribed in Korean, Japanese, and English, and on the back, a brief and clean inscription reads, "We deeply remember the historical facts that caused great damage and pain to the Korean people, sincerely regret our mistakes, and express our determination to never repeat them. The monument was set up in a quiet place surrounded by greenery in the vast "Gunma Forest" park, where citizens have gathered every year to hold a memorial ceremony.

Background to the removal of the memorial

The problem arose in 2014, when the permit for use in the park was supposed to be renewed every 10 years. Gunma Prefecture decided not to grant the renewal. The reason given for the non-renewal was that an attendee at the memorial ceremony in 2012 had said "forced removal" in violation of the "no political events" condition.... The "forced removal" was considered "political" because it is a phrase that the Japanese government does not recognize, and "the very existence of the monument itself became a subject of controversy and a cause of conflict, including street protests and propaganda actions," which was also cited as a reason for removing the monument. This is a rather unusual situation, as it is an act of the government condemning citizens' speech in a public forum and infringing on their freedom of expression.

The year 2012 was a time when historical revisionist politicians and right-wing groups, backed by the long-term administration of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, were overheating their campaign of historical denial in a big way. Right-wing groups were not only repeating hate speeches, but were also furiously lobbying local administrations with protests and petitions. It is believed that Gunma Prefecture took advantage of these movements to remove the memorial.

The Association for the Preservation of the Memorial filed a lawsuit with the Maebashi District Court, claiming that this was an abuse of discretion by the prefectural government, and the court ruled to rescind the disposition in 2018. However, on appeal in 2021, the Tokyo High Court fully recognized the prefecture's claim and dismissed the Association for the Preservation of the Memorial claim, and in June 2022, the Supreme Court confirmed the High Court decision.

A year and a half later, on January 29, 2024, the prefectural government forced the removal of the monument in accordance with the Administrative Substitution Execution Law, overcoming the voices of citizens and artists inside and outside Gunma Prefecture demanding the continuation of the monument. The images of the site of the monument, which had been cruelly forced and the land cleared, filled my heart with anger and pain.

As someone who has been involved in the War and Peace Museum, and who is concerned about Japan's responsibility for the war and the postwar period, I feel a great sense of urgency about the situation in which the government is being swept up in the wave of revisionist history. This could set a precedent that could spread to other parts of Japan. Encouragingly, however, the group that erected the monument is working to rebuild it, saying, "We will never forget this anger." They are working to document the events that led to the removal of the monument and to prevent a recurrence.

For more details on the events leading up to this time, the development of the trial, and the right-wing backlash, Masaki Fujii's book, "Verification: Gunma Forest Korean Memorial Trial - What is Historical Revisionism?" was published at the end of last year. For more information on the tenacious activities of citizens who have fought for the erection and preservation of the memorial, a collection of materials ("For the Preservation of Gunma Forest Korean Memorial" and others) published by the "Association for the Preservation of the Memorial" and "Gunma Forest Korean Memorial Trial Support Group" have also been published. Please take a look.

Historical revisionism in the background

The source of the historical denial backlash that led to the removal of the memorial can be traced back to the 1990s, when Asian "comfort women" victims began coming forward and fighting court cases in 1991, and the women's movement for support and postwar compensation became active in Japan. In response, revisionist historians have labeled the Asian-Pacific War waged by Japan as a "war of self-defense" and a "crusade for the liberation of Asia," and have accused those who call it a "war of aggression" of "self-torture" and tried to pretend that the Nanking Massacre and the Japanese military "comfort women" system had never happened. Around 1997, they began attacking textbook companies to have "comfort women" removed from junior high school history textbooks, and began protesting and obstructing media coverage of "comfort women. At the same time, they began to bash movements to hold Japan accountable for its perpetration of the war and colonial rule in various regions, and to object to monuments with such phrases as "forced labor". The government perceived this as a "political dispute," and they began to remove the disputed information panels and monuments, claiming that they were being asked to be "impartial.

One such group, the Japanese Women's Association Soyokaze, submitted a petition to the prefectural assembly requesting the cancellation of permission to install the monument, which was adopted by a majority of the assembly. Soyokaze has also been lobbying LDP lawmakers, holding demonstrations and rallies to demand the removal of a monument in Yokoamicho Park (Sumida Ward, Tokyo) to commemorate Korean victims of the Great Kanto Earthquake.

As similar problems began to occur in various locations, there were moves toward voluntary restrictions on the part of facilities and governing bodies. In 2006, the Saitama Peace Museum in Higashimatsuyama, Saitama Prefecture, faced a problem when masking tape was applied to the mention of "comfort women" in its historical timeline. At the Saitama Peace Museum in Higashimatsuyama City, Saitama Prefecture, a problem arose in 2006 when masking tape was applied to the description of "comfort women" in a historical timeline. The 2013 renewal eliminated both "comfort women" and the "Nanking Massacre" from the historical timeline.

An explanatory board at the entrance to the Matsushiro Imperial Headquarters Underground Dugout in Nagano City, Nagano Prefecture, initially read, "Koreans were forcibly mobilized as laborers and constructed through

rush construction," but since August 2013, Nagano City has placed a white sticker over the word "forced".

In 2014, Tenri City, Nara Prefecture, removed an explanatory board installed at the site of the former "Yamato Naval Air Base. The reason for the removal was protests against the description that "many Korean laborers were mobilized and forced to work under harsh labor conditions" and "a 'comfort station' was set up and Korean women were forcibly taken away from their homes.

Even if it is a historical fact, such as a war or a massacre, those in power at the time will deny, distort, or cover it up and try to bury it from people's memories if it does not suit their will. This is because they want to repeat the same thing again. We cannot allow this to happen.

Citizens never give up.

Gunma Prefecture closed the park on January 29 and began to remove the "Korean Workers' Memorial" by administrative execution, and reported that the work was completed on February 2. The site where the monument stood has been cleared and the three plates with the inscription have been handed over to the "Association for the Preservation of the Memorial".

It was also clarified that the cost of the removal work, 30 million yen, would be billed to the Association for the Preservation of the Memorial ".

However, the many citizens who erected the memorial and the supporters who have spread across the country will not accept such an outrage. Masato Ishida, a member of the Association, said, "We will hold another memorial ceremony this year and continue our activities. We want to rebuild the memorial as soon as possible because it will be a victory experience for Net right-wingers (people who develop right-wing-like words and deeds using SNS)," and I would like to add one word to the inscription: the fact that the memorial was removed."

When I participated in a street action held at the east exit of Shinjuku Station this past January, I was overwhelmed by the power of the members of the "the Association for the Preservation of the Memorial" and other supporters, including zainichi Koreans, who appealed strongly without regard to the hate speech of right-wing groups that were shouting at them.

Just because a monument is removed does not mean it is finished. When they are destroyed, we must rebuild them. In this way, we must protect monuments all over the country. The people were determined not to let the witnesses of history be erased and not to let the denial of history spread any further....

New Book Introduction

(1) From the Nanjing Massacre to the Battle of Yunnan -Tracing the footsteps of Japan from its invasion of China to its defeat of the war

By Shigeru Aoki
Published by Kadensha in 2024

Nanjing is where the massacre occurred in the early stages of Japan's all-out invasion of China, and the sites of Dian Xi War, La Meng and Teng Yue in Yunnan, are where Japan's defeat in the Asia-Pacific War was determined.

The Nationalist Government, which was forced to flee the capital city of Nanjing after the Nanjing Massacre, fled to Chongqing, deep in the interior of China, and fought an anti-Japanese war with Chongqing as its temporary capital. In May 1942, Japan launched the Battle of Yunnan in order to block U.S. and British support for the Nationalist Government, cut off the Burma route, and attacked Chongqing and China from both the east and west.

The aim of this book is to consider the Japanese people's understanding of history and their responsibility for the war by touring Nanjing and Yunnan, the sites of the tragedy. We hope that this book will help readers to see the present day of these two places that have etched unforgettable memories in both Japan and China.

This book can be purchased (ordered) at local bookstores for the regular price (1,870 yen). If you contact us (e-mail: ms0918as@outlook.jp) with your mailing address, we will send the book to you for the price of 1,700 yen without shipping charges or taxes within Japan (handling fee of postal transfer is borne by the purchaser). (Shigeru Aoki, a member of Fushun's Miracles Inheritance Association)

(Translated by Miki Otsuka)



(2) There are such Japanese (有这样一些日本人)

By Li Binggang

Published by World Literary Press (Hong Kong) in 2023

Professor 李秉剛 (Li Binggang), a Chinese history researcher, has published a new book, *There Are Such Japanese*. Professor Li accompanied us as a guide and commentator on the "Journeys to Know *wàn rén kēng* (pit of ten thousand people)" (trips to the sites of Japanese invasion crimes including *wàn rén kēng*) that began in 2009 and lasted for nine tours. This long-awaited new book looks back on the nine "Journeys to Know *wàn rén kēng*" and introduces the activities of our delegation to China.

The book band says as follows: From 2009, the first year of the project, they have visited China nine times at their own expense to see the sites of Japanese aggression against China, including the *wàn rén kēng*, genocide, air raids, germ warfare, and comfort stations.

They confirmed the crimes committed by Japanese military through on-site investigations. After returning to Japan, they hold discussions and lectures, and published books to share the findings of their visits to China with the citizens in Japan.

I recommend this book, as the many photographs in the book make it easy to understand the contents. This book will not be available at the bookstores in Japan, so you will have to order it from the stores that deal with Chinese books.

The author is Professor Li Binggang, the publisher is World Literature Publishing House (Hong Kong), the language is Chinese, and the price is HKD26.00 or RMB19.00. (Shigeru Aoki, a member of Fushun's Miracles Inheritance Association)



(Translated by Miki Otsuka)



(3) "Yamabe Masahiko: 15 Year-War Related Papers 1 "The History and Challenges of the Peace Museums in the 15 Year-War Exhibits."

by Masahiko Yamabe, Athens Press, 2024.

This is the first volume of a collection of writings by Masahiko Yamabe, a long-time curator at several peace museums. It contains previously published articles and many other documents, including lists of peace museums. (Editorial Board Member)

(4) "Verification: Gunma Forest Korean Memorial Trial: What is Historical Revisionism?"

by Masaki Fujii, Yuzankaku, 2023.

In this book, the author, a constitutional law scholar, provides "an overview of the case and the decisions, points out the problems, and offers some comments on them" regarding the eight-year-long trial over the Korean memorial in Gunma Forest. The book was written out of concern that the trial "has not yet attracted widespread public attention" (p. 4), despite the fact that it "contains a great many problems and is socially, historically, and legally very noteworthy. (Editorial Board Member)

(5) Activism for Life in Japanese: 『非暴力直接行動が世界を変える』

Translated by Kimihiko Otsuru and Megumi Kawashima
Nanpo Shinsha in 2024

Angie Zelter's "Activism for Life" (Luath Press, Edinburgh, 2021) was published in Japanese in 2024.



"Come, Children", © 2023, Pegge Patten

News from overseas

Fredrik S. Heffermehl (1938-2023)

Norwegian peace activist and lawyer who waged a long campaign against the Norwegian Nobel Committee for not respecting the will of Alfred Nobel

By Peter van den Dungen

The article that is introduced below is a tribute to a leading Norwegian peace activist and author who recently passed away, shortly after the publication of an important book on the Nobel peace prize. It should be in the shops of the Nobel Peace Center in Oslo and the Nobel Prize Museum in Stockholm. Since many museums for peace have exhibitions about the Nobel peace prize or individual laureates, this highly interesting and original book should also be available in their shops. More information about the book (including about ordering), titled *The Real Nobel Peace Prize: A Squandered Opportunity to Abolish War*, is available at <https://realnobelpeace.org/>.

A growing unease that the persons Alfred Nobel had in mind as deserving winners of his peace prize were losing out and that the Norwegian Nobel Committee's decisions were often failing to respect Nobel's intentions (as expressed in his will), led Norwegian lawyer and peace activist Fredrik S. Heffermehl to start a campaign to oblige the Committee to bring its awards more in line with the requirements of the will. With considerable justification he argued that successive Committees had never undertaken a legal analysis of it (as regards the prize for peace) or considered the circumstances which had given rise to the prize.

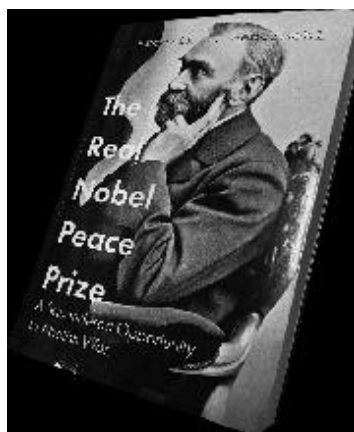
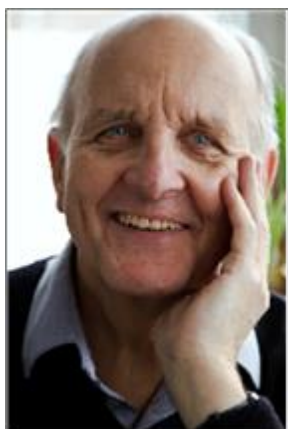
Heffermehl, who has died at his home near Oslo on 21 December (only weeks after celebrating his 85th birthday on 11th November), was a leading member of the Norwegian peace movement, of the International Association of Lawyers against Nuclear Arms (IALANA), and one-time vice-president of the International Peace Bureau (1910 Nobel laureate). As an active supporter of many public campaigns concerning the abolition of war, disarmament, peaceful conflict resolution, strengthening of the United Nations and international law, and global cooperation, he was well aware that the lack of funding inevitably limited the extent and success of such efforts in which mobilisation of large numbers of people is dependent on raising awareness, inspiring hope, and encouraging engagement. The contrast with the military establishment and the vast resources at its disposal could not be greater. This now consists of an increasingly out of control juggernaut, the military-industrial complex that U. S. President Dwight Eisenhower (a World War II four-star general) had warned against in his 1961 farewell address to the American people. At the end of the 19th century Alfred Nobel had predicted a return to barbarity within a few decades if the powers that be failed to reform the international system so that recourse to war was no longer an option. Both world wars, and the countless wars since then and continuing today, have confirmed his premonition. For the second year in succession, the Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists stands ominously at ninety seconds to midnight – a time of unprecedented danger.

The questions of what is peace, and who deserves what is widely regarded as the world's most prestigious prize, are raised every October when the Norwegian Nobel Committee announces the name(s) of the new laureate(s). Another opportunity for further debate presents itself two months later when the award ceremony takes place in Oslo on 10th December, the day when Alfred Nobel died in 1896. The prize for what he called 'champions of peace' is one of five annual prizes that the Swedish inventor and successful entrepreneur included in his last will and testament drawn up the previous year. The will specified that most of his enormous wealth should be invested in a fund, the interest on which should be used to annually award prizes to those who have conferred 'the greatest benefit on mankind'. Unlike the prizes for physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, and literature, the prize for peace was (and remains) controversial. Heffermehl was its most severe, persistent and passionate critic while also being the most eloquent interpreter of what the prize should have been and still could be.

The full obituary article can be freely read on the websites of half a dozen peace organisations (with slightly different editorial introductions and combination of photos). See:

World Beyond War: <https://worldbeyondwar.org/fredrik-s-heffermehl-1938-2023/>;

Transcend Media Service: [TRANSCEND MEDIA SERVICE » Fredrik S. Heffermehl \(1938-2023\)](#);
 Global Campaign for Peace Education: [In memoriam Fredrik S. Heffermehl \(1938-2023\): leading proponent of war abolition - Global Campaign for Peace Education \(peace-ed-campaign.org\)](#);
 Civilisation 3000: <https://civilisation3000.wordpress.com/obituary-fredrik-s-heffermehl-1938-2023/>; also see [Obituary: Fredrik S. Heffermehl \(1938-2023\) | Civilisation 3000 \(wordpress.com\)](#);
 Friedensnews (Vienna): <https://www.friedensnews.at/2024/02/15/fredrik-s-heffermehl-1938-2023/>;
 Vredesflits (Fortnightly newsletter of Dutch platform for women and lasting peace): <https://mailchi.mp/06f4b40e28c0/pvdv-vredesflits-30-november-20310472> (scroll down)
 (Dr) Peter van den Dungen
Lecturer/Visiting Lecturer (1976-2015) in Peace Studies, University of Bradford, UK; Visiting Fellow, Norwegian Nobel Institute (2000); Author of several publications on the Nobel peace prize, including some published by the Institute.
Two illustrations below (reminder for Kazuyo)



Canadian Peace Museum

Chris Houston
President

✂The following is from Canadian Peace Museum January Newsletter

New Plans, Charitable Registration, CN Tower Collaboration, Newspaper Column
The past two months have seen some major steps forward

by Chris Houston on January 17th 2024

We had a busy December and January, mainly focussed on planning and governance, setting us up for 2024 activities. While the need for peace dominated the news headlines, and while we lived through the hottest year on record, the need to promote planetary health and non-violence felt more acute than ever. At our recent strategy event, we restated our commitment to promoting not just the absence of violence, but the positive things that sustain and accelerate existing levels of peace and community in Canada.

Strategic Planning **TOP STORIES**

From the 28th to the 30th of December, interested stakeholders attended a strategy session in Bancroft. Attendees included Robert Hunter, representative of the Kijicho Manito Madaouskarini First Nation, other local residents, members of the museum's board of directors and advisors, museum professionals, and international

guests.

The meeting advanced the museum's strategic plan, including short- and medium-term activities. Rather than fundraise for construction, we will rent a retail unit in Bancroft, Ontario, and our top priority is to secure funding for this endeavour. We seek premises around 10,000 square feet in size. In 2024, we will deepen our local connections, build partnerships, fundraise, increase our profile and ensure we are collecting artefacts and exhibits that promote non-violence and equity, community cohesion, Indigenous reconciliation, art, health and all things that maintain and advance fairness, peace, and human dignity. We spoke about revenue streams from innovative activities and partnerships, including from retreats and accommodation services. Plans include peace awards and a school's program.

Artefacts pledged to the museum include ambulances from Syria, an air strike warning system, and 1,000 portraits of women peace advocates. Canada Post and the Canadian Royal Mint will donate symbols of peace, as well as major Canadian charities and companies.

Light Up For Peace 2024

We have invited various municipalities to proclaim September 21st 2024 as an official day of peace, commemorating the International Day of Peace. So far, positive indications have been received from Bancroft and Toronto.

We have requested that Niagara Falls Canada, the Toronto Sign in Nathan Philips Square, and the CN Tower all light up in rainbow lights, or in the museum's colours of pink and purple, to promote peace. The CN Tower has agreed to this so far and we will encourage more landmarks to join us in 2024.

Charitable Registration and Fundraising

Last week we received official charitable status. That will enable us to fundraise more efficiently, and issue tax receipts. We are now Canadian charity #739682417 RR0001.

Fundraising will be accelerated with the arrival of the charitable status. The Town of Bancroft, the township of Faraday and Hastings County have agreed to consider us for funding in 2024 and we hope each will follow through. We are in discussions with the federal and provincial governments and the Ontario Trillium Foundation and have reached out to various philanthropic foundations.

Governance

In December, we welcomed Dr Samantha Nutt to our board of advisors. Dr Nutt is the founder of War Child Canada and War Child USA. She joins Dr Oyedeleji (Deji) Ayonrinde and Dr James Orbinski on the advisory board. We will announce more advisors soon, once conflict-of-interest assessments are complete. More governance information is available [here](#).

Newspaper columns, reporting on the museum

Our Stories of Peace award made local news and was won by Bird's Creek Public School. We have been invited to write a weekly column about peace in The Bancroft Times. The Bancroft Times is a weekly, print-only newspaper with a history going back to 1894. An annual subscription costs \$41 and can be purchased via White Pine Media telephone +1 613-332-2002.

More news about the museum is available at <https://canadianpeacemuseum.ca/news>.

Canadian Peace Museum
PO Box 20005 Bancroft, Ontario, K0L 0B0, Canada
Registered Charity 739682417 RR0001



Other News

Introduction of emails from overseas regarding Muse no.52

Muse Editorial Member
Kazuho Yamane

We have received the following comments about Muse 52 from people in India and Pakistan.

1. Dr. Balkrishna Kurvey in India

Thank you for the Muse Newsletter which is educative. I have forwarded the same to our members who are based in various parts of India.

Balkrishna Kurvey

No More Hiroshima: No More Nagasaki: Peace Museum

Indian Institute for Peace Disarmament & Environmental Protection

2. Professor Sikander Mehdi in Pakistan

Many thanks for sharing the latest issue of the Muse Newsletter. Both the INMP Newsletter and Muse Newsletter are messengers of peace. It is good to note that in these traumatic times, so much is happening on the peace front in Japan and in other places.

I have perused through the English version (Newsletter 52) and find it very informative. The articles by you, Peter and Professor Anzai are very good. In addition, the study on Guernica and Okinawa is excellent. It is good that the section on future events and the bibliographic section are being constantly strengthened.

With best wishes and warm regards,

Sikander Mehdi

Board Members for FY2024

As announced in January on the members' mailing list, the Steering Committee of the Japanese Citizens' Network of Museums for Peace for the year 2024 will operate under the following structure. Thank you for your cooperation. (in Japanese alphabetical order)

Tamotsu Asakawa, Eriko Ikeda (Co-Chair), Seishi Ishibashi (Mailing List Manager and Museum for Peace Information Collector), Hitomi Katayama (Treasurer), Kiwamu Kuriyama (Museum for Peace Information Collector), Ikuko Shimizu (Newsletter Editor and HP)), Yamato Hiejima (National Exchange Committee Member and Museum for Peace Information Collector), Ariyuki Fukushima (Co-Chair and Editorial member of Muse Newsletter), Asayoshi Futenma, Yutaka Maruyama (Co-Chair), Daisuke Miyahara Hiroto Hieshima (National Exchange Committee member and Museum for Peace information collector), Choeki Futenma, Yutaka Maruyama (Co-Chairperson), Daisuke Miyahara (11 members)

【Editorial Postscript】

We are pleased to present the 55th issue of the Japanese edition of Muse Newsletter, the first issue of the 2024 fiscal year, which includes this year's Citizen's Network management structure. We would like to invite you to submit information on books, collections of materials, pamphlets, etc. published by museums you are involved with as an introduction to your activities. If you send the information to the editorial department, we will introduce them in the "New Publications" section. Please send us your information. We are also looking forward to receiving your comments on our activities, as well as reviews, essays, and impressions of exhibition tours. We would appreciate it if you could provide an introduction to the exhibition of approximately 300 words (in English) and one or two photos of the exhibition. We welcome about 1,000 words in English for reviews and essays, but please consult with the editorial board members for a start. (Editorial board member: Ariyuki Fukushima)

Last, but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to Ms. Deting Lu in Nanjing for helping translate Chinese names into English. (Kazuho Yamane)