

No. 8 Kerr Collection



*Haitai & haisai**! *Shimuchichiya ippee ii shichi yaibi-n ya-sai* (Hi! November is a very good season, isn't it?) In this month, I am going to introduce Kerr Collection!

**Haitai* means "Hello" in Okinawan dialect which used by Women.

Haisai means "Hello" in Okinawan dialect which used by Men.

● George Henry Kerr (1911-1992)

George H. Kerr was a historian from Pennsylvania, U.S.A. He was interested in the Oriental History because he had befriended with an Oriental in his school-days. In 1935, he was subsidized and came to Japan after he had graduated from a master course of the University of Hawaii. He acquired a profound knowledge of curios and objects of art while continuing the study of Japanese History. In 1937, Kerr left for a teacher of English in Taipei Dai Ichi junior high school, there, he met Kanaseki Takeo, Haebara Chōho (a medical doctor from Okinawa), Kabira Chōshin and the other professors of the Taipei Imperial University. This encounter made him more interested in a history and a culture of Okinawa. During the World War II, he worked in U.S. forces as an intelligence officer, and he took responsibility as a person in charge of the research group of Taiwan in the Columbia University. After the War, he assumed vice-consul of Taipei, however, as he had criticized National Party, he had to return to U.S.A after the 2.28 Incident. Then he worked in the University of Washington and in the Hoover Institute and Library. He had participated in a scientific research project of Ryukyu Islands conducted by U.S. army and he wrote *Ryukyu no rekishi* (Ryukyu: Kingdom and Province before 1945) in 1956. He also participated in "Ryukyu Cultural Survey" which was conducted from 1960 to 1962. At 81years old, he passed away in Hawaii to where he had moved.



George Henry Kerr
At Teruya, Haebaru village
(of those days)

● Kerr Collection donated to the University of the Ryukyus Library



The main household within a clan*, in village of Karimata, Miyako Island.

are well organized, and we held some exhibitions of the photographs which gained a favorable reputation. We are going to hold next exhibition of the photographs from Kerr Collection in this fiscal year of 2016, we are looking forward to seeing you at the exhibition venue!

Kerr donated his collection of books, photographs and the other materials to the University of the Ryukyus Library in several times from 1955 to 1987. About the donated photographs, their importance as archives is recently increased more and more, and the photographs of Okinawa in the 1960's which were taken at the "Ryukyu Cultural Survey" become remarkable materials which show the status of reconstruction of Okinawa after the War.

In this library, we put the materials in order, especially, the photographs



This ceremonial plaque was conferred on the Uezu Family of Kume Island by King Sho kei (1713-1751), whose calligraphy is shown thereon.

*Mitsugu Sakihara. (2006).Okinawan-English Wordbook.Honolulu.University of Hawaii Press.