What is Sakamaki/Hawley Collection?

This collection consists of Ryukyu/Okinawa related materials which Frank Hawley (1906-1961), an English journalist collected, and the materials collected by Shunzo Sakamaki (1906-1973) who worked as a professor at University of Hawai‘i. More than 5000 items are in this collection. Of these, 2000 items are Hawley’s collection. The use of the ex-libris ownership stamp “宝玲文庫” (hōrei bunko) indicates that Hawley had a strong interest in Eastern culture. This collection holds many Ryukyu/Okinawa related materials dating from the 1400s and 1960s. It is now housed in University of Hawai‘i at Manoa Library.

Frank Hawley

Frank Hawley was born in Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, Durham, England. He studied comparative philology at Liverpool University, and in 1931, he was hired as an English teacher at Tokyo School of Foreign Languages (present-day Tokyo University of Foreign Studies). During his stay in Japan, he collected over 16,000 books. However, during the Pacific War, he was arrested and taken into custody, and his books were confiscated and later they were scattered. After that, Hawley was deported to England, but in 1946, he returned to Japan as a special correspondent for the Times in Tokyo. He lived in Yamashina, Kyoto until he died at the age of 55.

Shunzo Sakamaki

Shunzo Sakamaki was born in Hawaii as a son of Japanese immigrants in 1906. He studied Japanese history while he was a teaching fellow at Doshisha University. Later he earned his Ph.D. in Japanese history at Columbia University and in 1954, he was appointed to a professorship at University of Hawai‘i. In 1961, Sakamaki became Dean of UH Summer Session committed himself to keep Hawley’s books as Hawley Collection.

The image on the right is one of the archival materials from Sakamaki/Hawley Collection housed in University of Hawai‘i at Manoa Library, which has been digitized and released to the public by University of the Ryukyus Library. (NK)