

## Kijimun's Monologue No.6

Haisai & Haitai, how are you doing? I'm going to introduce Fujukan located near Senbaru pond.

### Kinjō Kiku and Fujukan



**The grand entrance of Fujukan**

In 1967, Fujukan was opened at Shuri campus. The purpose of its opening was to contribute to the development of agriculture and forestry in Okinawa. Its opening was an epoch-making event because in those days there were few "University Museum" in Japan. It was a sheer desire of Kinjō Kiku and a conscientious effort of Takara Tetsuo, the 8<sup>th</sup> President of the University of the Ryukyus which made Fujukan.

Kinjō Kiku (1909-1966) had to leave Jissen Women's University due to her father's sudden death. Then, she succeeded her father's building supply store in Naha,

but because of the World War II, she was once forced out of business. In 1950, however, she established "Kinjō Kiku Shōkai," a building supply store again. Besides, she started "Kinjō Hō'onkai," a social welfare service corporation in 1961 and she devoted herself not only to the business but also to the social welfare activity.



(at left: Kinjō Kiku    at right: Takara Tetsuo)

When Kinjō was planning a commemorative event for her father, she met Takara Tetsuo thanks to Minei Yuriko who was working in Department of Education. As her father had studied plants of Ryukyu, she decided to donate an agricultural museum to Faculty of Agriculture of the University of the Ryukyus. She named the museum "Fujukan" after a Chinese historical allusion, "Fuju no tan." She left her name to posterity with the name of Fujukan.

### Characteristics of Fujukan – From Fujukan to "University Museum, Fujukan"

Along with the removal of the University, Fujukan was also moved to Senbaru campus and reopened in 1983 as "University Museum, Fujukan." Current Fujukan was opened in September 1985, the museum houses a total of 41,000 collections; of 150 folk materials, of 900 arts and crafts, of 2,100 archaeological materials, of 35,000 animals, of 2,000 geoscientific materials, of 1,000 documents. Besides, Fujukan has more than 300 of type specimens; it is among the few museums who can suitably preserve the specimens in Okinawa. Its building is famous as a work of Kinjō Nobuyoshi (1934-1984) who tried to utilize traditional architecture of Okinawa for modern architecture and designed "Okinawa kan" at the Okinawa International Ocean Exposition of '75.

### The future of Fujukan

Fujukan is aiming to work for the good of local society through various educational activities. Readers of this column, we are looking forward to seeing you at Fujukan. Thank you for your support!



**Fujukan has a biotope which is made to serve as an example for local schools. You can observe various insects and plants. There are also goats. Please come and see them, they are waiting for you!**