



No. 4 Nakahara Zenchu

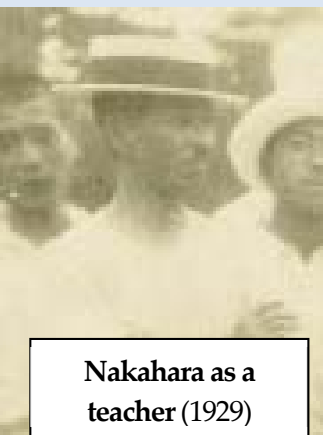
I'm going to introduce Nakahara Zenchu sensei, a scholar of Okinawan Studies

• Brief History of Nakahara Zenchu (1890-1964)

Nakahara was born in Maja Village, Nakazato Magiri of Kume Island in 1890. He became a geography teacher after he graduated from Hiroshima Higher Normal School. It was not until around 1939-1940 that he first began his research on Okinawa, and he wrote a book entitled *Kumejima Shiwa* (Historical Anecdotes of Kume Island) in 1940. Nakahara's research is particularly centered on *the Kumejima Omoro* (Okinawa classic folk songs), among *The Omoro Soshi* (a compilation of ancient poems and songs from Ryukyu). After the war, he started a magazine *The Okinawa Bunka* (Okinawan Culture) in 1948, and successively held posts as the president of *Okinawajin Renmei* (Okinawans' Association) and *Okinawa Bunka Kyokai* (Okinawan Culture Association) as well.



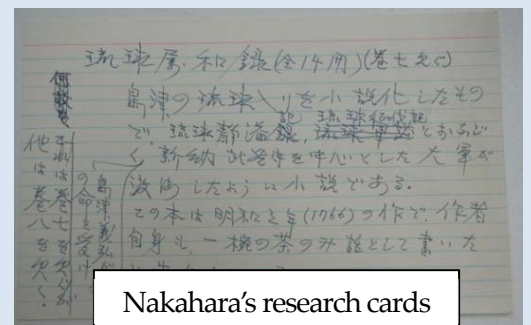
Nakahara Zenchu (1956)



Nakahara as a teacher (1929)

• Nakahara at University of Hawaii

In April, 1961, 71-year-old Nakahara accepted an invitation as a visiting professor at University of Hawaii East West Center, and visited the United States. At University of Hawaii, he did a research on Hawley Collection. Nakahara's research cards are still kept in the documents of Sakamaki/Hawley Collection. During his stay in Hawaii, he gave lectures about Okinawan history and Omoro. In his essay Honolulu Tanshin (A Short Letter from Honolulu) and other articles, he talked about his stay in Hawaii, and they are included in Nakahara Zenchu Zenshu (The Complete Works of Nakahara Zenchu).



Nakahara's research cards

• Nakahara Zenchu Collection at University of the Ryukyus Library

After Nakahara's death in 1964, his books and documents were housed at University of the Ryukyus. In *Nakahara Zenchu Collection* at our *Ryukyu/Okinawa Special Collection Digital Archives*, you can see the copies of *the Omoro Soshi* and other important documents related to Kume Island.

You can link to our *Digital Collection of Nakahara Zenchu* by scanning the following QR Code.

