



No. 5 Iha Fuyu Summary



Hi! I'm Kijimun!

Let me introduce Iha Fuyu, the founding father of Okinawan Studies and his Collection.

Iha Fuyu (March 15, 1876 - July 9, 1947)

Iha Fuyu is the first scholar of Okinawan Studies to put together various aspects of Okinawan Studies such as language, literature, history, culture, etc. Therefore, he is called the founding father of Okinawan Studies.

Iha was born in Nishi-Village, Naha and his pen name is *Butsugai*.

His work is the landmark of Okinawan Studies. He left many accomplishments including the study of *Omoro Soshi* (a compilation of ancient poems and songs from Ryukyu). Iha was a feminist and he strongly appealed the need of education for women. In private, he was popular among women.

Iha's book collection was delivered to our library on November 1, 1955. It consists of 106 titles and 161 books which were once owned by Iha himself. Some of these books were handed over to him by Tajima Risaburo, Iha's former teacher and Majikina Anko. Historical documents such as anthologies of Ryukyuan verses and language and literature books are included in this collection.

There are many important documents only found in Iha Collection. Particularly well-known in this collection are: *Ryukyugo shinyaku seisho* (The New Testament Ryukyuan language version) written in Ryukyuan dialect, *Kian Nikki* (Account of Kian), a story about the Satsuma invasion in 1609 written by Kian, and *Kikoe Okimi Ganashisama Oaraori Nikki* (Record of the chief priestess of the Ryukyus, the Kikoe-Okimi).

The main contents of Iha Collection are posted on our *Ryukyu/Okinawa Special Collection Digital Archives* with Japanese descriptions, *honkoku* (modern Japanese print transcriptions), and English translations. (by AS)

