



No. 7 Hara Tadayuki Summary

I'll introduce Hara Tadayuki, who was involved in the initial Prefectural Government of modern Okinawa.

• Hara Tadayuki (1834 - 1894) Biography

Hara Tadayuki was born in Hizen Kashima Domain (present-day Kashima City, Saga Prefecture). He ran the early stage of the prefectural government alongside with Nabeshima Naoyoshi, the first Governor of Okinawa for two and a half years, from April, 1879 until Nabeshima resigned in September, 1881. After Tadayuki left Okinawa, he became a member of Kizokuin (the House of Peers of the Imperial Diet) in 1890. He died in 1894 at age 61.



Hara Tadayuki

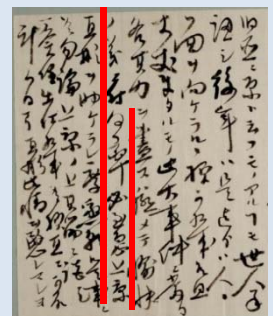
• Hara Tadayuki Before Coming to Okinawa

Tadayuki devoted himself to literature ever since he was a child. In 1855, he was sent to Shōheizaka Gakumonjo (a school under the direct control of the Tokugawa shogunate) by the order of his domain at the age of 24. In 1859, he returned to the Hizen Kashima Domain with the Lord Nabeshima Naoyoshi, and from then on, he assisted Nabeshima.

• As Assistant Secretary of Okinawa Prefecture

Upon establishing the Okinawa Prefectural Government, the new administration wanted a governor to be elected from the peerage, and Nabeshima was chosen to become one. He was 37, and Tadayuki was 46 at that time. Nabeshima always looked up to Tadayuki and asked him for advice. When Nabeshima was tentatively elected as the Governor of Okinawa, he wrote a letter to Tadayuki and pleaded him for help.

Nabeshima's administration as the first Governor of Okinawa was not stable for various reasons. After two and a half years of taking office, he was forced to resign. Nabeshima recommended Tadayuki as his successor but the government didn't allow it. Uesugi Mochinori inducted as the second Governor of Okinawa.



A portion of the letter from Nabeshima in Tokyo to Tadayuki in Kashima

• The Hara Tadayuki Collection at University of the Ryukyus Library



Roofed gate of the Hara House (Kashima-City)

After the death of Tadayuki, his collection of materials was given to his descendants, and now they are separately owned by multiple organizations. Our library purchased a portion of his collection (291 items) in 1988, and presented it as the Hara Tadayuki Collection. This collection consists of dairies and letters, appointment letters, Chinese books, and photographs. It is a very valuable group of documents. Among them are a material describes the political and social situations after the establishment of Okinawa Prefecture, Chinese poems created by Tadayuki, and letters and Chinese books sent by Tomigusuku Seikō and other Ryukyuan whom Tadayuki associated with.

To check the Tadayuki Collection Title List, please go to University of the Ryukyus Library Website. (CT)