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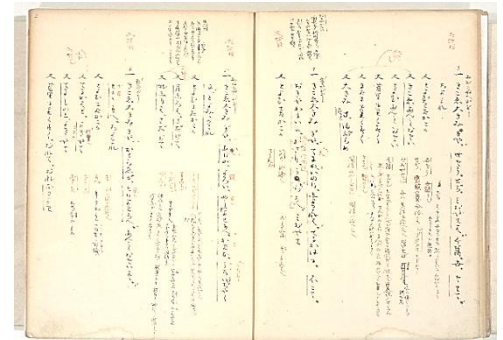
A manuscript, a block book, a book using a printing type

Keywords: Ryūkyūban, *Taijō kan'nōhen tai'i*, Dana Sōkei • Sōsō

Do you know how people in old days shared a book? I'm going to explain how they had done so before a digital image processing method came up.

1. Making hand-drawn copies

First, there is a method of copying all by hand. The books written by hand are known as manuscripts. For example, *Omorosōshi*, the oldest anthology of songs in Ryūkyū had been reorganized in 1710, and at that time, 2 copies of the anthology had been made too, they were handed down to *Shōke* (*Shō* royal family) and to *Aniyake* (*Aniya* family, it was allowed for only this family to sing *Omorō*.) then. Precursors of Okinawan study made researches by repeating a copy of these manuscripts. The image at the right is a copy of the manuscript handed down to *Aniyake*, which Tajima Risaburō (who was a teacher of Junior High School of Okinawa prefecture, at that time) made in 1895.



Omorosōshi owned by Tajima Risaburō

2. Woodblock printing

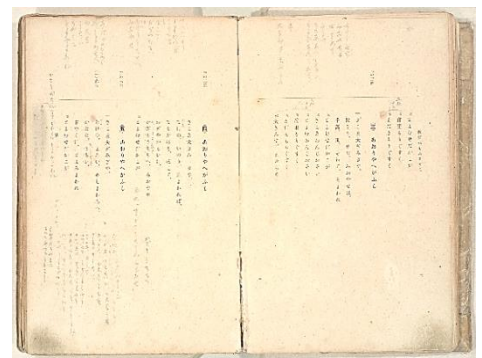
Or, there was a method of printing books with wooden blocks on which texts or illustrations had been engraved. The books made from woodblock printing are known as block books. Among them, the block books made from woodblock which was engraved in Ryūkyū are called "Ryūkyūban". For example, *Taijō kan'nōhen tai'i* from Miyara Dunchi/Douchi Collection is a copy of *Taijō kan'nōhen* which was the most representative book of moral education in China, it was engraved and printed by Dana Sōkei and Sōsō (father and son) of Ryūkyū in 1858.



Taijō kan'nōhen tai'i

3. Typography

From the end of 1879 to the beginning of 1880, the technique of typography was introduced in Okinawa. The typography is a technique of printing, to set in type which was made of wood or of metal and to print from it. The image at the right is *Kōtei Omorosōshi* which was issued by Iha Fuyū in 1925 using this technique. The issues in circulation were 600, and these copies accelerated the progress of the study of *Omorosōshi* which had no options but to rely on several manuscripts so far.



Kōtei Omorosōshi

You can see these 3 books with Digital Archive on the website of the library, please have a look! (CY)