



Ownership stamps and Ex Libris from *Komonjo*

Keywords: *Zōshoin* (Ownership stamp), *Zōshohyō* (Ex Libris), Iha Fuyū, Nakahara Zenchū, Shimabukuro Genshichi

Haisai, Kijimun yaibin!

In this month, I am going to tell you a story of *Zōshoin* and *Zōshohyō*. *Zōshoin* is an ownership stamp; it is put on a book to indicate who the owner is, very popular in East Asia. *Zōshohyō* came from West, known as "Ex Libris (bookplate)," it is a piece of paper with an original picture which is to put on a book. As there are many beautiful stamps and Ex Libris, they are very popular among collectors.



Let me introduce *Zōshoin* and *Zōshohyō* put on the books owned by the University of the Ryukyus Library.

The famous collection that we have in the library is Iha Fuyū (伊波普猷, 1876-1947) collection, who is called "the father of Okinawan study." His ownership stamps are "伊普" and "IF," a combination of his initials (See the image at right.)



A stamp of Nakahara Zenchū (仲原善忠, 1890-1964) who made great achievements in the study of Okinawan history and research of *Omoro* is a big one, "仲原藏書(Nakahara Zōsho)" (See the image at left.)

Then, the stamp of Shimabukuro Genshichi (島袋源七, 1897-1953) who left his mark on the research of Okinawan local customs and folklore is a small one, "源七" (See the image on the right.)



The famous owner of an antiquarian bookstore, Sorimachi Shigeo put his ownership stamp, "月明荘 (Getsumeisō)" only on materials which he had recognized as the same level as cultural assets.

There are many stamps of which owner is unknown, and they puzzle us to understand.

We also made our Ex Libris for the collections of Iha Fuyū, Nakahara Zenchū (See the image on the right), Matsuda Mitsugu, Okuzato Shōken and Miyazato Seigen.

All Ex Libris we made had been created at the time of Shuri campus. Given that the University of the Ryukyus was under the control of U.S. military government, it is very probable that the western culture influenced our library too.



Let's look for an ownership stamp or an Ex Libris when you get an old book. You may be surprised by some beautiful designs or unexpected owners.



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