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 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 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.

Printed by Okinawan Materials Staff at University of the Ryukyus Library on July 1, 2016