

Iwasaki Hisaya and Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library)

Research Fellow – Curator, Toyo Bunko

Makino Motonori

Foreword

Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library) is a library specializing in “Asian Studies” (Arts and Social Science Studies covering the whole area of Asia, mainly Japan and East Asia and from South East Asia to the Near and Middle East Asia). It was founded by Iwasaki Hisaya, the third president of the Mitsubishi, in 1924. As a library specializing in Asian Studies, it is the oldest and largest of its kind in Japan, and considered one of the top five in the world for this field. Toyo Bunko owns many precious books, to begin with five National Treasures, and seven Important Cultural Properties, which makes it unique. The collections have more than 1,000,000 books in total. Today, about 80 staff and researchers are engaged in the administration of the library, its research and dissemination of Asian Studies.

It is recommended that those who are interested in the history and well-known collections of Toyo Bunko should refer to *The History of Eighty Years of Toyo Bunko*, *Masterpieces of Toyo Bunko*, and *Tokyo-jin (Special Issue: All About Toyo Bunko)*, for more details. In connection to the exhibition, *From Dream to Reality The Iwasaki / Mitsubishi Collection*, presently held at the Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo, we are focusing on the role that Iwasaki Hisaya himself played in the establishment of Toyo Bunko that he “dreamed of.”

Hisaya has long ago been known as the founder of Toyo Bunko, however, the details of the process of its founding is not very clear. Today, more than half a century has passed since the death of Hisaya and his memories are beginning to fade. This essay was written so that the public would know more about the great achievements by Hisaya, who contributed greatly to the development of Asian Studies in Japan and the promotion of a better understanding of Asian societies and cultures.

1 Dispositions of Hisaya

Iwasaki Hisaya, the first son of Yataro and Kise, was born in Inokuchi-mura (village), Aki-gun County, Tosa (present Kouchi Prefecture) in 1865, and peacefully died in the presence of his children and grandchildren at Suehiro Farm (Narita, Chiba Prefecture), where he lived his entire retired life until his death at age 90, in 1955. He is a rare person who reached the height of the business world in Modern Japan while watching the rapidly changing world from the Meiji Restoration to the end of World War II (fig. 1).

Hisaya's name, however, is not as well known compared

to his father, Yataro, the first president, who established the Mitsubishi *Zaibatsu* [literally ‘conglomerate’], nor his cousin, Koyata, the fourth president who faced difficulties of the dissolution of the *zaibatsu* ordered by the General Headquarters (G. H. Q.) of the Occupation Forces right after the end of the World War II.

Regarding this fact, the foreword by the Editing Committee of the book, *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, published on the occasion of the 6th anniversary commemorating the death of Hisaya, states as below:

It is not too much to say that the great achievements of the succession of the founding and consolidation of the establishment of Mitsubishi were accomplished by this person. However, being modest and humble by nature and a man of few words, he never took leadership to spur people into action. Probably because he extremely disliked having his good reputation known, there are not so many people in this world who know about this person [Hisaya]. This is indeed regrettable.¹⁾

Also, Lloyd Carpenter Griscom (Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Japan, 1903 to 1905), who was Hisaya's schoolmate during his study abroad in the United States (1886–1891), also commented on Hisaya's personality as follows:

I became friends with Iwasaki Hisaya, a reserved and calm Japanese. He always kept a transcendental attitude, never asserted himself nor talked about himself, and was not at all concerned about what other people did or thought.²⁾

The reason why Hisaya was so ‘inconspicuous’ compared to Yataro, Koyata, or his predecessor, his uncle Yanosuke is because Hisaya himself disliked calling attention to himself.

The fact that he kept his modesty throughout his life can be easily recognized or seen from the various anecdotes about Hisaya during his lifetime.³⁾ Even with regards to the founding and operation of Toyo Bunko which can be said as the biggest achievement to blossom from the many cultural projects realized by Hisaya. He consistently kept his principle of ‘I will pay the money, but will not allow my name to appear in public.’⁴⁾ and he would only leave everything to the scholars and never took participated himself.

2 Hisaya's Family

Hisaya got married just before he turned 30 years old, in 1894. His wife Shizuko was 19 years old and the first daughter of Viscount Hoshina Masaari of Iino-han Domain, Kazusa Province (middle district of Chiba Prefecture today). She graduated from Kazoku Jogakko [known today as present Gakushuin Girl's Junior and Senior High School, which was originally a private girl's school of higher education for children of the Japanese aristocracy] as the top student, and was known as a beautiful and intelligent girl who studied English taught by Tsuda Umeko [who is one of the first five young women selected by the Hokkaido Colonization Board for their overseas study program, and founded one of the first private institutions of higher education for women in Japan, Joshi Eigaku Juku, presently Tsuda Juku Daigaku (Tsuda College)]. She appreciated Japanese *waka* poems, music and literature, and her hobby was to paint *nihonga* [Japanese-style painting using natural pigments].⁵⁾

At that time, as the main house in Shitaya Kayacho was under reconstruction according to Josiah Conder's design, Hisaya and Shizuko began their married life at their second home in Komagome. Today, it is open to the public as Rikugi-en, but at that time the surroundings were very pastoral, featuring a tranquil landscape. There were a few dairy cows raised on the farm, and Hisaya's family had access to fresh milk.⁶⁾ Their first son, Hikoyata, was born in that second house in Komagome. In later years, Toyo Bunko was built on part of the very property where the farm once stood.

Their marital relationship was very good and they were blessed with three sons and three daughters (fig. 2). Shizuko later recalls, “I think the happiest thing in my life is that my husband keeps our family fastidious with high morals.” Hisaya was often teased by his children who said, “Our father is like a tree or stone.” Even in the world of geisha, there was a wager stating, “I will give you a thousand yen [approximately 2,000,000 yen in present monetary value] if anyone had been able to steal the heart of the ‘prudish’ Baron Iwasaki.”⁷⁾

Hisaya and Shizuko both liked history. Their third daughter, Ms. Fukuzawa Ayako comments below on the incident when the family traveled to Shanghai, the year following of the Great Kanto Earthquake. (For Shizuko, it was her first and only travel overseas.)

...Shanghai back then was a very beautiful place, and we returned to Japan without going to Suzhou as we heard it was not safe if we went too far inland in mainland China. We went to see a *Jingju* [Beijing Opera] then, and when we returned to our hotel, my father and mother happily talked about the story of the play, about what Guan Yu and Liu Bei did. For me, it was gibberish. I believe that my father had a forte in the knowledge of Chinese books, and my mother was better at Japanese classics. My mother was studying Japanese classics privately, and thanks to her, I ended up having to learn it as well.⁸⁾

The combination of Chinese books and Japanese classics (Japanese books), that Hisaya and Shizuko were well versed in coincidentally happens to be the structure of the ‘Iwasaki Bunko’ itself, which is the excellent collection of Toyo Bunko. This is an anecdote that well states the atmosphere of Hisaya's family, who was immersed in the world of Asian classics naturally as one of their enjoyments in daily life, without any force.

3 The Max Müller Bunko Collection

Hisaya was a exceptional bibliophile. The scope of purchasing his collection was not limited to Japanese and Chinese books, but even the type of Western books that thoroughly studied the cultures and climates of Asia. It was the “Max Müller Bunko” that became the first of such a collection.⁹⁾

In 1901, when Hisaya went to London, he purchased the great collection of Dr. Friedrich Max Müller, a professor at the University of Oxford who had died the year before. The collection covered the fields of religious studies, mythology and linguistics, and he donated it to the Tokyo Teikoku Daigaku [(Tokyo Imperial University), the present The University of Tokyo].

Prior to this, Kato Takaaki (Minister of Foreign Affairs, [the later 24th Prime Minister of Japan]), husband of Hisaya's elder sister Haruji, had been consulted about the purchase of Dr. Max Müller's collection by Takakusu Junjiro (Professor of Tokyo Imperial University), who was a former student of Dr. Max Müller. When he received this information, Hisaya recognized its significance for academic research and immediately agreed to buy the collection. After meeting with the widow of the professor in London, he paid the price of 36,000 yen (approximately 72,000,000 yen in present monetary value) including freight charges and insurance fees.

However, it was very regrettable that the collection shared the same fate as the Tokyo Imperial University Library which was burnt down to ashes during the Great Kanto Earthquake, 1923 (12th year of the Taisho Period).¹⁰⁾ Even the usually reserved Hisaya must have been discouraged by the loss of this worldwide cultural heritage.

4 The Morrison Bunko Collection

The Morrison Bunko collection is a starting point and even today a very important collection forming the main body of the Toyo Bunko library. The purchase of the Morrison Bunko collection was, for Hisaya, the second largest purchase following that of the Max Müller Bunko collection, which was a great library of Asian Studies that a Westerner had collected.¹¹⁾ This took place in the following year (1917) after passing on his post as the president of Mitsubishi Limited Partnership Business Company, to his cousin, Koyata.

Dr. George Earnest Morrison, an Australian-born China correspondent for *The London Times*, served as a special

advisor to the President of the Republic of China. His collection consisted of approximately 24,000 books, plus maps, image resources, and leaflets, all of which he himself collected during his stay in China. It was a 'gold mine' known only by the academics and intellectuals who were 'in the know' in Beijing.

For his final return to his homeland, Dr. Morrison was searching for someone who would buy this precious collection of books. There were candidates for the acquisition of this collection one after another, from leading universities in the United States, such as Harvard University and Yale University, to famous Chinese scholars, but the transferee was not easily decided as it was estimated to be sold at a considerably high cost, and the doctor himself was reluctant by saying, "a person who studies Chinese studies must be able to freely master reading Chinese books and Western languages."¹²

Hayashi Gonsuke (Japanese ambassador to China), Tatsuji Raizo (Trustee of South Manchuria Railways Company), and Odagiri Masunosuke (Director of Yokohama Specie Bank), the three who heard about this, decided to ask for an inspection of the private library by Dr. Ueda Kazutoshi (President of the Faculty of Letters, Tokyo Imperial University) and Ishida Mikinosuke (junior assistant of the office of the History Department of the same University), both who happened to be in Beijing, in the spring of 1916.

The two had a good look at the library and confirmed that it was an extremely excellent collection, and told Ambassador Hayashi and others that it was what Japan should buy. Odagiri immediately reported this to Inoue Junnosuke of Yokohama Specie Bank (the later Governor of the Bank of Japan and Minister of Finance) and asked for his mediation. After returning to Japan, Dr. Ueda, together with Dr. Kurakichi Shiratori, (Chairperson of the Oriental History Department, Tokyo Imperial University), also proposed a request to Inoue. It was clear that a vast sum of money would be necessary for the purchase of the library, and it was exceedingly difficult for the Tokyo Imperial University Library to purchase the collection by itself. Inoue then visited Hisaya, with whom he was associated, and implored his support.

When Inoue visited the office in Marunouchi, Hisaya came down from the 2nd floor and was about to leave the office. The talk between the two took place at the bottom of the stairs. Hisaya immediately agreed as if it was nothing, saying, "If you say that it is good, then I shall buy it. But, please make sure to have the scholars investigate it, just in case." Later, Inoue stated, "I was indeed very surprised at the magnanimous Baron Iwasaki. It was my first time to experience such a huge sales discussion that was decided in just a quick talk without even sitting down."¹³

The purchase of the library was finally settled at Dr. Morrison's asking price of 35,000 sterling pounds (about 7,000,000,000 yen, present monetary value). The agreement was closed at Morrison's house in Beijing, August 1917, in the presence of Odagiri and Ishida as deputies for Hisaya (fig. 3).

The numerous precious books treasured by Dr. Morrison were safely sent to Yokohama, but on September 30, a

sudden tragedy occurred. The warehouse of another home of Hisaya in Kiyosumi, where the collection was temporarily kept, was hit by a rainstorm, and suffered damage from high tides. The majority of the book collection was soaked in water. These books were immediately transferred to the second house in Komagome for necessary restoration, such as cleaning, drying and rebinding.

For the restoration, Ishida Mikinosuke mainly took charge of it, but Alchibald Henry Sayce (Professor from the University of Oxford, who was staying in Japan), and Hamada Kousaku (Professor at Kyoto Imperial University) also gave their assistance. Hisaya, who could not help worrying about the collection, came to see the books almost every day and encouraged the restoration work. At that time, guests who visited his office in Marunouchi or his main house in Kayacho, were usually told that "the master is presently in the stacks."

The minute the restoration was completed, Hisaya allocated a few rooms in the Mitsubishi No. 26 Building which was located on the Naka-dori Street in Marunouchi, established the "Morrison Library Temporary Office," and assigned Ishida Mikinosuke and Iwai Hirosato for the organization of the books. About that time, it is said that Akutagawa Ryunosuke [a well known contemporary writer], who was a schoolmate of Ishida during his high school years at the former Daiichi Koto Gakko [First Higher School], had an opportunity to see the precious classics of Asian Studies.

5 The Iwasaki Bunko Collection

'Toyo' as in the name of Toyo Bunko is the same term as 'Orient,' commonly used in the Western World (Occident), and the term also represents Japan¹⁴ One must pay special attention to this when considering the history of Toyo Bunko.

Iwasaki Bunko is a large collection of classical books related to Japan, and among the many collections of Toyo Bunko, a large portion, designated as the National Treasures and Important Cultural Properties, is included in the Iwasaki Bunko.

It began when Hisaya started to purchase his private collection, commissioning Dr. Wada Tsunashiro, who had a thorough knowledge of rare Japanese and Chinese books, which includes many former collections of scholars, such as Arai Hakuseki [Confucian scholar and politician of mid-Edo Period] and Ono Ranzan [scholar of Edo Period who specialized in Honzogaku, i.e. Chinese botany or herbalism introduced to Japan in Heian Period and was popular in the Edo Period]. When [the construction of] the stack rooms of Toyo Bunko were completed, a total of 38,000 books were donated at three different times, 1932, 1936, and 1943.

As a matter of fact, the 'Iwasaki Bunko' and 'Morrison Bunko' mentioned above are strongly connected. The facts shown below by Dr. Shiba Yoshinobu, the present Executive Librarian of Toyo Bunko serve as a very useful reference:

What I would like to especially mention about this relationship [between the Iwasaki Bunko and Morrison Bunko] is that, in 1919 (8th year of the Taisho Period), which was at the beginning of the above-mentioned period of the 'Morrison Library Temporary Office' (1917-24), three of the particularly precious books from the 'Iwasaki Bunko' were published with Wada Tsunashiro as the editor and Ishida Mikinosuke as the representative of the Iwasaki Bunko, and they were widely accessible to the public for academic use.¹⁵

The three books are the *Nihon Shoki (Chronicles of Japan)* [the oldest official book on the history of Japan], *Kobun Shosho (Old Text Version of Shangshu)* [also known as *Shujing* or *Book of History*, the oldest Chinese compilation of documentary records on the history of ancient China], and *Myoe Shonin Kashu (Collection of Waka Poems by Myoe Shonin)* [Buddhist monk of Kegonshu sect, early Kamakura Period], which were compiled during the mid-Heian to early Kamakura Periods. They had a very important value for academic bibliographies, but even more than that, they had an important role in the history of Japanese linguistics and language. This is because the oldest 'okototen,' [a type of code used in medieval Japan which was added to enable the reading of Chinese text in Japanese] recognized in the three books deciphers the origin of the Japanese reading methods for Chinese text.

The late 19th Century to the beginning of the 20th Century was an age when various genres of human and social sciences based on modern methods were created in Japanese universities. The collection of the Iwasaki Bunko, which was regarded as a 'treasure house' of selected classical books, gradually achieved attention as a group of academic resources which was regarded as original sources of Japanese linguistics and language studies. Hisaya promptly decided to publish reprints in response to such requests by the academic world.¹⁶

This also applied to the *Amakusa-bon (Doctrina Christiana: Compiled by the Society of Jesus of Japan)* (cat. III-5), *Sakuramenta Teiyou: Manuale ad Sacramenta, and Seikyō Seika: Flosculi*, which were collected during the time of the temporary office. The Amakusa-bon is a group of books which was printed by the letter-press printing machine, which the Jesuits brought with them for the sake of propagating Christianity at the beginning of the 16th Century. This is definitely an important factor in the history of printing, but it is also possible to grasp the Japanese grammar and pronunciation of those times from the Japanese written in the 'Latin' (Roman) alphabet. In other words, they are irreplaceable resources in the history of Japanese language studies.

At this time, the leading scholars of various studies of human and social sciences receiving Hisaya's support were in the process of collecting as many precious and rare books as possible and executing the reprints simultaneously. They continued to accumulate books because of their rarity, value or academic worthiness as a collection of Asian Studies

books at the time when most other libraries were collecting books based on language, i.e. *washo* (Japanese books), *kanseki* (Chinese books) and *yosho* (Western books), because it was a simpler method of adding to a collection. While they accumulated the collection, the Morrison Bunko and Iwasaki Bunko collections eventually merged together and this led to the foundation of Toyo Bunko, a massive research library on 'Asia including Japan,' as it is known today.¹⁷

6 The Inauguration of Toyo Bunko

Hisaya, on one hand, enriched his own 'Iwasaki Bunko' collection, but on the other hand, he expanded his collection to new areas, and continued to collect new and old books which covered the whole of Asia, not just China. This met the conditions which Dr. Morrison had set for the transfer of his collection "to put together all the books in one place without having them dispersed elsewhere, expand the collection, and submit them for the use of scholars," and took over Dr. Morrison's will.

Next, in order to provide these collections as an open library to the society, he consulted with Inoue Junnosuke, Odagiri Masunosuke, Ueda Kazutoshi, and Shiratori Kurakichi many times. As a result, Hisaya decided to prepare a site of more than 1900 tsubo [approximately 6270 square meters] in the corner of the premises of his second house in Komagome, and donated a total amount of more than 4,600,000 yen (present monetary value of approximately 9,200,000,000 yen) including land expenses, construction fees, etc. Soon after, the refined two-story main building and four-story stack rooms made of reinforced concrete were completed in the style of a typical residence seen in the suburbs of England (fig. 4). It was designed by Sakurai Kotaro, the head engineer of Mitsubishi Estate Co. Ltd.

In November 1924, Toyo Bunko Foundation was inaugurated. Inoue, Ueda and Shiratori were assigned as the first councilors, and Inoue was appointed as the first Chairman of the Committee. Hisaya firmly refused to be involved in the operation of the foundation, but donated a further 2,000,000 yen (present monetary value of approximately 4,000,000,000 yen) for maintenance funds.

The following was decided as the mission of the newly established foundation:

1. to establish and manage the Library
2. to establish and manage the Research Department
3. to hold lectures, study classes, and exhibitions
4. to publish academic and other books, for the purpose of the collection of books related to Asia, studies and propagation of Asian Studies.

This was how Toyo Bunko came to merge the Library and Academic Institution. The collections of Japanese, Chinese and Western books, maps and paintings increased year-by-year. The Research Department also commissioned notable scholars from both inside and outside of Japan, majoring in Asian Studies, as researchers, and furthermore

trained young researchers by providing them the status of 'research student.' Exhibitions and lectures were held at all times, Asian Studies was developed and dissemination of Asian Studies was attempted to the general public.¹⁸⁾

As the interest of the maintenance fees for the Foundation reached 100,000 yen (approximately 200,000,000 yen in present monetary value) per year, Toyo Bunko was able to use this to defray library expenses, research expenses and other ordinary expenditures. The amount was abundant for that time so the library staffs was able to enjoy collecting documentary records and engaging in research. This was indeed 'a paradise for scholars.'

It seemed that Hisaya enjoyed his occasional unannounced visits to the Library dressed in everyday kimono, where he casually took tours around the stacks and then return home. He never appeared for formal ceremonies. He was also asked to be present when the Crown Prince Hirohito (Emperor Showa) made his royal visit to the Library, however, he firmly refused by saying, "I donated the Library to the Foundation, so I will leave it to Chairman Inoue." Although Hisaya was the founder and donor of Toyo Bunko, he thereafter was never involved with its administration.

However, when there was a request for the purchase of books, he would immediately provide extra fees, and generously provided financial support regardless of the cost. If ordered in the name of Baron Iwasaki, bookstores from all over the world would instantly send the books to the Library with just one telegram no matter how voluminous they were. As the fee would be paid immediately through the overseas branches of Mitsubishi, bookstores in every country tried to be the first to report when a good book was published.¹⁹⁾

7 Postwar Hardships and Rehabilitation

However, such good times did not last long. Toyo Bunko like others could not avoid being involved in war damages. The number of staff gradually decreased because of military drafts and it was difficult to continue its operation. Also, to avoid damage by the bombings of Tokyo during World War II, measures were taken to evacuate some of the precious documentary records to Miyagi Prefecture.

In August 1945, with the defeat of World War II, Japan was under the occupation of the Allied Forces. Shortly after, as a part of the policies for the democratization of the Japanese economy, the dissolution of the Mitsubishi *Zaibatsu* [conglomerate] was ordered along with other conglomerates of Mitsui, Sumitomo and Yasuda [by the General Headquarters (G. H. Q.)]. Although Hisaya had already resigned from the Main Office of Mitsubishi in 1916, he was designated as part of the family of the plutocracy, and his property was placed under government control.

Hisaya retired from all of his posts in related companies and lost most of his assets. He lost his wife, Shizuko, followed by the death of his successor, Koyata, and he spent his days living in the main house of Kayacho, bearing his indignation.

That house was soon requisitioned by the G. H. Q., and he had to vacate most of his houses.²⁰⁾

Toyo Bunko Foundation's assets suddenly collapsed with the freezing of funds, and for a while underwent difficulties of having no chance of reopening the library. The Ministry of Education, who could not put up with the situation, offered to reconstruct Toyo Bunko as a Library of the National University, only if the Foundation donated it to the nation. However, the Board of Trustees of the Foundation refused this offer stating that such a measure would be against the will of the founder, Hisaya, whose aim for the library was a private research institution for free development of academic research.

However, considering the financial circumstances, the Foundation commissioned the administration of the Library Department to the National Diet Library as a provisional measure, and after August 1949, it operated as its branch. This is indebted to the great efforts of Chairman Shidehara Kijuro (former Prime Minister) who was Hisaya's brother-in-law. It was also an honor for the National Diet Library, which had just opened and had a shortage in its collection of books, to take over the library administration of Toyo Bunko, and the library staff who were sent to Toyo Bunko were able to acquire an invaluable practical experience through the handling of various books of all ages and countries owned by Toyo Bunko. On the other hand, the equipment and books of Toyo Bunko remained the property of the Foundation as before, and the administration of the Research Department was also continued by the Foundation.

Thereafter, with the enrichment of the executives with Hosokawa Moritatsu (head of the former Kumamoto-han domain and grandfather of the former Prime Minister Hosokawa Morihiro) as Chairman, Toyo Bunko aimed at the restoration of its library. While strengthening the financial base by receiving donations from Harvard-Yenching Institute, The Rockefeller Foundation, and from others from all directions, both inside and outside Japan, and obtaining grants for research expenditures by the Ministry of Education, Toyo Bunko was able to gradually restore its research activities, collection of books, and training of research students to its original state.²¹⁾

On June 21st, 1949, Hisaya finally left the main house in Kayacho, and moved to Suehiro Farm in Chiba Prefecture. He spent his last years continuing his hobbies of agriculture and stock-raising, and reading, while under medical treatment. He felt uneasy without a book by his bedside and would read Chinese poems such as those by Du Fu [well-known Chinese poet of Tang Dynasty]. When his children and grandchildren visited him, he would often order new books. When his grandchildren asked him about animals and plants, he would sometimes provide comments like an expert with additional explanations in detail.²²⁾ A little more than six years later, Hisaya died on December 2nd, 1955. Coincidentally, it happened to be the very same day as the death of his successor, Koyata.

Instead of concluding...

Lastly, I would like to look a new at the figure of Iwasaki Hisaya. This is a general survey of Hisaya in person from an extremely limited perspective relating to the establishment of Toyo Bunko. However, when thinking about his principle of behavior or lifestyle which can be seen in every way, I believe that the evaluation below by novelist, Ms. Mori Mayumi, is precise.

Hisaya was not like a 'hero of the troubled times,' such as his father Yataro. He acted quietly as a modern manager until the end, but invested for people with dreams regardless of interests. There lies the early form of what is now called a patronage or philanthropy. Hisaya himself was unable to give up his dream towards academic studies and nature.²³⁾

Also, according to Mr. Narita Seiichi, historical analyst of Mitsubishi, Hisaya was an attentive listener from a very young age. He would first listen carefully to the other person's story, and once he decided he could trust this person, he would approve the direction, but left it to that person's discussion and discretion. He possessed the qualities necessary for those who lead, which are to trust people and gain other people's trust.²⁴⁾

The Asian Studies in Japan had just been formed in the same way it had introduced the studies of Modern history at the beginning of the 20th Century. Young and energetic researchers gathered at the huge 'base' of Toyo Bunko, and all were able to develop their own areas of expertise. The world's leading research achievements, even today, are announced one after another. Toyo Bunko takes pride in its abundant collection which is true to its name as one of the world's five best collections as a research library in Asian Studies, and applicants for the use of the library have never ceased for even a single day. These have all bloomed from the abundant soil that Hisaya cultivated.

And now, a new page is about to be added to the history of Toyo Bunko. The Museum Department has been newly established, and a grand opening of the museum will be held in the autumn of 2011, when the reconstruction of the new Main Building will be completed (fig. 5). The 'treasure mine' that Hisaya and the world's 'masters' of Asian Studies had collected during their lifetimes will suddenly be displayed in front of the very eyes of the visitors.

The viewers will actually be able to see the familiar masterpieces that they may have seen only through textbooks and television. They will also be able to experience the various attractions of Asia in the café & restaurant and the gift shop, which will be opened together with the museum. After a hundred years have passed, Asian Studies finally became a 'gaku' mon (「楽」問) The author of this essay changed the Chinese character for 'gaku' (学, meaning "study" or "learn") from its more familiar usage to 'gaku' (楽, meaning "enjoy," "fun" or "ease") which is a play on words. The character

gaku (学) together with mon (問, meaning "question") is the commonly used word *gakumon* (学問) which means "serious" learning, studies or knowledge. It was replaced by 'gaku' mon (「楽」問) which literally can be defined as "the joy of learning," "fun learning" or even "relaxed" way of learning. This usage of 'gaku' mon (「楽」問) makes Asian Studies more commonly accepted and familiar as an area of learning. Like Hisaya, who dropped by Toyo Bunko dressed in everyday kimono, viewers are welcome to visit and spend as much time as they wish at any time according to their interests.

[Translated by Rumie Sakiyama]

Notes

- 1) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, Editor's Committee for the Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya, ed. 1961.
- 2) Mori Mayumi, "The Man Who Carried The Mitsubishi Zaibatsu on His Back," *Tokyo-jin* No. 150, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, 2000, p. 98.
- 3) For details, refer to Mori Mayumi, "Kiri-doshi, Ishigaki, Muenzaka...: The people of the Iwasaki family as seen by the machikatashuu." "Figure of Hisaya as Seen from My Eyes." "How to Live and Stay at The Main House in Kaya-cho: Interview with Ms. Ayako Fukuzawa, Third Daughter of Hisaya" (all of which are recorded in *Tokyo-jin* No. 82, Tokyo Metropolitan Culture Foundation, 1994)
- 4) Corporate Communications Department, Mitsubishi Corporation. *Ryowa* No. 221, 2008, p. 11.
- 5) Mori Mayumi, *op. cit.*, p. 99.
- 6) By 1905, to celebrate the victory of the Russo-Japan War, Hisaya invited 6000 officers and men of the Navy to begin with Togo Heihachiro and held a grand party for their triumphant return. It was a unique event where the petty officers and sailors had to play the role as the main characters, while the officers and higher ranked people as the secondary characters. It is said that at the farm, he put his efforts in raising milk cows, built a large greenhouse for real and worked on the cultivation and breed improvement of flowers, vegetables, and grapes (Fujimori Terunobu, "Iwasaki Hisaya and Tokyo," *Tokyo-jin* No. 82, *op. cit.*, 1994, p. 46).
- 7) Mori Mayumi, "The Tomb in Somei," *Tokyo-jin* No. 153, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, 2000, p. 142.
- 8) *ibid.*, p. 144.
- 9) Shiba Yoshinobu, "Eighty Years of Toyo Bunko Foundation," Toyo Bunko Foundation, *The History of The Eighty Years of Toyo Bunko*, Vol. I: *Its History and Masterpieces*, 2008, pp. 7-8.
- 10) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, *op. cit.*, p. 269.
- 11) Shiba Yoshinobu, *op. cit.*, p. 8.
- 12) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, *op. cit.*, p. 272.
- 13) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, *op. cit.*, p. 273.
- 14) Shiba Yoshinobu, *op. cit.*, p. 15.
- 15) Shiba Yoshinobu, *op. cit.*, p. 9. When Toyo Bunko was established, they were recorded in the beginning of the page as an extra of "Toyo Bunko Sokan Series" Nos. (I) - (II)
- 16) Shiba Yoshinobu, *op. cit.*, p. 9.
- 17) Shiba Yoshinobu, *op. cit.*, pp. 9-10.
- 18) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, *op. cit.*, pp. 274-275.
- 19) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, *op. cit.*, pp. 277-278.
- 20) Mori Mayumi, "A Country Gentleman," *Tokyo-jin* No. 157, Tokyo Metropolitan Foundation for History and Culture, 2000, p. 142.
- 21) *Biography of Iwasaki Hisaya*, *op. cit.*, pp. 279-280.
- 22) Mori Mayumi, *op. cit.*, p. 147.
- 23) Mori Mayumi, "The Man Who Carried The Mitsubishi Zaibatsu on His Back," *op. cit.*, p. 100.
- 24) Narita, Seiichi, *The Story of Iwasaki Yataro: The Samurai Who Established 'Mitsubishi'*, Mainichi Ones, 2010, p. 138.

[English Text Appendix]

Editors
ASAMI Yoshiko Curator, Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo
KATO Akiko Curator, Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo

Texts
TAKAHASHI Akiya Director, Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo
ASAMI Yoshiko Curator, Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo
SUZUKI Hiroyuki Professor, School of Cultural & Creative Studies, Aoyama Gakuin University
YAMANASHI Emiko Head, Modern/Contemporary Art Section, Department of Research Programming,
National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo
TAKASHINA Erika Associate Professor, Kyoto University
SHIMADA Hanako Art Management
KOBAYASHI Yuko Curator, Seikado Bunko Art Museum, The Seikado Foundation
NARISAWA Mako Librarian, Seikado Bunko Library, The Seikado Foundation
HASEGAWA Shoko Curator, Seikado Bunko Art Museum, The Seikado Foundation
MAKINO Motonori Research Fellow-Curator, Toyo Bunko
YOSHIDA Mari Kirin Group Archives Office
EBINA Atsumi Curator, NYK MARITIME MUSEUM
IDE Yoichiro Professor at Tokyo Junshin Women's College, Director of Fuchu Art Museum
MIYAZAKI Katsumi Art Historian

Editorial Assistant and Production
Interpublica

Editorial Assistant
MIKAMI Yutaka Professor, Wako University
OTA So

YAMANE Chiaki Doctoral Program, Aesthetics and Science of Arts, Faculty of Letters,
Keio University
MORIYAMA Midori Doctoral Program, Aesthetics and Science of Arts, Faculty of Letters,
Keio University
TAKASHIRO Yasuyuki Assistant, Aesthetics and Science of Arts, Faculty of Letters,
Keio University
NOZAWA Hiroki Assistant, The Area of Japanese and Asian Art History,
Department of Aesthetics and Arts History, Faculty of Fine Arts,
Tokyo University of the Arts
MANABE Yuko Master degree of Aesthetics, Aesthetics and Science of Arts, Faculty of Letters,
Keio University

Translation
HITOMI Nobuko
Martha J. McCLINTOCK
Cheryl A. SILVERMAN
ITO Mitsuko
OTA So
SAKIYAMA Rumie

Catalogue Design
ujidesign (MAEDA Yutaka, OBA Tomohiro)

Printing
SANWA Printing (TAJIMA Jusuke)

Publishing
Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo
100-0005 2-6-2 Marunouchi Chiyoda-City TOKYO <http://mimt.jp>

Date of publication
August 24, 2010

©Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo, 2010 All rights reserved. Printed in Japan

Contents

Page numbers listed in parentheses () indicate page numbers in the accompanying Japanese catalogue.

06	The Formation and Exhibition of Art Collections — Modern Corporations and Art —	Takahashi Akiya	(pp. 14-18)
10	Art Museum and Theater: The Marunouchi District as Envisioned by Mitsubishi on the Mitsubishi Plains	Asami Yoshiko	(pp. 19-24)
Prologue Mitsubishi's Promotion of Modernization and Culture in the Marunouchi District: The "Art. Galleries. Maru no Uchi. Tokio" Proposal			
16	Josiah Conder, the Iwasaki Family, and Paintings	Suzuki Hiroyuki	(pp.32-35)
I The Mitsubishi Collection: Modern Japanese Art			
20	The Iwasaki Family as Modern Art Patrons as Seen in the Mitsubishi Collection of Japanese Western-Style Paintings	Yamanashi Emiko	(pp. 43-47)
25	Iwasaki Yanosuke and the Yamamoto Hosui's <i>Oriental Zodiac Signs (Junishi)</i>	Takashina Erika	(pp. 70-75)
30	Umehara Ryuzaburo and His Supporters	Shimada Hanako	(pp. 76-79)
II Cultural Activities of the Iwasaki Family: The Seikado Foundation			
34	The Seikado: A Father and Son's Collection and its History	Kobayashi Yuko	(pp. 104-108)
38	On the Sekaido Bunko Collection	Narisawa Mako	(pp. 109-110)
40	Seikado Bunko Art Museum Collection	Hasegawa Shoko	(pp. 111-115)
III Cultural Activities of the Iwasaki Family: Toyo Bunko			
44	Iwasaki Hisaya and Toyo Bunko (The Oriental Library)	Makino Motonori	(pp. 146-153)
IV Commercial Design: Nippon Yusen Kaisha and Kirin Brewery Company, Limited			
50	Advertisement designs of Kirin from Meiji to early Showa period	Yoshida Mari	(p. 167)
51	Commercial Art and Nippon Yusen Kaisha	Ebina Atsumi	(pp. 168-171)
V The Mitsubishi Collection: Modern Western Art			
54	Outline of Today's Art Collection by Business Enterprises	Ide Yoichiro	(pp. 192-195)
58	Western Paintings Collected by Iwasaki Koyata	Miyazaki Katsumi	(pp. 196-199)
Epilogue From Dream to Reality: "Art. Galleries. Maru no Uchi. Tokio" and the Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo			
62	From "Art. Galleries. Maru no Uchi. Tokio" to the Mitsubishi Ichigokan Museum, Tokyo	Asami Yoshiko	(pp. 206-208)

三菱が夢見た美術館
岩崎家と三菱ゆかりのコレクション
FROM DREAM TO REALITY
THE IWASAKI / MITSUBISHI COLLECTION

English Text Appendix

