

Journal of East Asian Libraries

Volume 1983 | Number 70 Article 6

6-1-1983

A Binational Project for the Preservation and Control of Censored Magazines from the Allied Occupation of Japan at the University of Maryland

Eizaburo Okuizumi

Frank Joseph Fulman

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Okuizumi, Eizaburo and Fulman, Frank Joseph (1983) "A Binational Project for the Preservation and Control of Censored Magazines from the Allied Occupation of Japan at the University of Maryland," *Journal of East Asian Libraries*: Vol. 1983 : No. 70 , Article 6.
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/jeal/vol1983/iss70/6

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of East Asian Libraries by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

A BINATIONAL PROJECT FOR THE PRESERVATION AND CONTROL OF CENSORED MAGAZINES FROM THE ALLIED OCCUPATION OF JAPAN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Eizaburo Okuizumi
Frank Joseph Shulman

University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland

Since the early 1950s, the library of the University of Maryland in College Park has housed an enormous collection of books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, news photographs, political posters, news service dispatches (tsūshin), and other types of published and unpublished materials from the Allied Occupation period.[1] Between 1945 and 1949, these materials constituted the files of the Civil Censorship Detachment (CCD) of SCAP,[2] a unit which insured adherence to the censorship codes established by General MacArthur's staff. Japanese publishers, organizations, and individuals were required to submit for examination copies of everything that they intended to print. Kept on file in Tokyo, these items came to form a reasonably complete publications record for the immediate postwar years. When censorship was lifted, Professor Gordon W. Prange secured these materials for the University of Maryland.[3] Today, comparably extensive holdings cannot be found in any other library. Indeed, tens of thousands of items may well be unique.[4]

During the 1960s and early 1970s, under the direction of such librarians as Hideo Kaneko, Naomi Fukuda, and Jack A. Siggins and with the cooperation of such campus faculty members as Professor Marlene J. Mayo, extensive efforts were begun to process and catalog these publications (since they had not been adequately organized by SCAP) in order to make them as accessible as possible to interested scholars. A three-year, $117,000 grant was obtained from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1977 to accelerate the work through the employment of additional associate and classified library staff members. By then, however, it had already become clear that the library was engaged in a race against time. The paper on which most of the materials were printed during the 1940s was of very poor quality: It had yellowed, was becoming brittle, and in a few cases had already disintegrated despite the University's attempts to protect them. An extensive microfilming program had to be undertaken with all due speed if these valuable materials were to be saved. The expense of microfilming several million pages of magazines, newspapers, and books, however, was such that the University of Maryland could not carry out an extensive program on its own. Furthermore, there appeared to be little immediate likelihood of the University's securing adequate funding from American agencies to cover the many costs involved.

Negotiations were initiated in 1978 with representatives of Bell & Howell's Micro Photo Division (in Wooster, Ohio) to have that company film those magazines which showed signs of actual censorship. Specific plans contingent on Bell & Howell's ability to market the films commercially were drawn up, and widespread publicity ensued. It was not until Mr. Mitsuo Nitta, President of Yushodo Booksellers Inc. in Tokyo,[5] responded to an article appearing in the December 21, 1979, issue of the Yomiuri Shimbun appealing for Japanese cooperation in the microfilming venture, however, that the project began to appear truly feasible.[6]

After protracted negotiations that addressed such matters as the avoidance of possible copyright violations, the provision of satisfactory bibliographical controls for the censored magazines, the formal division of responsibilities among the parties involved, and the selection of the medium most appropriate for both preservation and reading purposes, contracts were signed by the University of Maryland with both Yushodo Booksellers Inc. and Bell & Howell. In order that 160,000

> of the most historically and educationally significant pages of the censored magazines portion of the Prange Collection [could be] preserve[d] by means of microfilm [and could be made] more easily accessible to historians and other scholars of the era of the Allied Occupation, particularly historians and scholars in Japan and the United States,[7]

the East Asia Collection agreed to prepare the censored materials for microfilming and to compile for publication through Yushodo Booksellers an accompanying user's guide; Bell & Howell agreed to provide all necessary technical advice and to do the microfilming in accordance with directions provided by the East Asia Collection at their Wooster, Ohio, plant on 35mm silver haloid microfilm that was suitable for archival preservation purposes; and Yushodo Booksellers agreed to underwrite many of the costs of the microfilming program, to publicize the venture as a special project in commemoration of its 50th anniversary year, and to assume the exclusive rights for distributing positive microfilm copies on a worldwide basis. Actual filming commenced in April 1982, the user's guide to the microfilm edition of censored periodicals was published by Yushodo Booksellers in November 1982 in conjunction with a one day international symposium on the Allied Occupation of Japan which it organized in Tokyo to publicize the project, and Bell & Howell has successfully filmed nearly all of the censored magazines. The entire project is scheduled for completion in August 1983, when full sets of positive microfilms will be available for sale to interested customers.[8]

In order to provide a better understanding of how this microfilming project has actually progressed, let us briefly describe some of the work involved.

The Gordon W. Prange Collection contains 13,000 periodical titles (an estimated 3,300,000 pages of material) from the early years of the Occupation period. These magazines cover virtually every topic of interest to the Japanese at that time. In many cases, an unbroken run from 1945-1949 may be found within the library; in other cases, only one or two issues of a particular journal are available. A significant number of the magazines are stencilled, rather than printed. Not only were they distributed in limited quantities, but they were also poorly reproduced in many cases and difficult to read.

The first stage of the project was to separate out from among these 13,000 periodical titles all of the issues which showed signs of censorship, together with the related working papers of the Civil Censorship Detachment. Most of the magazines which underwent post-publication censorship were separated out in the early 1970s by East Asia Collection staff. During 1980-1981, in turn, those magazines which incurred pre-publication censorship were identified and also separated from the large corpus of periodicals that had routinely passed censorship.[9] All of the

censored magazine titles (i.e., those bearing signs that they had violated the censorship codes) were then arranged letter by letter in A-B-C order and housed in twenty-eight file cabinets within a locked room adjacent to the East Asia Collection offices. While seemingly routine in nature, alphabetization of the titles frequently necessitated difficult decisions centering on the proper romanization of place names and unusual kanji. All of the issues for each title were then arranged in chronological order by date of publication. Duplicate items and censored materials deemed too insignificant for microfilming at this time were set aside. Since many of the issues were accompanied by galley proofs, page proofs, and/or Civil Censorship Detachment working papers (in English) which describe and translate objectionable passages and which specify the actions taken by the censors, it was necessary to arrange these materials in some logical order (see below) and to insert them among the pages of the magazines that were to be filmed. Paperclips and such other unnecessary items as duplicate carbon copies were removed to facilitate the work of the Bell & Howell Micro Photo Division camera operator who would be responsible for the technical aspects of the microfilming. In only a few cases, however, were the staples that held issues of magazines together in the margins removed or were previously bound magazine issues sent to the bindery to be professionally unbound. A total of 9,546 issues--3,839 precensored issues and 5,707 postcensored issues--comprising nearly 160,000 pages of materials were ultimately selected for the microfilming project. At the same time as this was being done, holdings cards for the 3,481 magazine titles that were to be filmed were prepared along with many hundreds of cross-reference cards. The holdings cards contained basic bibliographical data (title in romaji and kanji, place of publication and publisher's name) together with information about the specific issues being filmed (e.g., date of publication, volume and issue numbers), an indication of which issues underwent prepublication censorship and which were examined by the Allied Occupation authorities only after their publication, and frequent special notes about the materials. The work involved in selecting and placing the materials in order and in preparing the holdings cards required the services of two full-time staff members over a twelve month period.

The second stage took the form of preparing detailed instruction sheets ("microfilm project/processing sheets") for the Bell & Howell camera operator. One sheet was prepared for each of the nearly 10,000 issues awaiting filming, and since the camera operator had never studied any Japanese, these sheets were largely bilingual. A typical sheet specified which materials and pages were to be filmed, their precise order, and the total number of exposures required. The basic order was as follows:

(1) magazine cover
(2) table of contents of the magazine issue
(3) the Civil Censorship Detachment's magazine routing slip and magazine examination sheet
(4) the offending magazine article as submitted for censorship examination, frequently in galley proof format
(5) working papers that translated portions of the article and related Japanese-language correspondence into English and that described the reasons for recommending censorship
(6) working papers designating the censorship action ultimately taken, and
(7) the article as it actually appeared in print.

In a number of cases, however, some of these materials were unavailable either because they had never been submitted to CCD in the first place or because they had subsequently been lost. On some occasions, for example, galley proofs were not accompanied by translations of corresponding passages; on other occasions, only published versions containing CCD marks were available. In the case of magazine articles that were totally suppressed, of course, there were no final versions released for public distribution that could be filmed as part of the project. In addition, it was necessary not only to indicate to the camera operator which pages to film but also to double check that all items were in perfect order before shipping them to him since his responsibilities did not allow him to deviate from the instructions provided by the East Asia Collection staff. The work undertaken during this stage of the project was carried out by two full-time staff members over a six month period.

Stage three of the project consisted of training the camera operator--one East Asia Collection staff member spent a week at the Bell & Howell Micro Photo Division plant working with him--and shipping the censored materials between College Park, Maryland, and Wooster, Ohio, by the United Parcel Service in sturdy wooden crates. The filming itself required over one full year (eight times longer than normal for the quantity of materials involved) because the censored materials varied greatly in their nature. They were printed on a wide range of sizes and kinds of paper, the handwriting on them appeared in a variety of colored inks and pencilling, and the magazines in general varied drastically in their legibility. The constant need to readjust the microfilm camera settings, frequently from one page to the next, dramatically slowed the rate at which the camera operator could progress. When the camera operator finally finished producing a set of microfilm reels, other staff members at Bell & Howell carefully examined them and then prepared positive copies for East Asia Collection staff to examine in turn. In both cases, the instruction sheets were used for "proof reading" purposes. Whenever mistakes were discovered, Bell & Howell was able to rectify them easily since the original materials were kept on hand for possible refilming until word was received from the East Asia Collection that everything was "OK".[10] Then and only then was a set of master negatives air mailed to Tokyo for Yushodo Booksellers to edit for eventual reproduction and distribution in a set of 260 positive microfilm reels. The censored magazine materials themselves were returned to the University of Maryland library where they will be retained as long as possible for scholarly use on an "as needed" basis.

Publication of the bilingual user's guide to the microfilmed materials was undertaken while microfilming was underway.[11] This volume includes not only a complete listing of the microfilmed issues but also articles about the Gordon W. Prange Collection and about the activities of the Civil Censorship Detachment, a list identifying the reel number on which each magazine title appears, and three appendixes.[12] It can serve as a useful reference work in its own right even though it does not obviate the need for a comprehensive bibliography of all of the magazines published during the early years of the Occupation period that were examined by the Civil Censorship Detachment. Such a bibliography, we might note, constitutes a joint project of the East Asia Collection and Shuppan Nyususha (Tokyo) which is now nearing completion.

The censored magazine microfilming project is one of the first instances in which a large body of Japanese-language materials outside of Japan has been microfilmed on a binational basis for preservation purposes.[13] On the one hand, this activity represents an important, cooperative step designed to insure that a part of Japan's cultural and historical heritage is available for generations to come. As the censored materials are unique and shed light both on American activities in Japan and on immediate postwar Japanese domestic developments, their loss would be deeply felt on both sides of the Pacific Ocean. On the other hand, the project as conceived and realized may be able to provide other North American library collections with some ideas of how they too could effectively cooperate with Japanese, Chinese or Korean organizations in projects for preserving other bodies of valuable publications presently in their custody.

---

1. Since 1979, these materials have collectively been known as the Gordon W. Prange Collection in honor of Professor Prange's efforts to obtain them for his home institution. They constitute a section of the East Asia Collection and are housed within the McKeldin library building.

2. SCAP (Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers) was the organization through which, in effect, General Douglas MacArthur governed Japan during the immediate postwar period.

3. Prange, author of the recently published book At Dawn We Slept: The Untold Story of Pearl Harbor (New York: McGraw Hill, 1981) and of Tora, Tora, Tora (Tokyo: Nihon Ridasu Daijesutosha, 1970), served at that time as chief of the G-2 Historical Section of SCAP.

4. Among the library's present holdings are nearly 50,000 books and pamphlets, 13,000 titles of magazines (an estimated 3,300,000 pages of materials), and 16,500 titles of newspapers and tsūshin. For published reports about the Prange Collection, see in particular Frank Joseph Shulman's article "The Gordon W. Prange Collection: Publications and Unpublished Materials from the Allied Occupation of Japan within the East Asia Collection, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland, College Park" in User's Guide to The Gordon W. Prange Collection, East Asia Collection, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland at College Park. Part I: Microfilm Edition of Censored Periodicals, 1945-1949, compiled and edited by Eizaburo Okuizumi (Tokyo: Yushodo Booksellers, 1982): 22-27. This article updates information previously appearing in similar articles by Shulman in the March 1978 issue of the Committee on East Asian Libraries Bulletin, the March 1978 issue of the Kokuritsu Kokkai Toshokan geppo [in Japanese translation], and The Occupation of Japan: Economic Policy and Reform. The Proceedings of a Symposium Sponsored by the MacArthur Memorial, April 13-15, 1978, edited by Lawrence H. Redford (Norfolk, Va.: MacArthur Memorial, 1980). For a brief explanation of the activities of the Civil Censorship Detachment, see Reports of General MacArthur. MacArthur in Japan: The Occupation: Military Phase. Volume I Supplement (Washington, D. C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1966): 236-43, which has been reprinted in Okuizumi, User's Guide to The Gordon W. Prange Collection, pp. 8-14.

5. For many years Yushodo Booksellers Inc. has carried our an active program for filming valuable printed and manuscript materials. These have included the papers of Goto Shimpei (Gotō Shimpei Monjo) and Inoue Kowashi (Goin Bunko Inoue Kowashi Monjo); extensive runs of the magazines Chūō Koron and Taiyō; the proceedings of the Imperial Diet, 1890-1947; and the National Diet, 1947-1972 (Teikoku Gikai Gijiroku and Kokkai Kaigiroku); and complete collections of the statistical yearbooks of Japanese prefectures from the Meiji, Taishō, and early Shōwa periods.

6. Mr. Nitta responded to an appeal by Frank Joseph Shulman, Director of Maryland's East Asia Collection, that accompanied a feature article about the library's recently accessioned collection of papers belonging to Dr. Justin Williams, Sr. See "Shusen chokugo no Nihon kiroku hozon o", Yomiuri Shimbun, December 21, 1979, p. 13. An edited, English-language version of this newspaper article appeared under the title "Help Needed to Save SCAP Files" in the Daily Yomiuri (Tokyo), December 26, 1979.

7. Prange Collection Microfilm Distribution Agreement, p. 1.

8. For reasons of copyright, the sale of films is being limited essentially to institutions and individuals who wish to use them for scholarly and research purposes only. Each sale will require the written permission of the University of Maryland before it can be consummated.

9. Until late 1947, all publishers routinely submitted materials for examination before their publication. During 1948 and 1949, most--but not all--were permitted to submit items for examination after their publication.

10. After the initial set of fifteen reels were reviewed and the camera operator was alerted to certain recurring types of problems and errors, most of the microfilming progressed satisfactorily.

11. User's Guide to the Gordon W. Prange Collection, East Asia Collection, McKeldin Library, University of Maryland at College Park. Part I: Microfilm Edition of Censored Periodicals, 1945-1949, compiled and edited by Eizaburo Okuizumi. Tokyo: Yushodo Booksellers, 1982. xviii, 531 p.

12. The appendixes are (1) "Pre-Censored Ultra-Rightist and Ultra-Leftist Periodicals during the Occupation", (2) "Number of Pre- and Post-Censored Periodicals during the Occupation (By Prefecture)", and (3) "Statistics by Year of Publication: 1945-1949".

13. The longterm project of the National Diet Library for microfilming a vast number of pages from the SCAP archives in the National Archives and Records Service at Suitland, Maryland, it should be noted, deals primarily with English-language materials. This is a cooperative venture of the National Archives of the United States and the National Diet Library of Japan.