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## 2006 Japanese Company History (*Shashi*) Interest Group

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## 2006 JAPANESE COMPANY HISTORY (*SHASHI*) INTEREST GROUP

### Annual Business Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Thursday, April 6, 2006

**Place:** Sierra Suite E, San Francisco Marriott

**Participants:** Sanae Isozumi (Chair/UC San Diego), Tokiko Bazzell (recorder/Hawaii), Maureen Donovan (Ohio State), Hiroyuki Good (Pittsburg), Yoshiko Higurashi (San Diego State), Michiko Ito (Kansas), Izumi Koide (Shibusawa Foundation), Toshie Marra (UCLA), Akira Miyazawa (NII), Koshiro Moroya (Kanazawa Institute of Technology), Haruko Nakamura (Yale), Yoko Okunishi (NCC), Hisako Roberson (LC), Kazuko Sakaguchi (DCJ/Harvard), Chiaki Sakai (Iowa), Asako Shiba (WUSL), Takako Suzuki (George Washington)

#### 1. Project update and *Shashi* related news from Japan

Isozumi opened the meeting by announcing that in July 2005 she assumed the *Shashi* Group Chair position, which was previously held by Tokiko Bazzell. She then thanked Bazzell for serving from April 2003-March 2005.

Isozumi distributed a Nikkei article on *shashi* (dated 3/18/06) along with a message from Ms Katsuko Murahashi. In her message, Ms Murahashi reported on *shashi* publication trends in Japan, a recently published reference book, database to support *shashi* research, and her own activities related to *shashi*. She also sent her comments on the North American *Shashi* Group's future. She expressed her desire to see the group remain intact and suggested that the group develop attainable goals. The text of Ms Murahashi's message is at <<http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/company/interest.htm>>

Ms Izumi Koide, Director, Resource Center, Shibusawa Memorial Museum opened her report by providing comments on the Nikkei's article (mentioned above.) Somewhat contrary to the article, Ms Koide clarified how the idea of creating a *shashi* database arose (ideas shared between Ms Murahashi and staff of Shibusawa Foundation). The project began with the *shashi* of companies related to Shibusawa on which they continue to accumulate data. It may take another 2 to 3 years to complete. Up to this point, data on 92 *shashi* titles (125 volumes) of 56 companies have been entered. Prof. Haruhito Takeda of the University of Tokyo is an advisor for the project. The Shibusawa Foundation holds approximately 3,000 volumes of *shashi* and is adding more. Some titles and annotations are now online. As for an updated bibliography, the Japan Special Library Association compiles and publishes a list every two years. The Kawasaki Library and the University of Kobe also provide the holding list online. Under Prof. Takeda's guidance, the Shibusawa Foundation is creating a searchable company chronology and linking the chronology to each company's lineage. Furthermore, the Foundation is developing a source directory of primary documents used to create *shashi* publications. After the meeting, Ms Koide added the following information. At present, a total of 125 volumes of *shashi* were indexed and total records in the database exceed 200,000. *Shashi* titles which were processed are now available through *shashi* index database are now available with annotation at: <<http://www.shibusawa.or.jp/center/shashi/shashi01.html>>. She also reported that the National Diet Library has placed higher priority than before in collecting *shashi* publications. The NDL held an internal seminar on *shashi* fall 2005.

#### 2. Report on *Shashi* in the Mitsui Collection and NCC funded titles at the University of Pittsburgh

Hiroyuki Good reported the details of the *shashi* collections in the Mitsui Collection.

##### 1. Mitsui Collection

In 2004, the valuable Mitsui Collection was donated by the Institute for Financial and Economic Research (金融経済研究所) of the former Mitsui Bank. The Collection contains over 64,000 volumes of books and journals - 33,498 of Japanese imprints (5,712 published before the end of World War II and 27,786 published afterward), 10,701 of Western languages imprints, over 20,000 volumes (1,391 titles 0 of Japanese and Western languages journals).

- 1.1 Mitsui Collection contains 2,735 volumes of monographs on *shashi* (社史, company history). By sample search on OCLC with 145 sample records, 47.58% of monographs on *shashi* are unique in the North America.
  - 1.2 256 volumes of monographs on *shashi* (81 volumes of banks, 58 volumes of manufactures and 26 volumes of finance and insurance) were published before the end of the World War II.
  - 1.3 We are discussing possibility of digitalization of the pre-WWII monographs, 5,712 volumes of which 256 volumes of *shashi*.
  - 1.4 We are also discussing possibility of outsourcing of cataloging a part of the collection.
  - 1.5 Asian Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh offers two annual Norio Tamaki Award of \$750 each to encourage using the Mitsui Collection. Please see the website of the East Asian Library for details.
2. Nihon no kaishashi maicroban shusei group 8, kinyu, shoken, 97 reels

The University of Pittsburgh was awarded 2005 MVS Grant to acquire this resource. It is available free through ILL. We have a plan to create a website of *shashi* next fiscal year.

### 3. Discussion: Future of our group

Isozumi led a discussion about future activities of the *Shashi* Interest Group. After CEAL changed its schedule, it has become increasingly difficult to hold a business meeting; however, many agreed that the Group's activity is important to promote the *shashi* collections in North America. The suggestions generated for accomplishing this were:

- Set up a *shashi* blog to exchange ideas and information on *shashi*. Maureen Donovan, Ohio State University Library, volunteered to set it up.
- Exchange "success stories" on how *shashi* publications are being utilized. People would be expected to contribute these stories on the *shashi* blog.
- Investigate the possibility setting up a link or *shashi* page on the NCC Web site. Donovan and Koide shared the story of how the idea of *Shashi* group came out. It originated during the NCC's 10th anniversary vision planning session in San Diego in 2000. From the beginning, NCC was part of this concept. Ms Toshie Marra, NCC Chair, suggested that the *Shashi* Group submit a definitive proposal explaining how NCC could provide support.