

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at Trinity College, Cambridge

Faculty of Communication Studies
Tomoko Hasegawa, Professor

〈Contents〉

Preface

1. His Father Baron Kihachiro Okura as the Forerunner in Meiji Japan
2. Japanese Students Studied Abroad in the Meiji Era
3. Kishichiro and Trinity College, Cambridge
4. Baron Okura's Son and His Legacy

Conclusion

Appendix: Biography of Kihachiro and Kishichiro Okura

Preface

The offshore appearance of the U.S. Navy's "Black Ships" under Commodore Perry in 1853, which was aimed at establishing a trading relationship is regarded as Japan's turning point towards the drastic changes that led to modernization after a long period of isolation during the Tokugawa shogunate. The Meiji period, which started in 1867 when the Shogun and his military government relinquished their power to the Emperor, was the dawn of modern Japan. Since then opening up the country and adopting the culture of the industrialized nations of the West including their systems and advanced technologies has been a common goal among the Japanese with concern for the future of their country. In this sense, Japan's modernization was equivalent to Westernization, thus encouraging rapid industrial expansion and changing social systems for country's welfare were prioritized. It was urgent for the founders of the Meiji government that their country would gain power to join the existing circle of Western modernized capitalist nations¹⁾.

The first strategy for seeking the advanced technology and knowledge needed to promote modernization was the recruitment of foreign advisors called "Oyatoi Gaikokujin" from Europe and the U.S.A. who could contribute to facilitating infra-structures for the basis in drawing the blue print for a new country²⁾. Japanese returnees from the colleges

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at... and universities of developed countries played an important role as well after the Meiji Restoration. It was believed that society's progress would be secured by those youth accomplished in academic discipline abroad and they could play a role in shaping Japan to be like leading nations of the West. In particular, until the first Japanese national university—The University of Tokyo³⁾ was established in 1877, dispatching students to Western countries was the only way to develop human resources.

In addition to those students educated abroad under publicly funded grants, some affluent families also sent their sons to study in industrialized nations. Although the sons of the aristocratic class or the emergent new rich families were also sent to Europe or the U.S.A. to study, some of those overseas students' school experiences were far from one of academic excellence. Rather the school life of some was like an extended sightseeing excursion for pleasure. However, some of those returnees contributed by introducing aspects of the European lifestyle including leisure activities of industrialized countries. This was an outcome of the Grand Tour to the West that emerged in the Meiji Era in Japan.

This paper focuses on the case of Kishichiro Okura⁴⁾, a successor to the Okura Zaiatsu (family owned conglomerate)⁵⁾ who enrolled in Trinity College, Cambridge in the early 1900s. As a son of a Japanese plutocratic family, his career path, including studying abroad, illustrates one of the life courses of Japanese elites in the early stages of modernization in Japan. With regard to his legacy that still exists in Japan, his school days in Cambridge are examined as well as his networking efforts and the variety of cultural experiences in Cambridge that may have influenced his identity formation. This paper addresses the extent to which the Western culture he encountered in Great Britain relates to his way of thinking, worldview and aesthetic appreciation associated with his later performance as a business leader.

This is also a case study of cultural transfer mediated by this great contributor to Japanese modernization. The mixture of Eastern and Western cultural components that resulted from his cross cultural experiences and his contributions to establishing Japanese original modernized culture are discussed in this paper based on a consideration of his Grand Tour to Great Britain which took place in the early 20th century.

1. His Father Baron Kihachiro Okura as the Forerunner in Meiji Japan⁶⁾

Kishichiro's Grand Tour to Great Britain from Japan and his enrollment in Trinity College in Cambridge in the early 20th century would not have been possible without his

father Baron Okura's absolute power over this family enterprises, which provided substantial financial support, as well as his ambition that his son would network and master aristocrat-like behaviors by placing him in the academic surroundings of one of the most prestigious college in Europe.

His father, Kihachiro, (1837-1928) started his business just in the middle of Japan's transitional period from the Edo Era to the Meiji Era when Japanese suffered from chaotic civil wars due to the power struggle between the old and the new forces across the nation. However, it was an opportunity for an ambitious profit seeker like Kihachiro and thus his extraordinary efforts as an imported arm middleman made him a legendary billionaire.

Baron Kihachiro Okura started his career as a shop owner. After he left his hometown in Niigata prefecture to work as an apprentice for the merchant house of Edo in 1854, it did not take long until he opened his own grocery store in Kanda.

His father Kihachiro was an energetic merchant who tried to respond to all of his clients' demands regardless of the situation. It was a time when the outbreak of civil wars swept across Japan and therefore he did not hesitate to become an arms dealer. Even though he knew that his mission might be risky and end in failure given the hazardous conditions, he did his best. Such sacrifices resulted in closer relations with leading political figures, the heads of large organizations and administrators of provincial governments (Han). Negotiating over large scale projects with members of these establishments led him to be successful.

All the capital and profits from his self-made father's business were concentrated in his father's hands and allowed him to expand into the area of trading and construction businesses. As a result, his father's company contributed to the development of infrastructures and facilitated the new lifestyles of that day. Except for those in the field of finance, Kihachiro launched a variety of firms that still remain as leading companies in Japan.

The Okura Zaibatsu, a holding company which combined all affiliated firms that belonged to him and the members of his clan was founded. His father's policy of reacting promptly to ongoing business opportunities and the social context worked well and he became one of the most well-known entrepreneurs in Meiji Japan. In this sense, it can be said that his father was a product of the age and sometimes he is called "the father of capitalism in Japan," along with Eiichi Shibusawa⁷⁾.

From the beginning overseas business activities had always been Kihachiro's major

Table 1. The Years Japanese Companies Opened the Branches in London

Name of the Firm	Type of Business	Year
Okuragumi Shokai	Trading	1874 (7 Meiji)
Mitsui Bussan	Trading	1880 (13 Meiji)
Yokohama Shokin Bank	Finance	1881 (14 Meiji)
Nihon Yusen	Shipping	1896 (29 Meiji)
Mitsubishi Shoji	Trading	1915 (5 Taisho)

Source: Kojima, Hidetoshi *Gaika o Kaseida Otokotachi* [The men earned foreign currency] (Asahi Simbun Shuppan, 2011) [Japanese] P. 53 Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University *Manuscript: Biography of Kihachiro Okura 3rd Edition* (Tokyo Keizai University, 2012) [Japanese] p. 32, p. 38

concern⁸). Japan's first trading company (Shosha), the Okuragumi Shokai founded in 1873 (6 Meiji) was one example. It would become the headquarters of the Okura Zaibatsu and later its first overseas branch opened in 1874 in London⁹).

As Table 1 shows, the London branch of the Okuragumi Shokai was opened the following year after the headquarters was established in Tokyo in 1873 (6 Meiji). This table indicates that in comparison with other major Japanese firms the Okuragumi Shokai was a front runner in terms of global business activities since it was the first Japanese firm to make inroads into Europe and it opened an overseas branch far before others in Japanese business history.

His father's pioneering spirit can be traced back to an earlier challenge in 1872 when he made an 18 months private trip to Europe including London at his own expense to learn about the European business situation. In London his father met some members of the Iwakura Embassy to the USA and Europe¹⁰). His networking efforts with some of the members of this ground-breaking missionary tour created a strong connection with some of the members who were also prominent figures as founders of the Meiji government. They were supportive of Kihachiro from that time on and chances to receive enfranchisements given by the former Iwakura members whom Kihachiro met in Europe provided him with frequent business opportunities. The strong connection with those major political figures made his firm and his business more stable, brought more profits than ever and his success in business continued.

His spirit of entrepreneurship was reflected in his business activities and the more

his earnings grew, the more he expanded his business into new fields. The variety of firms that he launched or constructed totaled more than 200. This outcomes is proof of Kihachiro's strong will to promote the development of Japanese society based upon his policy to advocate that Japanese people live like people in European nations. Some of Kihachiro and his firms' contributions are as follows:

To begin with, the trading businesses indicate Kihachiro's strong will to introduce hakurai-mono (imported goods from Europe) to Japan. He opened a Western style tailor store in Ginza in 1870 and by the time the formation of Okura Zaibatsu resulted in sufficient power, this building was relocated to Okuragumi, the head quarter of the Okura Zaibatsu. Woolen clothing was an interest of his trading business¹¹⁾.

In 1871, his company participated in the construction of the Shinbashi Station, the origin of the first Japanese National Railway route between the Shinbashi and Yokohama stations¹²⁾.

His firm took on a role in the construction of the Rokumeikan¹³⁾ and his partial charge started in 1881. It was the state guest house which operated from 1883 to 1894 to follow the national policy aimed at improving international relationships. It was believed that welcoming foreign guests of honor with ballroom-dancing and luxury might to improve the situation.

In 1882, the first arc light was installed by the first Japanese electric supplier in front of his firm on the high street of Ginza, Tokyo. It was the Tokyo Dento Co.¹⁴⁾, and he was one of the founders of this company.

He was one of the founders of the Imperial (Teikoku) Hotel¹⁵⁾ which opened in 1890. It was the first large-scale Western style hotel that also captured the spirit of the Rokumeikan to entertain foreign visitors to Japan for improved international relations. This type of Western style hotel was in need as the number of foreign visitors to the capital of Japan had expanded.

He opened the first private art museum 'The Okura Shukokan' inside of his residential property in Tokyo in 1918¹⁶⁾. For Kihachiro collecting Japan's cultural treasures was

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at... his mission and he tried to guard those national treasures from leaving the country. It became a part of his social contribution as well as his entrepreneurship and trading business. Baron Okura donated all valuable Japanese and imported cultural property he had been collecting to this museum. Many highly valued national heritages items are included in its collection.

Furthermore Kihachiro was the only business giant at that time who founded a private business school. He established the Okura Commerce School established on his property in 1900. It did not take long until this academy obtained a reputation as one of the most prestigious business schools in pre-war Japan. However the school had to be changed after Japan's defeat in the Asia-Pacific War followed by GHQ's order to dissolve every major Zaibatsu group all over Japan and this school was handed over from the Okura family to the Tokyo Keizai University in Kokubunji, Tokyo¹⁷).

2. Japanese Students Studied Abroad in the Meiji Era

Sending students or missionaries to the West was considered to be very important in every stage of Japanese modern history, not only in terms of the technical knowledge gained but also in terms of the experiences with Western society and its more sophisticated cultural accomplishments acquired through their daily activities that were considered to be valuable in Japanese society. At the same time, for the Japanese would-be elites aiming at increased wealth, reputation and position in bureaucracies, a diploma from a prestigious foreign school assured a promising and expedited career path given the dynamic and corrupt social system that follow the fall of the Tokugawa system.

Table 2 shows the number of students who received passports for studying abroad from 1882 (15 Meiji) to 1911 (44 Meiji). The students who studied in England are included in those numbers. The popularity of studying abroad started to rise around the late Meiji 10s and peaked from 1902 to 1907.

This chronological data proves that even after the establishment of Tokyo University, the first national institution and one of the major suppliers of elites in Japanese society, in 1877, the number of overseas students never decreased. It suggests that there was still a perception among Japanese that an overseas education was superior to schooling in the domestic institutions.

The sense of urgency to send Japanese youth to the West emerged even before the

Table 2. Number of Passports Issued for Japanese Studying Abroad in Meiji Era

Year	Number of Passports
Meiji 15 (1882)	59
16 (1883)	62
17 (1884)	414
18 (1885)	273
19 (1886)	393
20 (1887)	415
21 (1888)	379
22 (1889)	328
23 (1890)	361
24 (1891)	362
25 (1892)	334
26 (1893)	353
27 (1894)	289
28 (1895)	374
29 (1896)	367
30 (1897)	445
31 (1898)	646
32 (1899)	819
33 (1900)	791
34 (1901)	981
35 (1902)	1,858
36 (1903)	1,844
37 (1904)	1,597
38 (1905)	1,127
39 (1906)	3,340
40 (1907)	3,415
41 (1908)	680
42 (1909)	359
43 (1910)	328
44 (1911)	349

Source: Research Foundation for the Transportation and Economy [Zaidan Hojin Unyu Keizai Kenkyuu Center] *Kindai Nion Yuso-shi—Ronko·Nenpyo·Toukei—* [The Japanese History of Public Transportation in Meiji Era—Analysis, Chronology and Statistical Data] (Seizan Shoten, 1979) [Japanese] Pp. 450-453.

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at... time of the Meiji Restoration. The need for personnel development to allow Japan to catch up and compete with the Western nations was shared by both the Tokugawa Shogunate and the leaders of each domain (Han). Each had already dispatched some students before the Meiji Restoration.

For the Shogunate side, the first group was about 10 students sent to the Netherlands for training in navigation and seamanship by the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1882¹⁸⁾ and 14 students sent to England in 1866¹⁹⁾.

The Choshu-Han and the Satsuma-Han, two major domains which formed an alliance as the counterpart of the Shogunate to support the doctrine of restoring the emperor, also sent some students of their domain schools (Hanko) for a study tour or schooling in England. These included Shunsuke (Hirofumi) Ito and Monta Shiji (Kaoru Inoue) from Choshuu Han in 1863 as well as Kinnojo (Arinori) Mori and Saisuke (Tomoatsu) Godai from Satsuma Han in 1865. Those returnees became notorious forerunners and showed great performances as a modernizer of Japan in the Meiji government later²⁰⁾.

About 60 students also accompanied the members of the Iwakura Embassy to the USA and Europe from 1871 to 1872. One of the first female students to study abroad, Umeko Tsuda²¹⁾, the pioneer of women's education in Japan, was the one of those. She stayed for almost ten years in the United States until she finished her schooling. In 1900 she opened a school for higher education for women (which still exists as the Tsudajuku University) in Tokyo.

After the Meiji Restoration, Japanese overseas students reached a variety of countries such as America, Britain, Germany, France and other European countries. Koyama (2004) also pointed out that the variety of students' backgrounds made the outcomes of their overseas schooling extremely varied. The problem of some overseas students returning without any academic accomplishments was already apparent from the early stage of the Meiji Era. The poor academic level of some aristocratic returnees resulted from their dissipation during their schooldays²²⁾.

Among many Japanese who studied abroad in the Meiji period, the most well-known figure might be the Japanese novelist Soseki Natsume, who studied in London in the early 1900s. He represents typical grantee of the Ministry of Education in those days. Finishing school with a diploma in Japan and studying abroad until going back to a guaranteed post was common career path and Soseki Natsume was not an exception. Although Soseki thought about Oxford or Cambridge as a place to stay at first, this plan did not come true. He ended his days in London without any affiliations since the enrollment at any college

in Oxbridge was unaffordable with his scholarship. Actually the Japanese students at Cambridge were typically privately funded sons of noblemen and affluent families²³⁾.

3. Kishichiro and Trinity College, Cambridge

The early 20th century's Japanese Grand Tour by the successor of Baron Okura started at 5 o'clock on 24th May 1900 as the Empress of India, the passenger liner begun its voyage from the Yokohama port. Kishichiro was accompanied by his father Kihachiro who had a business trip to The World Exposition in Paris, France. His firm the Okuragumi, provided a piece of artistic work to the exhibition and also Kihachiro was aiming to conduct some research on the latest business situation and to look for the person for Teikoku Hotel to invite in Europe and the U.S.A. Among the many fellow passengers of the Empress of India, Sir Ernest Satow whom Kihachiro had been acquainted with was on the same ship²⁴⁾. Satow was the prominent UK ambassador who had witnessed Japan's drastic political transition before and after the Meiji Restoration. He was on his way to his home country before he headed for his new position in Beijing.

Kishichiro's school days in Cambridge started on 1st October 1903 with his enrollment in Trinity College²⁵⁾ until he returned in 1907 just before he married Kumiko Mizoguchi in November of that year in Tokyo. Jyuukuro Kadono²⁶⁾ had been a manager of the London branch of the Okuragumi for nine years from 1898 to 1906 and he was also in charge of the guardianship for young Kishichiro, the first candidate in line to succeed the president of the Okuragumi, and to look after him during his time in England.

According to the documents of Trinity College Boat Club, he was a member of the boat racing team representing the college races in Cambridge. His name is listed on the crew members' lineup in a few races. The boat race is regarded as one of the most popular sports as a symbolic event among college students, representing the sportsman spirit required of the well-educated elite. In particular, in Cambridge, the oldest and most prestigious student quarter in England, the Regatta and crew members gathered attention in the community. The Regatta race in October 1903, the May Race in May 1904 and the one in October 1905 were the races for which his name was listed²⁷⁾. As far as the documents examined to date for this boat club indicate, he was the first Japanese oarsman participated in the boat races as a member of Trinity College in Cambridge.

One of the glorious moments during his school days was on 6th July, 1907 when he participated in a car racing competition for the Montague Cup in his own car and made

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at... second place among the finalists. The Brooklands where this car race took place was the world's first car racing circuit which opened one year prior to the circuit in Indianapolis, U.S.A. He was not only the first Japanese prize winning car racer but the first Japanese driver to participate in the first car race in world automobile history. In order to participate, he mastered the techniques of car mechanics and traveled to Italy to get his own racing car at FIAT (=Fabrica Italiana Automobile Torino established in 1899). A few additional cars were also ordered by Kishichiro and those automobiles machines were accompanied him on his way back home from Europe²⁸).

The early 1900s was the age of excitement for vehicle enthusiasts since it was the dawn of personal transportation and Kishichiro and his friends at Trinity were no exceptions. With the invention of bicycles, motorcycles, motorcars and flying machines in those days, the sons of affluent families were attracted to a variety of emerging forms of personal transportation. His participation in the car racing championship is a reflection of his networking efforts at Cambridge in addition to his adventurous spirit. Charles Rolls, a founder of the Rolls-Royce Ltd. (established in 1906) and John Theodore Cutbert Moore-Brabazon, a well-known forerunner as a racing driver and a pilot, were among his seniors and mates at Trinity College. It is also possibility that Kishichiro became acquainted with D'Arcy R. Baker, a founder of FIAT in England and he helped Kishichiro purchase the racing car from FIAT in Italy²⁹).

His networking efforts were not limited to his European school mates. Friendships with students from Asian countries was demonstrated in 1927 (2 Showa) when the Japan Thailand Association was established. After providing financial support for its launch, he became the first chief managing director and continued to donate to the organization. This can be traced back to his school days at Cambridge when Kishichiro became acquainted with his class mate, the imperial prince of Thailand (the 41st heir of King Chulalongkorn) at Trinity College. When Kishichiro visited to Thailand in 1927 (2 Showa), he received extra-ordinary welcome although Kishichiro was a common business person from Japan on a private-level good-will tour³⁰). This episode illustrates Kishichiro's role as a key character in establishing cordial relations between those two countries and the unexpected fruit of having studied abroad in the past.

4. Baron Okura's Son and His Legacy

In 1927 (2 showa) Kishichiro became the head of the Okura Zaibatsu and inherited

all of his father's companies and assets. As an influential business person, he followed in his father's footsteps including his father's mission as a modernizer of Japan. The difference was that he devoted himself to being a hotel developer. He contributed by facilitating the resort leisure activities gaining popularity among the middle class in industrialized post-Meiji Japan. He was also of great service to society and his lifetime efforts for to support artists of a variety genres and persons of culture also proves that he inherited his father's sophisticated manner as a business leader.

A. Hotels and Resorts

He was appointed as the executive chairman of the Imperial (Teikoku) Hotel in Tokyo. His father was one of the founding members and had been a contributor to this hotel. This hotel in the centre of Tokyo still exists as one of the top three prestigious hotels in Japan in terms of the size, the quality of accommodations and the service. This was also the year that the new annex building of this hotel by Frank Lloyd Wright was completed. However, the great earthquake hit right before the opening ceremony. The old building collapsed and serving the devastated community in Ginza, Tokyo was his first mission with the surviving newly-built Wright Building of the Imperial Hotel³¹.

The Kawana Hotel established in 1936 (11 Showa) by Kishichiro is an innovative resort hotel with pastoral surroundings and a picturesque ocean view in Izu Peninsula, Shizuoka Prefecture. In the 1920s he stayed in this area to cure his depression due to his business failures in China through rest and recuperation. The appearance of the scenery and atmosphere of this area reminded him of his school days in the UK, the country house surrounded by the farmland in Highland. He felt himself healed by those memories and the scheme of searching the land for his own farmland emerged in him.

Before long he purchased land with an ideal location and geographical features with his pocket money. However, his land was ultimately made into golf courses in response to an idea from his staff member who had experienced playing golf before. The emerging popularity of golf as an attractive sport among the Japanese middle class was easily predictable. During his Trinity period, he never experienced golf but rather horseback riding, driving a car and rowing a boat were his major recreational activities³².

A hotel was built later for vacationing golfers as a lodging accommodation. Although it is not owned by his clan because of the collapse of the company in 1998, with its Tudor style interior and Spanish exterior the building reflected his aesthetics, and it still exists as a praiseworthy legacy since it is the best qualified resort hotel in Japan and the loca-

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at...
tion of the oldest and most respected annual golf tournament.

The Hotel Okura established in 1962 (37 Showa) was Kishichiro's biggest and last project, and one into which he poured all of his energy before passing away at 80 years old in 1963. It has been evaluated as the best hotel in Japan in every aspect of standards and was built within his former residential property in central Tokyo. It is also one of the top three hotels in Japan. The father and son of the Okura family left two of the top three hotels as their legacy for us³³).

Kishichiro's perfectionist policy was thoroughly adhered to in all stages of the construction process of the Hotel Okura. In particular, he recruited a variety of traditional craftsman from all over Japan for the decoration and interiors that made this hotel one of the best post-war modern buildings with Japanese traditional craftsmanship. His father's spirit which originated from the Rokumeikan remained in this hotel and the Kishichiro's hotel Okura was also provided an indispensable stage for prominent figures from all over the world to establish better international relations³⁴).

B. Support of Artists

Another of Kishichiro's legacies can be found in his variety of lifetime patronage activities. He spent all of his life as a great supporter of artists in any genres if he found the patronage candidates to be worthy of his support. He gave thoughtful and considerate support for his favorite artists.

For musicians, he supported the well-known Japanese top class opera singer, Yoshie Fujiwara. In 1922 he established the Japan's first orchestra at the Imperial Hotel, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. He also supported musicians of Japanese traditional music. He himself enjoyed playing music and invented an original wind instrument called the Okurauro which combined the western wind instrument's function with a Japanese traditional instrument. Practicing this instrument was one of his pastimes in later life.

His music preferences and his generosity to those artists in later life suggests some influence of the music he enjoyed in Trinity College. Since it was a common activity of students of that day, it is easily presumed that his schooldays at Cambridge might have been filled with joyful music. However primary sources regarding his activities related to music during his schooldays that might shed light on his energetic support of artists in Japan are not yet available.

Here are some other contributions in support of other activities:

In 1932 he constructed the ski jump hill in Okurayama Hokkaido and donated it to Hokkaido. It was used for the 1972 Winter Olympic that took place in Sapporo³⁵).

At the time of the establishment of The Nihon Kiin, the association of Go (traditional chess game) players, Kishichiro contributed greatly to launching this association³⁶).

In 1935, the Japan P.E.N. Club was established. As the longtime patron of Toson Shimazaki, Kishichiro supported Toson to launch this association and Toson became its first president³⁷).

One of his greatest contributions was the Exhibition of Japanese Paintings that took place in Rome, Italy in 1930. Kichichiro worked toward the debut of the painter of Japanese traditional paintings, Taikan Yokoyama with his masterpieces displayed abroad for the first time. His paintings had never traveled outside of Japan until this exhibition. Taikan had been under Kishichiro's patronage and Kishichiro was also the collector of his masterpieces which were donated to the Okura Shukokan³⁸).

Conclusion

This paper discussed the overseas schooling of the son of a plutocratic family in the early stages of modernization in Japan. The school life of Kishichiro Okura, the successor of the Okura Zaibatsu (family conglomerate) enrolled in Trinity College, Cambridge in Great Britain in the early 1900s was examined with respect to his later performances as an influential business person in Japan.

Similarities could be found between his 1900s journey to the West and the Britain Grand Tour, in which the eldest sons of aristocratic families in 17th and 18th century were sent to the East to such countries as France and Italy.

Much later after his homecoming from overseas schooling, Kishichiro succeeded the Okura Zaibatsu, which his self-made father established. Kishichiro followed in his father's footsteps as a developer. However his father's contribution was mainly focused on establishing the infra-structure of Meiji Japan whereas Kishichiro's legacy in resort facilities were appreciated for its influence on Japanese people's leisure activities. Their aesthetic quality reflecting his sophisticated tastes, the European culture he encountered in the ear-

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at... ly 1900s' in Great Britain during his school days finely mixed with Japanese traditional style and their hybrid original post-modernist culture could be seen in his legacies. Kishichiro contributed not only to constructing facilities and their surroundings and the creation of resort communities, but also to creating the Japanese original post-modern style to be handed down to the next generation. In this sense he was, like his father, a great contributor to the modernization of Japanese society.

Baron Kihachiro and Kishichiro Okura are the rare father and son who both excelled in their contributions to the progress of Japanese lifestyles. However many studies could not be found. Further research is needed to examine primary sources on Japanese modernization produced by returnees from abroad.

Notes

- 1) See Gordon, Andrew *A Modern History of Japan 3rd Edition* (Oxford University Press, 2014) Chapter 4., Pyle, Kenneth B. *The Making of Modern Japan 2nd Edition* (D.C. Heath Company, 1996)
- 2) Burks, Ardath W. *The Modernizers: Overseas Students, Foreign Employees, and Meiji Japan* (Westview Press, Inc. 1985)
- 3) The Tokyo University: <https://www.u-tokyo.ac.jp/ja/index.html>
- 4) Okura, Kishichiro (1882~1963) the first son of Baron Okura Kihachiro.
- 5) One of the major prewar Japanese business combines established by his father Kihachiro Okura
- 6) Kihachiro was decorated with the Baron with his contribution in his business activities in 1915 (Taisho 15) and it was inherited to his son Kishichiro.
- 7) Eiichi Shibusawa (1840~1931) Founder of Japanese capitalism. Established many firms and incubated business person in modernizing period in Meiji Japan. *Banyu Hyakka: Economy and Industry* (Shogakukan, 1975) p. 254 [Japanese]
- 8) When Kihachiro visited the Yokohama port (opened 1859), he was amazed by the international setting opened up for the world and he convinced that he was in the middle of Japan's rapid transition. He thought the supplier of imported good would be mostly promising area of business in the new era. See Egami, Go *Kaibutsu Shonin* [Phenomenon Merchant] (PHP Publisher, 2017) [Japanese] Pp. 26-33
- 9) There's also the possibility that the year of opening London branch is in 1875. See Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University *Manuscript: Biography of Kihachiro Okura 3rd Edition* (Tokyo Keizai University, 2012) [Japanese] p. 32, 38. See also Kiyama, Minoru "Okuragumi Shokai to Mitsuibussan no Hikaku Kousatsu [Comparative Study on Okuragumi Shokai and Mitsuibussan]" *Shogaku Kenkyuu* (2008) 56 (2): 43-63 [Japanese]
- 10) The translation of the English title of this missionary tour differs by the sources. Some are "the Iwakura Mission to the West" while it is translated into "the Iwakura Embassy to the

- USA and Europe.” See Tsuzuki, Chushichi and R. Jules Young eds. *JAPAN RISING: The Iwakura Embassy to the USA and Europe 1871-1873* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- 11) Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University (2012) p. 41
 - 12) Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University (2012) p. 25
 - 13) Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University (2012) p. 50
 - 14) Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University (2012) p. 53
 - 15) Teikoku Hotel Co. *Teikoku Hotel Hyakunen no Rekishi* [A Centennial History of the Imperial Hotel] (Teikoku Hotel Co. 1990) Pp. 2-17 [Japanese]
 - 16) The Okura Shukokan <http://www.shukokan.org/>
 - 17) The Tokyo Keizai University <https://www.tku.ac.jp/>
 - 18) Okubo Takaki, *Yoko No Jidai* [The Age of Going Abroad] (Chuo-Koron Shinsha, 2008) p. 16 [Japanese]
 - 19) Koyama, Noboru / Translated by Ian Ruston *Japanese Students at Cambridge University in the Meiji Era, 1868-1912: Pioneers for the Modernization of Japan* (LuLu, 2004) Pp. 31-33
 - 20) Okubo (2008) Pp. 16-17 [Japanese]
 - 21) Umeko Tsuda was one of the first female oversea students accompanied with the Iwakura Mission to Europe and the U.S.A. She founded the first college for women in 1900. <http://www.tsuda.ac.jp/>
 - 22) Koyama (2004) p. 110
 - 23) Natsume Souseki (1867~1916), Koyama (2004) p. 29, Okubo (2008) Pp. 78-83 [Japanese]
 - 24) Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University (2012) p. 105
 - 25) Trinity College Admission Book 1882~
 - 26) Juukuro Kadono (1867-1958) became a member of the Okuragumi in 1897. The manager of London branch from 1898 to 2006. For his contribution to the Okuragumi, see *Meiji Jidaishi Jiten* [The Dictionary of The Meiji Era] (Shogakukan, 2012) p. 544
 - 27) Trinity Boat Club (the Trinity College)
 - 28) Koyama, Noboru (2004) Pp. 105-106
 - 29) Interview with Mr. Noboru Koyama on 24th February, 2018 in Cambridge. According to Koyama. The automobile sales agent launched by D’Arcy R. Baker for selling the FIAT cars in England could give Kishichiro a hint as the latest business model of automobile sales on that day. Kishichiro established the similar firm selling the imported FIATs in Japan later. Mr. Koyama is on the process of collecting further primary materials to examine this point.
 - 30) Nanbara, Makoto “Okura Kishichiro Danshaku to Nihon Thai Kyokai no Sousetsu [Baron Kishichiro as a founder of the Japan Thailand Association],” *Thaikoku Joho* No. 47 (1). January 2013 Pp. 122-143 [Japanese]
 - 31) Teikoku Hotel Co. (1990) Pp. 22-35 [Japanese]
 - 32) Sunamoto, Fumihiko *Kindai Nihon no Kokusai Rizoto* [Japanese International Resort Hotels in Modern Japan] (Seikyusha, 2008) Pp. 528-574 [Japanese]
 - 33) Hotel Okura <http://www.hotelokura.co.jp/tokyo/>
 - 34) Hotel Okura *Hoteru Okura* [Hotel Okura and Its History] (Hotel Okura, 1988) Pp. 143-179

The Japanese Grand Tour to Great Britain in the Early 1900s: The Case of Kishichiro Okura at..

[Japanese]

- 35) Komatsu, Toru “Okura Kihachiro and Kishichiro and Hokkaido,” in Mizuno Bijyutsukan *Pictorial Record: Special Exhibition of Collection of Okura Shukokan* (Mizuno Bijyutsukan, 2007) Pp. 167–170 [Japanese]
- 36) The Nihon Kiin <https://www.nihonkiin.or.jp/>
- 37) The Japan P.E.N. Club: <http://japanpen.or.jp/>
- 38) Koizumi, Junichi “Yokoyama Taikan no Roma Kaisai Nihon Bijyutsu Tenrankai Kaikai no Ji o Megutte [About the Opening Remarks by Taikan Yokoyama at the Japanese Art Exhibition in Rome] in Mizuno Bijyutsukan *Pictorial Record: Special Exhibition of Collection of Okura Shukokan* (Mizuno Bijyutsukan, 2007) Pp. 171–177 [Japanese]

REFERENCES

- Burks, Ardath W. *The Modernizers: Overseas Students, Foreign Employees, and Meiji Japan* (Westview Press, Inc. 1985)
- Egami, Go *Kaibutsu Shonin* [Phenomenon Merchant] (PHP Publisher, 2017) [Japanese]
- Gordon, Andrew *A Modern History of Japan 3rd Edition* (Oxford University Press, 2014)
- Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University *Manuscript: Biography of Kihachiro Okura 3rd Edition* (Tokyo Keizai University, 2012) [Japanese]
- Huffman, James L. *Modern Japan: A History in Documents* (Oxford University Press, 2004)
- Kiyama, Minoru “Okuragumi Shokai to Mitsuibussan no Hikaku Kousatsu [Comparative Study on Okuragumi Shokai and Mitui Bussan]” *Shogaku Kenkyuu* (2008) 56 (2): 43–63 [Japanese]
- Kojima, Hidetoshi *Gaika o Kaseida Otokotachi* [The Men Brought Foreign Currency] (Asahi Simbun Shuppan, 2011) [Japanese]
- Koyama, Noboru / Translated by Ian Ruston *Japanese Students at Cambridge University in the Meiji Era, 1868–1912: Pioneers for the Modernization of Japan* (LuLu, 2004)
- Mizuno Bijyutsukan *Pictorial Record: Special Exhibition of Collection of Okura Shukokan* (Mizuno Bijyutsukan, 2007) [Japanese]
- Morikawa, Hidemasa *Zaibatsu—The Rise and Fall of Family Enterprise Groups in Japan* (University of Tokyo Press, 1992)
- Nanbara, Makoto “Okura Kishichiro Danshaku to Nihon Tai Kyokai no Sousetsu [Baron Kihachiro Okura as a Founder of the Japan Thailand Association],” *Taikoku Joho* No. 47 (1), January 2013, Pp. 122–143 [Japanese]
- Okubo Takaki, *Yoko No Jidai* [The Age of Going Abroad], (Chuo-Koron Shinsha, 2008) [Japanese]
- Okura, Yuji *Danshaku* [The Great Baron an Extra ordinal Life of Kishichiro Okura] (Bungei-Shunju, 1989) [Japanese]
- Pyle, Kenneth B. *The Making of Modern Japan 2nd Edition* (D.C. Heath Company, 1996)
- Sunagawa, Yukio *Okura Kihachiro’s Goukainaru Shogai* [Magnificent Life of Kihachiro Okura] (Soushisha, 1996) [Japanese]

- Sunamoto, Fumihiko *Kindai Nihon no Kokusai Rizoto* [Japanese International Resort Hotels in Modern Japan] (Seikyusha, 2008) [Japanese]
- Teikoku Hotel Co. *Teikoku Hotel Hyakunen no Rekishi* [A Centennial History of the Imperial Hotel] (1990) [Japanese]
- Tsuzuki, Chushichi and R. Jules Young eds. *JAPAN RISING: The Iwakura Embassy to the USA and Europe 1871-1873* (Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- Zaidan Hojin Unyu Keizai Kenkyuu Center [Research Foundation for the Transportation and Economy] *Kindai Nihon Yuso-shi—Ronko · Nenpyo · Toukei—* [The Japanese History of Public Transportation in Meiji Era—Analysis, Chronology and Statistical Data] (Seizan Shoten, 1979) [Japanese]

Appendix : Biography of Kihachiro and Kishichiro Okura

	Kihachiro Okura	Kishichiro Okura
Tempo	1837 Born in Shibata, Niigata Pref.	
Ansei	0 1854 Started apprenticeship in Edo	
Keio	3 1867 Started arm dealing business	
Meiji	4 1871 Constructed for the Shinbashi Station of the Japanese National Railway	
	4 1871 Opened the tailor shop in Ginza	
	5 1872 Tour to Europe (~Aug. 1873) Meet the Iwakura Mission	
	6 1873 Established the Okuragumi Shokai (Trading)	
	7 1874 Opened London branch of the Okuragumi Shokai	
	8 1875 Established the Tokyo Commerce Association with Eiichi Shibusawa	
	14 1881 Took construction part for the Rokumeikan	
	15 1882 The first arc light in front of the Okuragumi Shokai in Ginza by the Tokyo Dento Co.	1882 Born in Tokyo as the first son of Kihachiro and Toku-ko Okura
	18 1885 Established the Tokyo Gas Company with Eiichi Shibusawa	
	23 1890 Opened the Teikoku (Imperial) Hotel	
	26 1893 The Okuragumi	
	33 1900 Toured to Europe and US	1900 Headed for UK
	1900 Established the Okura Commerce School (Tokyo Keizai University after WW2)	
	36 1907 Opened the Teikoku Theatre	1903 Trinity College, Cambridge (~1907)
		1907 Won second place at the car race at Brooklands
		1907 Married Kumiko Mizoguchi

44	1911 Okuragumi Co., 1911 Received the title 'Baron'	
Taisho 7	1918 The Okura Shukokan (the first Japanese private museum in Japan. Some of his collection lost at the great earthquake)	
11		1922 The executive chairman of the Imperial (Teikoku) Hotel 1922 Established the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra (The first orchestra of classical music in Japan) 1924 Established the Nihon Kiin (the Association for Go, Japanese Chess Game, Players)
13	1924 Constructed the Ginza Subway Line between the Ueno Station to the Kaminari-mon Station	
Showa 3	1928 Re-opened the Okura Shukokan art museum	1927 The head of the Okura Zaibatsu
3	1928 Died (age 90)	1928 Opened the Kawana Golf Course
5		1930 The Exhibition of Japanese Paintings in Roma, Italy
7		1932 Constructed the large hill ski jump competition stand in Okura-yama, Hokkaido
10		1935 Supported the Japan P.E.N. Club
11		1936 Opened the Kawana Hotel
12		1937 Opened the Akakura Kanko Hotel
21		1946 Dismantled of the Okura Zaibatsu by GHQ's order
37		1962 Opened the Hotel Okura
38		1963 Died (Age 80)

Source: Editorial Committee of the History of Tokyo Keizai University *Manuscript: Biography of Kihachiro Okura 3rd Edition* (Tokyo Keizai University, 2012) [Japanese], Mizuno Bijyutsukan *Pictorial Record: Special Exhibition of Okura Shukokan* (Mizuno Bijyutsukan, 2007) [Japanese] Pp. 184-187.