Pioneers of English Learning in the Kingdom of the Ryukyus and Mainland Japan during the Late Edo Period (1808~68)

Yoshimura Kiyoshi

Jan Cock Blomhoff (1779-1853)

Cap. Basil Hall (1788-1844)

Commodore M. C. Perry (1794-1858)

Cap. Mercator Cooper (1803-72)

Makishi Chochu (1818-94)

Moriyama Einosuke (1820-71)

Hori Tatsunosuke (1823-94)

Ranald MacDonald (1824-94)

John Manjiro (1827-98)
I. Five Pioneers of English Learning in the Kingdom of the Ryukyus:
The chief Jeeroo (慶田次郎), Maehira Bosho (真栄平房昭 1787～1829),
Aniya Seiho (安仁屋政輔 1792～?), Yakabi Umujira (屋嘉比思次良),
Makishi Chochu (牧志 (板良敷) 朝忠 1818～62)

In September in 1816 the British warships Alceste and Lyra called
on the Ryukyus for about 40 days on their way home from China. The
following excerpts which relate four native chiefs’ experiences of
English learning on the two British warships are taken from Captain
Basil Hall’s Narrative of a Voyage to Java, China, and the Great Loo-
Choo Island with Accounts of Sir Murray Maxwell’s Attack on the
Chinese Batteries, and of an Interview with Napoleon Buonaparte at St.
Helena (1618).

A. The chief Jeeroo 慶田次郎

The chief Jeeroo, after this day’s adventures, became quite fa-
miliar and unreserved with us. He was a laughing, good-humoured,
rather fat man, about thirty; shook everyone cordially by the hand
whenever he came on board, and engaged in all our amusements
with much cheerfulness. He was at times also very useful, as his
anxiety to learn English made him more communicative of his own
language than the rest; and as he was fond of a glass of wine,
there was never much difficulty in fixing him at table, upon which
occasions he contributed cheerfully and largely to Mr. Clifford’s
[Ryukyuan] vocabulary. Some of our words the Loo-Chooans could
never learn to pronounce. The letter /, preceded by c, appeared the
most difficult: they called Clifford Criffar, and this degree of profi-
ciency was not attained without many efforts. Not one of the na-
tives was ever able to make anything of the word child; the nearest
approaches were shoidah, choiah, and chyad. (Hall 43)
B. Maehira Bosho (1787-1829) and Aniya Seiho (1792-?)

Two of the natives [i.e. Maehira who is called Maddra and Aniya], who had been studying English with great assiduity and with considerable success, came much into notice about this time. They carried note-books in imitation of Mr. Clifford, in which they recorded every word of English they learned, using of course the Chinese character [...]. This young man, whose name was Maddra, by his great liveliness and singular propriety of manners, very soon became a universal favourite, and adopted all our customs with a sort of intuitive readiness. He sat at table, used a knife and fork, conversed and walked with us, and followed our example in everything, quite as a matter of course, without effort or study [...], so that as he advanced in the study of English, and we made progress in the Loo-Choo language, the means were afforded of gaining much useful information. An instance of his proficiency in English may be quoted. About three weeks after our arrival at the island, he came on board the Lyra one day in a great hurry, and without the least hesitation said to me, “The Ta-yin speak me, you go ship, John come shore,” by which I readily understood that Captain Maxwell had sent him off to order the interpreter on shore. (Hall 52)

[...] The enterprising spirit and uncommon versatility of talent in this interesting native (i.e. Maddra) led him to engage in a great number of pursuits at once; his success, however, was most remarkable in the acquisition of English. About a month after our arrival, being asked one day what had become of his companion Anya, his reply was “Anya?—him mother sick—he go him mother’s house,” and when asked when he would return, said, “two-three-
day time, him mother no sick, he come ship.” (Hall 57)

The great interest which Maddra took in the English strangers, and the insatiable curiosity he expressed to hear about our customs, naturally suggested the idea of taking him with us to England, where, like Lee Boo, he would have been a most interesting specimen of a people little known. Had this idea followed up he might have carried back with him much knowledge useful to his country. When this project of going to England was proposed to him, he paused for some minutes, and then, shaking his head, said, "If I go Injury,—father—mother—childs—wife—house—all cry! I not go to Injury; no, no—all cry!” (Hall 57)

Dinner was served up at five o'clock, in as sumptuous as style as possible [. . . .] The conversation was carried on entirely through Mr. Clifford and Maddra, partly by signs and partly by a mixture of English and Loo-Choo; but whether intelligibly or not, everybody was talking merrily under the influence of that universal interpreter, the bottle. Maddra had dined so often on board the ships before, that he was quite perfect in our customs; and upon this occasion took great charge of the chiefs at his end of the table, speaking sometimes in one language, and sometimes in the other. Observing Jeema eating a slice of ham without mustard, he called to Captain Maxwell's servant, and, pointing to Jeema, said, "Tom, take mustard to him." When the desert was put on the table, and the wine decanters ranged in a line, they exclaimed in astonishment, “Moo eeyroo noo sackee”—six kinds of wine! [actually “pink-colored sake”] (Hall 59)

On returning to the cabin to tea, the chiefs amused themselves with a sort of wrestling game; Ookooma, who had seen us placing ourselves in sparring attitudes, threw himself suddenly into
the boxer's position of defence, assuming at the same time a
fierceness of look which we had never before seen in any of them.
The gentleman to whom he addressed himself happening to be a
boxer, thinking that Ookooma really wished to spar, prepared to
indulge him with a round. Maddra's quick eye, however, saw what
was going on, and by a word or two made the chief instantly
resume his wonted sedateness. We tried in vain what were the
magical words which he had used; but he seemed anxious to turn
our thoughts from the subject, by saying, "Loo-Choo man no fight;
Loo-Choo man write, No fight, no good fight: Ingerish very good;
Loo-Choo man no fight." (Hall 60)

[. . . .] Mr. Clifford, having assured him [i.e. Maddra] that
nothing could possibly make me sulky with so obliging and good a
friend, detained him for a moment to ask him what it was he
feared? [W] hat he had seen in us to excite such constant dread of
our going near the town? He replied, "Loo-Choo woman see Ingery
man; Loo-Choo woman cry!" (Hall 64)

[. . . .] From the cabin he [i.e. Maddra] went to the gun-
room, to see his friend Mr. Hoppner, the junior lieutenant of the
Alceste, with whom he had formed a great friendship, and who
gave him a picture of the Alceste and some other farewell presents;
upon which Maddra, who was much affected, said, "To-morrow ship
go sea--I go my father house--two days' distance:--when I see my
father, I show your present, and I tell him, Henry Hoppner all
same as my brother," and burst into tears! (Hall 67)

[. . . .] Before leaving the Lyra, he [i.e. Maddra] gave Mr.
Clifford his pipe and tobacco-pouch, with a crystal ornament
attached to it, saying, as he held them out, "You go Ingery, you
give this to your childs" [. . . .] Maddra, with great earnestness,
and with the tears streaming down his cheeks, placed his hand several times upon his heart, and cried, "Eddooshee, eedooshee!"—"My friend, my friend!" (Hall 67)

C. Yackabee Oomeejeero 屋嘉比思次良

[... ] One of a [sic] our best teachers was called Yackabee Oomeejeero (屋嘉比思次良); he would never permit Mr. Clifford to write down a single expression till the exact Loo-Choo sound which belonged to the words was acquired [... ] When the picture of an English lady was shown to him, he commented it highly, saying, at the same time, "Loo-Choo women not so handsome." This worthy gentleman was a better teacher than a scholar; he called the letter L, airoo; and veal, bairoo. (Hall 52)

D. Makishi Chochu 牧志 (板良敷) 朝忠 (1818-62)

The following excerpts which relate Makishi Chochu's experiences as a Chinese interpreter for the Kingdom are taken from Hokama Seisho's Readings from Commodore Perry's Narrative of His Oriental Expedition and from Dr. M'leod's Voyage to Lew Chew and from George H. Kerr's Okinawa: The History of an Island People.

The interpreter of the regent was a young native, named Itarazichi, who had been educated at Peking, where he remained three years. He could speak a little English but the [sic] Chinese was the language of communication. This youth had some knowledge both of the United States history and geography. He was not unacquainted with the character and conduct of Washington, and called him "a very great mandarin." (Hokama 45)

Commodore Perry led the 1853-54 expedition on "black ships" that reopened Japan's diplomatic and commercial relations with the Western world. In 1853, Perry stopped first on the Kingdom of the
Ryukyus on his mission to open Japan to the West. He made Ryukyu his base for negotiations with the Shogun's government at Edo and stopped at Tomari Harbor a number of times.

On May 30, 1853, Perry sent two officers ashore to acquire a house. S. Wells Williams, a chief interpreter-translator to assist the commodore (Kerr 306), accompanied them. B. J. Bettelheim, a British missionary who came to the island in 1846 (Kerr 279), conducted the party through the outskirts of Naha to Tomari, the settlement at the juncture of the shore road and the highway to Shuri. Coming to the large "town hall" or assembly place, they found it locked. One of the party went over the wall and succeeded in breaking open the gates from within. The Americans and Bettelheim took possession. Soon officials came to protest that this was a schoolroom, which indeed it was. According to the Narrative, the principal officer [i.e. Makishi] to whom they addressed themselves "promptly declared that it would be utterly impossible for the Americans to occupy a house on shore. . . . He was then asked if two or three Americans might not sleep in the house for that night, and replied that no American must sleep in a house on shore. Upon being pressed further, he seemed to become somewhat impatient, and rising from his seat, he crossed over to where the officers sat, and dispensing with the aid of an interpreter (through whom all communications had thus far been made) to the surprise of our gentlemen, said: "Gentlemen, Doo Choo man very small, American man not very small. I have read of American in books of Washington--very good man, very good. Doo Choo good friend American. Doo Choo man give American all provision he wants. American no can have house on shore." (Kerr 311-12)
II. Four Pioneers in Manland Japan: Motoki Shozaemon (1767-1822), Moriyama Einosuke (1820-71), Hori Tatsunosuke (1823-94) and Nakahama (John) Manjiro (1827-98)

A. Motoki Shozaemon 本木庄左衛門 (1767～1822)

In August, 1808, a British frigate, the Phaeton, succeeded in entering Nagasaki Harbor by flying a Dutch flag. At the time Britain and France were at war, and because Napoleon's armies had conquered Holland, the Dutch settlement of Dejima was an object of British attack. The Phaeton seized two Dutch factors, who were ransomed, before leaving Dejima two days later. The commissioner of Nagasaki, Matsudaira Yasuhide (松平康英) assumed responsibility for the incident and committed suicide, and the daimyo of Hizen, whose domain included the port, was placed under temporary house arrest. This violation of the national seclusion policy (1639～1854) led to more stringent measures against the intrusion of foreign ships. Consequently the Tokugawa shogunate issued the Order for the Repelling Foreign Ships in 1825.

(Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia 1199)

In 1809, the next year after the Phaeton Incident, the Tokugawa shogunate ordered some fourteen Dutch interpreters, Motoki Shozaemaon, as head of the team, at Nagasaki to learn English from Jan Cock Blomhoff of the Dutch Factory who knew English because he had once served in a British army for four years stationed in Ireland. Under Blomhoff those interpreters made a convulsive effort to learn English using Dutch-English dictionaries. Also under Blomhoff's supervision, the Dutch interpreters started to compile an English-Japanese dictionary. Although Blomhoff had left for Holland in 1813, the first
English-Japanese dictionary *Angeria gorintaisei* (『譯危利亞語林大成』) was compiled in 1814. The following is a model conversation between a Dutchman and an Englishman:

D: are you an English man
E: yes, sir, at your service.
D: how long have you been in Holland?
E: but a few months.
D: did you pass by Rotterdam?
E: yes, sir

The following are examples taken from the dictionary:

- school
- society
- match
- handkerchief
- dictionary
- kiss
- pocket

B. Moriyama Einosuke 森山栄之助 (1820～71)

In 1820, six years after the compilation of *Angeria gorintaisei*, Moriyama Einosuke was born to a family of interpreters of Dutch (*Oranda Tsuji*) in Nagasaki. He grew up to be an excellent Dutch interpreter. He was a fluent speaker of Dutch and many Dutch factors admired his Dutch because they thought his Dutch was more accurate and beautiful than theirs.

In March, 1845, the US whaler, the Manhattan, arrived at Uraga Bay towed by many Japanese boats. The Captain Mercator Cooper and other 28 sailors were on board. They came to Uraga to
repatriate twenty two Japanese shipwrecked sailors to the restricted country. On this occasion, Moriyama acted as an interpreter. He had learned English from dictionaries and rough English-speaking sailors. But no one on the whaler could speak Dutch and Moriyama’s English was not proficient enough to negotiate with the American crew because his English was mainly based on *Angeria gorintaisei*. Consequently his strongly Dutch accented English only baffled the American crew. Therefore, he largely depended on body language in communicating with the crew. Although shocked by the newcomers, the Japanese authorities felt obliged to the noble and humanitarian effort of Captain Cooper who had placed a higher value on the lives of the Japanese seamen than on his whaling business interest. In order to show its appreciation, the Tokugawa shogunate made an exception and allowed the whaler to anchor in Uraga, instead of Nagasaki, and offered him many gifts with a letter of appreciation in Dutch. (Sogo 1-2)

Through this embarrassing experience, Moriyama realized the importance of English learning, and started to learn English from Ranald MacDonald, an American adventurer, who came to Japan in 1848, wishing to become an English interpreter and teacher and is now regarded as the first instructor of English in Japan. To MacDonald “Japan was our next neighbor across the way—only the placid sea, the Pacific, between us” (120).

In 1848, at the age of 24, feeling “uncontrollably in his blood the wild strain of wandering freedom,” MacDonald jumped the American whaler Plymouth off the western coast of Hokkaido and made his way alone by boat to the islands of Yagishiri and Rishiri, where he was arrested under Japan’s national seclusion policy and sent to Nagasaki. From mid-October until the following April, he
was held captive in a small room in a temple. During his imprisonment, he taught English to Moriyama and other Dutch interpreters. *(Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia 904)*

While learning English from MacDonald, Moriyama and his colleagues decided to use English only. They made it a rule to use Dutch only when they could not communicate in English and they never used Japanese during their English lessons. The following is MacDonald's favorable impressions of Moriyama as his best student and friend:

Of this young man a few special words are called for.

He was, by far, the most intelligent person I met in Japan.

He had a pale cast of thought, piercing eyes which seemed to search into the very soul, and read its every motion. He spoke English pretty fluently, and even grammatically. His pronunciation was peculiar, but it was surprisingly in commands of letters and syllables foreign to the Japanese tongue.

He was my daily companion—a lovable one—ever afterwards, during my sojourn in Japan. When with me he always had books in Dutch, and a Dutch and English dictionary. The Dutch factor at Nagasaki, John Livyssohn, told me that Moriyama spoke Dutch better than himself. The books were on different subjects, but particularly on the commerce and customs of European nations. I asked him whether he, Moriyama, had ever been out of the country, to which he replied in the negative. He told me that he had a large library: and also, that he was studying Latin and French. *(MacDonald 209-11)*

The following passage shows how his English lessons were conducted during his imprisonment:

In fact, during nearly all my confinement, and nearly daily, Moriyama and others were my pupils. There were fourteen of
Their habit was to read to me: One at time. My duty was to correct their pronunciation, and as best as I could in Japanese explain meaning, construction, etc. It was difficult to make them catch some of our sounds especially the consonants, and some of the combinations [i.e. probably refer to consonant clusters], particularly were impracticable to them. For instance: They cannot pronounce, except very imperfectly, the letter 1. They pronounce it r. So that they rendered my name Ranardo Macdonardo with a strong burr of the r. They also had a habit of adding an i (short i) or o at the end after a consonant. As to the vowels there was no difficulty: They have all the full ore rotundo sound, and are all pronounced, even the final e (oe).

They were all well up in grammar, etc., especially Muriyama [sic]; that is to say, they learned it readily from me. They were very quick, and receptive. It was a pleasure to teach them.”

(MacDonald 226-27)

*256 The Japanese have no l, and every consonant is followed by a vowel or the liquid u.

MacDonald made a glossary of Japanese during his short stay in Nagasaki. The following glossary is inserted to permit the curious reader an opportunity to judge MacDonald's aptitude and success in learning something of the Japanese language which includes some Nagasaki dialect:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>MacDonald's Japanese</th>
<th>Standard Japanese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Bride</td>
<td>Hanayyoume</td>
<td>Hana-yome（花嫁）</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Bridegroom</td>
<td>Hanamko</td>
<td>Hana-muko（花婿）</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Cat</td>
<td>Nekoe</td>
<td>Neko（猫）</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Cheap</td>
<td>Yaska</td>
<td>Yasni（安い）</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On 8 July 1853, Commodore Matthew C. Perry, with an expedition composed of four men-of-war, arrived in Edo Bay to open diplomatic and commercial relations between the United States and Japan. Moriyama acted as chief Dutch interpreter during Perry’s negotiations on his second visit to Japan in 1854. On his first appearance, Samuel Wells Williams, the Chinese interpreter, had called Moriyama a new and superior interpreter . . . recently returned from Nagasaki,
whence he arrived in twenty-five days and hurried on at that. He speaks English well enough to render any other interpreters unnecessary, and thus will assist our intercourse greatly. He inquired for the captain and officers of the Preble, and asked if Ronald MacDonald was well, or if we knew him. He examined the machinery and at last sat down at dinner in the ward room, giving us all a good impression of his education and breeding. (Statler 52)

Both countries agreed to use Dutch as the language of communication in their negotiations. Because Moriyama's English was still a long way off proficiency, his excellent command of Dutch, which marveled Dutch factors, was suitable for the important negotiations. He could well communicate with A. C. Portman, the Dutch interpreter of Perry's squadron, who involved in the Japanese to Dutch to English interpretation and translation. However, Moriyama enjoyed mainly using English whenever he chatted with Perry's men on causal occasions. Thus he could improve his English greatly as well as making full use of these occasions for remedial opportunity to correct his heavily Dutch accented English.

In August 1856, Townsend Harris, first US consul general in Japan, arrived in Shimoda with instructions to secure a full commercial treaty with Japan. Moriyama acted as chief Dutch interpreter in the negotiations. He could well communicate with Henry Heusken, a young immigrant to the United States from Amsterdam, who came to Japan as Harris's secretary and interpreter. Harris had written after the first day's interviews with the Japanese officials:

*The interpreters were in constant trepidation and fear, and large drops of perspiration stood on their foreheads...* Moriyama was cool, assured, yet gracious. Moriyama occupied a raised seat. Moriyama obviously commanded respect. (Statler 50)
In 1862, Moriyama accompanied a mission to Europe led by Takenouchi Yasunori (武内保徳), commissioner of foreign affairs, to negotiate delaying the opening of Japanese ports until 1868 to foreign trade as provided by the Ansei Commercial Treaties.

C. Hori Tatsunosuke (堀 達之助 1823～94)

Hori Tatsunosuke was born in 1823 in a Dutch interpreter family in Nagasaki. His father, Nakayama Sakusaburo (中村作三郎), was a chief interpreter. When he was a small child, Hori was adopted by Hori Gizaemon (堀 儀左衛門). He learned Dutch from his uncle Nishi Kichibe (西 吉兵衛). While leaning Dutch, he started to learn English by himself. He borrowed Angeria gorintaisei from his uncle Nishi and copied it. He was fascinated with English because there were distinct similarities in grammar and vocabulary between those two languages.

Hori worked as an associate Dutch interpreter when Commodore Perry came to Japan in 1853 to negotiate a treaty. The following excerpt shows Hori's first encounter with Americans:

One of the boats came alongside the flagship, and it was observed that a person on board had a scroll of paper in his hand [....] It was found to be a document in the French language, which conveyed an order to the effect that the ships should go away, and not anchor at their peril. The chief functionary [i.e. officer], as his boat reached the side of the Susquehanna, made signs for the gangway ladder to be let down. This was refused, but Mr. Williams, the Chinese interpreter, and Mr. Portman, the Dutch (interpreter), were directed to state him that the Commodore would not receive anyone but a functionary of the highest rank, and that he might return onshore. As there seemed to be some difficulty in making progress in the Japanese language, one [i.e. Hori] on board the boat alongside said, in very good

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English, “I can speak Dutch,” Mr. Portman then commenced a conversation with him in that language, as his English seemed to have been exhausted in the first sentence. He appeared to be perfectly familiar with the Dutch. (Hawks 48-49)

Hori published the first authentic English-Japanese dictionary entitled *A Pocket Dictionary of the English and Japanese languages* (英和対訳袖珍辞書) in 1862, fully depending on H. Picard’s *A New Pocket Dictionary of the English and Dutch Languages* (2nd ed. 1857). The following is his preface to the dictionary:

As the study of the English language is now rapidly becoming general in our country, we have had for sometime the desire to publish a “Pocket Dictionary of the English and Japanese languages” as an assistance to our scholars.

In the meantime we received an order to prepare such a Dictionary as soon as possible having in view how indispensable is the knowledge of a language so universally spoken to become rightly and fully acquired with the manners, customs and relations of different parts of the world and its daily important occurrences and changes.

If you are interested to learn more about Hori’s intercultural experiences, read 吉村 昭 『黒船』 (Black Ships) 東京: 中公文庫, 1994.

The following are some examples from Hori’s dictionary. Unfortunately pronunciations in any form are not included in the dictionary and outdated *kanji* are modernized for the convenience of the readers:

1. athlete: 棒球ヲ結シテ其中ニテ打果シ合フ人、力士
2. cake: 円形ノ餅類ノ総名 (以下略)
3. candy: 氷砂糖
4. concert: 一致、多クノ楽人集リテ音楽ノ調子ヲ合ワセルコト
5. drama: 洋瑣璃ノ類
D. Nakahama (John) Manjiro 中浜万次郎 (1827～98)

At the age of 14 in 1841 Manjiro and others were shipwrecked on Torishima, a deserted island south of Edo. Rescued by an American whaling ship, the John Holland, the others went to
Hawaii, but Manjiro was invited to go to the United States by Captain William Whitfield, who had been impressed by Manjiro's intelligence. Manjiro studied at a school in Fairhaven, Massachusetts, traveled, and worked at various jobs before returning to Japan in 1851 (Japan: An Illustrated Encyclopedia 1038).

Because of the Tokugawa shogunate's national seclusion policy (1639~1854), Manjiro was first interrogated in the Kingdom of the Ryukyus. An Amerian ship called the Sarah Boyd, which outbounded from Mazatlan, Mexico, to Shanghai, approached the coasts of southern Okinawa. At a point some four miles off the Mabuni beaches, the ship hove-to, a whaleboat was lowered over the side, and three Japanese wearing Western clothing bade cordial farewell to the ship's master and made for shore. These were Nakahama Manjiro--known widely in the United States as John Mung--and two companions Denzo (伝蔵) and Goemon (五右衛門) seeking to slip into the Ryukyu Islands and on through Satsuma to their home in Tosa [....]

On the third day of the Japanese New Year, after a night in hiding near the beach, they made their way to a farmhouse. The Okinawan farmers, astonished by the strange appearance of the three adventurers, called in local officials, who in turn took them on to be interrogated by higher officials and by Satsuma's agents at Naha. Their story was heard with interest, and their books, instruments, and other gear were examined with great care.

For seven months they were detained on Okinawa under surveillance, subjected to constant questioning, but always treated with respectful and friendly consideration. Word of their arrival had gone at once to Satsuma, and at last they were summoned to
Kagoshima to the presence of Shimazu Nariakira (島津斉彬). With his recommendation they were sent to Nagasaki and ultimately reached the shogun's capital. There Nakamura became a chief source of information concerning the United States, its political organization, and its strength and policies, insofar as he understood them. (Kerr 300-01)

When Commodore Perry arrived in Japan in 1853, Manjiro was called into service as a translator. In 1855 he was made an instructor at the Nagasaki Naval Training Center. In 1859, after Japan had opened its ports to trade with the United States, he published Eibeitaiwa shokei (『英米対話捷経』Shortcut to Anglo-American Conversation), the first English language phrase book.

1. Can you speak English? What language do you speak?
2. It is a star light night. I knew him immediately.

The following are taken from 『諏和利興學小亜』published in 1811 and Manjiro's 『英米対話捷経』and 『亜墨利幹詞』:

| 1. 天  | heaven   | ヘーヘン   | ヘブン |
| 2. 火  | fire     | ハイル    | サヤ  |
| 3. 水  | water    | ウァトル  | ウタ  |
| 4. 日  | sun      | シュン    | シャン |
| 5. 夜  | night    | 子イト    | ナイ  |
| 6. 南  | south    | ソウス    | シヤウス・ソース |
| 7. 春  | the spring | デ スピリンキ | シブレン・シヴレン |
| 8. 夏  | the summer | デ シュンムル | シヤマ |
| 9. 秋  | the autumn | デ アウテユム | ラトム |
| 10. 冬  | the winter | デ ウィントル | ウインダ |
| 11. 雷  | thunder  | テュンドル | サンダ |

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In 1860, Manjiro acted as a chief interpreter for the shogunate embassy to the United States to ratify the Harris Treaty of 1858. On their way to Japan, the shogunate embassy anchored in Honolulu to secure some coal and other provisions. During his short stay in Honolulu, Manjiro sent a letter to Captain Whitfield:

**John Mung's letter to Capt. Whitfield**

May 2, 1860

Now I will let you know how I am arrived to my Native country. You know that I have been to the Gold Mine; here stayed 4 months, average eight Dolls per day, beside expenses, from here I made my mind to get back and to see Dear Mother and also shipped in one of the American merchantmen. In this vessel I arrived to Sandwich (Oahu) Island.

I found our friend Mr. Damon and through his kindness bought a whale boat and put her into a merchantman. This was going to Shangai in China.

It was January very cold that part of country; Time I went on shore south off Great Loo Choo it was gail with snow. The Capt. of vessel he wish me to stay with him and go to China, but I refused it, because I wanted to see Mother. The boat is ready for me to get in, myself, Denzo & Goyemon jump into the boat, parted
with ship at 4 P.M. After ten hours hard pull we arrived lee of Island and anchored until morning. I went on shore among the Loo Choose, but I cannot understand their language, I have forgot all Japanese words. I stay here six months, under care of the King of Loo Choo, waiting for Japanese junk to come.

In the month of July get on board junk and went into the Harbour of Nagasaki Island, off Kieu-see-u, waiting to get permission [sic] for 30 month before we get to our residence. It was great joy to mother and all the relation. I have stay with my mother only 3 day and night the Emperor called me to Jedo. Now I became one emperian officer. At this time I am attached this vessel (the Kanrinmaru 咸臨丸). (川澄 732)

After the Meiji Revolution of 1868, he was appointed an instructor at the Kaisei Gakko (now Tokyo University).

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