

HISTORY AND PROJECTS OF THE RYUKYU
ANTI TUBERCULOSIS ASSOCIATION



Before the war, the Ryukyus was a prefecture notorious for tuberculosis in Japan and, in fact, it was ranked third at the best in the death rate from the disease. But, in the World War II, the last fierce was fought in Okinawa and, during the battle, all of the T. B. patients here died helplessly: consequently, for two years after the end of war, there had been very few persons here who died of tuberculosis.

For some period of time after 1947, the death rate from tuberculosis had again become high year after year and it was 5.3 persons every ten thousand population in 1948, 7.4 persons in 1951 and 7.81 persons in 1952. Just at the time when the rate had been increasing rapidly, the establishment of a tuberculosis prevention association was planned among some people with the warm cooperation of an American tuberculosis specialist, Dr. Gilberto S. Pesquera, who then served in the Public Health Department, USCAR, and, in the fall of 1952, this Association was founded, the greater portion of which funds was raised by selling 600,000 seals of 1952 Christmas seal that the American T. B. Prevention Association gave up to us, free of charge, affected by the efforts and sincerity of Dr. Pesquera.

Projects hitherto carried out by our Association:

1. Increase of beds for T.B. patients:

As the first project of ours, we set up the Tuberculosis Research Institute and T. B. sanatorium in Itoman in 1952 with the funds we raised through Christmas seal campaign and the donations by Mr. Mike Toder from his income from boxing show and presented them to the Government of the Ryukyu Islands.

In 1953, we had the lung surgery within Koza Central Hospital extended to put additional 70 beds there and presented it to the Government of the Ryukyu Islands.

2. Construction of our T.B. Prevention Association Building to put in it our executive office and T. B. consultation office.

3. Assistance for, and up-bringing of the former T. B. patients' welfare and protection projects.

4. Health consultation open to the general public for early discovery and early treatment.

Since 1954, tuberculosis patients have been treated and administered at the expense of the Government. But, as it has been impossible for the Government to execute group tuberculosis examination as a key to early discovery of the disease owing to insufficiency in its budget, our efforts have been directed mainly to the execution of such examination for the employees of the Central Government, local governments and such other establishments as associations, cooperatives, firms, etc. to make up for the insufficiency in power in this area on the part of the Government. The following table shows the results of the group tuberculosis examinations carried out by our Association along the line of the anti-tuberculosis project of the Government.

<u>Fiscal year</u>	<u>No. of persons examined</u>	<u>No. of T.B. patients discovered</u>
1954	2,000	—
1955	6,265	53
1956	14,982	27
1957	12,107	31
1958	15,608	54
1959	23,646	54
1960	27,293	35
1961	29,843	79
1962	39,530	82
1963	44,016	92
1964	35,636	62
1965	37,066	57
1966	40,516	146
1967	57,339	108

5 Propaganda for enlightenment and sanitary education:

(1) Our Association lays and carries out a program each year to let people know how to prevent tuberculosis and what tuberculosis is and, in fact, obtains good results.

(2) Making of movies and slides and dependence upon radio and T. V. and newspapers for campaign and public relations.

The movies "Activities of T.B. Prevention Association", "Group T. B. Examination Party to Kumejima" and "Travel on Neighboring Islands — Miyako and Yaeyama" will be forwarded to record men for recording before long.

6. Issuance of Christmas Seal Raising Funds:

Our Association has carried forward our own tuberculosis prevention projects with the profits from the sale of our Christmas seal after other tuberculosis prevention association in the world, without depending upon the Government and any other community chest for funds to keep the Government's anti tuberculosis project going ahead smoothly. Thanks to good understanding and assistance of the successive High Commissioner of the Ryukyu Islands for our Christmas seal campaign, more than \$2,000 comes from the US forces for aid to our projects each year. We earnestly hope that the members of the US forces will use our Christmas seals for friendship between America and the Ryukyus and in memory of their stay in Okinawa.

7. Operation of T.B. consultation office:

Our Association opens tuberculosis consultation office to the public free of charge for guidance on the proper way to cure the disease.

8. Visit to poor T.B. patients to cheer up:

In Okinawa, the greater part of T.B. patients are the poor and needy and our Association often makes some of our staff visit them to cheer up.

9 Other projects:

Training of technicians in T.B. prevention services:

Our Association sends a few employees to a college in Japan called "Kyoto X-ray College" to bring up them for radiographers. Four graduates work at our Association as radiographer for group tuberculosis examination and now an employee is in the college.

COMBATting THE TUBERCULOSIS PROBLEM IN THE RYUKYUS

At no time in the prewar or postwar period, has the Government taken the tuberculosis problem on Okinawa more seriously than it does today.

In the postwar years, the development of medicine has advanced tremendously and superior medicines are being discovered, one by one. The tuberculosis death rate is rapidly decreasing. This is not only true in Japan and Okinawa, but also throughout the world.

Although the tuberculosis death rate has dropped considerably on Okinawa, the number of tuberculosis patients is still increasing. Therefore while the tuberculosis measures on Okinawa can be said to have advanced quite far, they are still far from being complete.

At the present time, there are approximately 20,000 tuberculosis patients registered with the Government. Most of these patients, with early detection and proper treatment in sanitariums, probably could be cured in six months to a year; however, there are facilities for only 900 beds in the entire Ryukyu Islands. Of these, approximately 150 beds are reserved for lung-surgery patients and the remaining 750 beds are utilized for administering modern treatment to hospitalized patients. The proper treatment of all tuberculosis patients, which requires medical care in isolated and quiet surroundings, cannot be fully implemented due to the lack of hospital beds. Because of this situation, the Government conducts only home treatment for patients who are unable to obtain beds in the hospitals, giving them advice and medication under the supervision of the Health Center in each district.

When hospitalized, the patients are completely supervised, with the Government assuming all expenses, and ideal treatment can be administered without the patients having to worry about making a living. However, those patients who are forced to take treatment at home, although medication and examinations are given free of charge by the Health Centers, must take care of their own livelihood. It is said that it takes the public nurse of the Health Center more than a month to visit and give proper guidance to each home-treatment patient.

The Government of the Ryukyu Island's budget for 1966 was \$65,887,200. The U.S. Government's assistance to the budget comes to the total of \$8,460,000, which includes cost of medicines for those taking home treatments. The Japanese Government aid is \$6,538,423.



Mr. Jugo Toma, Chairman
of Ryukyu Anti-TB As-
sociation



At the general meeting of
the Japan Anti-TB Associa-
tion, Mr. Choshin Kabira
explained the TB situation
in the Ryukyus to Princes
Chichibu, Chairman of the
Association.



Let us examine the budget of the Welfare Department of the Government of the Ryukyu Islands which has charge of the tuberculosis countermeasures project. It has a budget of \$9,065,152. From this figure only \$615,523 are allocated for the anti-tuberculosis project.

Because of this limited financial situation, I am sure you understand why it is difficult to treat all patients equally. Because of this situation, a request was made to the Government of Japan for use of 950 beds not being used at the national sanitariums, as an aid to Okinawa.

This brings the total number of available beds for the care of Okinawan tuberculosis patients to 1,850.

This assistance from Japanese and U.S. Governments largely resulted from assistance programs sponsored by Col. Marshall, former Chief of Public Sanitation, Public Welfare Department, USCAR. Of course the continuous appeal by Ryukyu Anti-TB Association representatives at the Anti-TB National Rally held every year in Japan was another factor which contributed to this achievement.

When the anti-tuberculosis measures in the Ryukyu Islands today are compared with those of prewar days, great progress is indicated. The decrease of tuberculosis death rate to one-twentieth of that of the prewar period must be considered as a great improvement.

Doctor Kiyomatsu Kinjo Fought Tuberculosis

The tuberculosis death rate on Okinawa today is lower than that of Japan. Statistics clearly indicate this. In prewar days there were no national or prefectural government operated sanitariums in Okinawa Prefecture. This was not because there were no tuberculosis patients on Okinawa. Okinawa was known as having many tuberculosis patients and its death rate was constantly counted among the highest three of the prefectures.

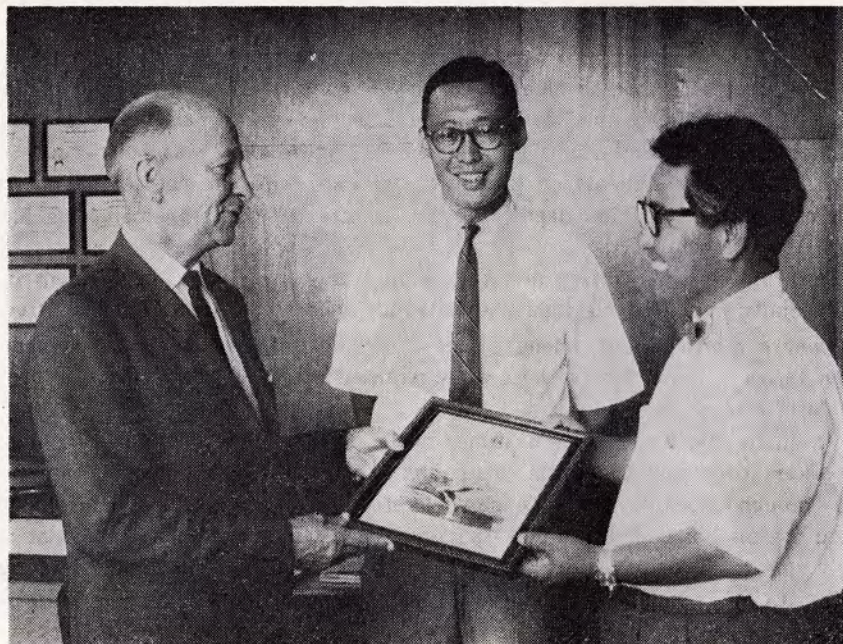
Towards the end of Meiji era, the number of girls seeking employment in Japan, especially in the textile industries, steadily increased. Naha Port had frequent scenes where relatives and friends bade farewell to these girls on their departure for Japan. Later many of these girls returned home suffering from the dreaded tuberculosis disease.

Originally Okinawa was a healthier place; however, these diseasecarrying factory workers contacted Okinawan youth and in no time tuberculosis became widespread throughout Okinawa. In Okinawa Prefecture the Prefectural Hospital was assigned the task of caring for these patients; however, the hospital could not do so properly due to lack of doctors and facilities. Okinawa was also hampered by its special situation of being a remote island and its sick people could not go to other prefectures for treatment.



Mr. C. Kabira accepts a check gift donated by chairman of Hawaii-Ryukyuan Society, Mr. S. Hokama and Mr. H. Tengan, counsellor (left)

Designed by C. Kabira, Executive Director, 1964 Christmas Seal original picture of Ryu-Hi (Dragon Fountain Head) present to Chief of Public Health and Welfare Department of USCAR and Capt. H. Sun (center)



It so happened about that time that Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo (then 32) of Ogimison having completed his training at Kitazaro Tuberculosis Research Institute, opened his practice in Izumizaki, Naha City. He submitted a request to the Prefectural Government for establishment of facilities for combatting tuberculosis; however the Prefectural Government had no means of combatting this disease except for the limited facilities of the Prefectural Hospital. Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo was indignant about the inability of the Prefectural Government to handle this problem and set out to establish a sanitarium by himself. He went about by himself seeking a site suitable for the sanitarium and, although he encountered fierce opposition and persecution from some residents, he continued preaching about the importance of anti-TB measures. Finally he succeeded in obtaining land of 92 ares (2.3 acres) and established a sanitarium, Hakuzan Ryoyo En, on February 1, 1911, in Kushibaru, Ameku, Tomari-cho, Naha. This sanitarium was the 11th sanitarium to be established in all of Japan and soon became well known throughout Japan. The Hakuzan Ryoyo En was then the only private tuberculosis sanitarium in the Ryukyus and played an important role in the anti TB fight. Unfortunately this establishment was reduced to ashes during World War II.

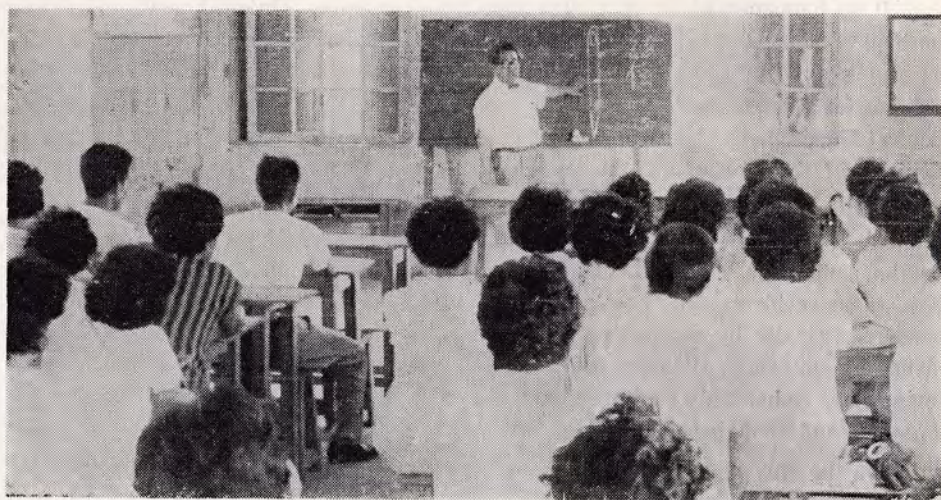
At that time, Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo, who established and nurtured Hakuzan Ryoyo En, was still healthy and he took an active part in anti-TB activities as advisor to Ryukyu Anti-TB Association. Five years ago he was awarded a certificate of achievement and memento by Princess Chichibu, chairman of Anti-TB Association, for his contribution to Anti-TB activities. In recent years he was awarded Doctorate degree in Medical Science for his thesis on tuberculosis and on vaccination. For more than 55 years he has been grappling with anti-TB measures on Okinawa.

In 1917 Anti-TB Association was first established with the assistance of Dr. Kosaburo Okubo, Dr. Kiko Kinjo and others; however it was not too effective for a long time. The death rate of TB patients on Okinawa continued to be among the highest of all the prefectures and never did go below third highest in the entire country. In some years the rate reached 27 deaths per 10,000 population. Just prior to World War II, the death rate from TB was 23 per 10,000 population.

The Postwar Anti-TB Measures And The Establishment Of The Anti-TB Association

In 1945 the Pacific War ended, and Okinawa came under administration of the U.S. Military Government. Hospital or dispensaries were established in each district and sub-village and medical treatments were administered by the U.S. Military Government. In the quietness of postwar period, the people began the return to normal conditions.

The U.S. Military Government recognized the need for special anti-TB mea-



The lecture meeting about the tuberculosis



Complimentary Medical Examination on Street

asures in addition to the public sanitation measures applied to the general public and set up a positive plan for anti-TB campaign with the cooperation of Okinawa Civil Government (Governor Koshin Shikiya) and Department of Public Sanitation (Chokei Ogimi, Department Chief). The Military Government acquired 12 Quonset huts for the Okinawa Civil Government from the Navy and equipped them with 100 beds and various medical instruments. In August 1958, the Okinawa Civil Government's Kin Hoyoin (sanitarium) was established with Genshun Izumi as its first chief. Thus, the first government-operated tuberculosis sanitarium in history was established on Okinawa.

The Kin Hoyoin was soon enlarged to provide 150 beds. In spite of this work, the tuberculosis death rate continued to increase and the 1947 death rate of four per 10,000 was increased to 5.3 deaths per 10,000 persons by 1948. The Military Government, which was concerned by this development, recognized the necessity for expanding public health administrative measures, especially anti-TB actions, and in 1951 established five new health centers: three on Okinawa (South, Central, and North) and one each on Miyako and Yaeyama.

In spite of all these measures the 1952 death rate from TB climbed to the higher rate of 7.8 deaths per 10,000 population.

Later the U.S. Pacific Academic Research Group visited Okinawa. Included in this group was a TB specialist, Lt. Col. Albert Peskler of the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He proposed that as a preliminary for establishment of anti-TB measures on Okinawa, the actual TB situation on Okinawa should be investigated. He conducted mass examinations in the northern area with the cooperation of Dr. Kenichi Toyama, then chief of Naha Health Center. The result of this survey indicated an unexpectedly large number of TB patients, therefore he informed the authorities there was a pressing need for more preventive measures and, at the same time, he emphasized the need for establishment of an Anti-TB Association as one phase of civil activities. Dr. Peskler, Dr. Toyama, and Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo cooperated with Public Welfare Department Chief, Zensuke Teruya; the Chief of Koza Health Center, Dr. Zenshi Inafuku; and the Chief of Kin Health Center, Dr. Genshun Izumi, in the establishment of the Ryukyu Anti-TB Association. By September of 1952 the Anti-TB Association was organized, and Dr. Koshin Shikiya, former governor of Okinawa Civil Government and later President of Ryukyu University, was chosen as the first chairman of the association with Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo as vice chairman and Dr. Kenichi Toyama as managing director. Although it was unofficial, this was the start of the Ryukyu Anti-TB Association. To promote the idea of an anti-TB campaign and to conduct vigorous mass-examination for early detection and treatment of this disease, a section of Naha Health Center was turned over to the Association for its office.

Anti-TB Seal Activities And The Work Of Ryukyu Anti-TB Association

While the Anti-TB Association was established, it lacked operating funds and so the association did most of its work through the voluntary assistance of Naha Health Center employees.

A U.S. Army civilian employee named Mike Toder promoted several boxing matches in Naha City and donated the net earnings of approximately \$1,000 to the Association. This became the first operating fund of the Ryukyu Anti-TB Association.

During the Christmas season of 1952, through the efforts of Col. King, then Chief of Public Health and Welfare Department of USCAR and Lt. Col. Peskler, the TB Specialist, some 600,000 Christmas seals were obtained free of charge and after printing "Ryukyu Islands" on them, they were sold as the first Ryukyu Anti-TB Association's Christmas seals and marked the start of Anti-TB seal activity on the Ryukyus. The sale of these Christmas seals, the first ever held on Okinawa, was made mostly to U.S. military and civilian personnel and netted approximately \$600 profit to the Association.

About that time a Military Police unit located in Aza Kanegusuku of Kanegusuku-son (now part of Itoman-cho), moved away from that location and Dr. Peskler suggested that the Anti-TB Association buy the huts and use them for their project. Chairman Shikiya and Vice Chairman Kinjo thought this suggestion an excellent idea and through Dr. Peskler the Kanegusuku Military Police facilities were purchased by the Anti-TB Association. With the assistance of USCAR and District Engineer, this facility became a 60-bed sanitarium equipped with a complete line of laboratory equipment. Thus, for the first time, the Anti-TB Association became an effective organization possessing some assets. Later, the Anti-TB Association donated this establishment to the Government of the Ryukyus and continued to push forward on its anti-TB program, working together with the Government.

On September 1953, the Zaidan Hojin Ryukyu (Anti-TB Association) was officially recognized by the Government and Shuhei Higa (Chief Executive) became its second chairman.

In the same year, the then Deputy Governor of the Ryukyu Islands, Maj. Gen. D. A. Ogden, sponsored a one-week conference of the Anti-TB Council, starting on December 7, at the Naha Cultural Center. Dr. Minoru Seijo, Chief of Anti-TB Department of Public Welfare Ministry, and Dr. Ken Yanagisawa, Chief of National Sanitation Research Center, both from Japan; Col. Park and Lt. Col. Sai from Republic of Korea; and Lt. Col. Holey and Capt. Donnelly from the United States, participated as guests. Representing Okinawa was Dr. Peskler. Approximately 100 TB specialist met together for earnest deliberations on tuberculosis treatment techniques and medicines.

The work of Anti-TB Association started out as an all-Ryukyu activity under

the auspices of Dr. Peskler. Posters to spread the idea of combatting TB were made and distributed throughout the Ryukyu Islands. At the same time efforts were being made to conduct mass physical examinations in order to achieve early detection of the disease in individual cases.

The tuberculosis death rate in 1953 showed a decline to 5.6 per 10,000 population from the previous year's 7.8, a substantial decrease within only one year. That is to say that the tuberculosis measures undertaken through cooperation of the Government and the Anti-TB Association clearly showed its results even in statistics. The tuberculosis death rate which had been rising steadily up to then started to decline after 1952. Of course the work of the Health Centers contributed to this phenomenon; however, the contribution of the Anti-TB Association cannot be ignored. In 1953 the Ryukyu Anti-TB Association started selling its own Christmas seals. The seal depicting a Ryukyuan dance was designed by artist Masayoshi Adaniya, a professor at the University of the Ryukyus. Approximately \$6,000 worth of these seals were sold that year.

In the same year the Government of Japan sponsored an elaborate Anti-TB rally commemorating advancement of tuberculosis prevention projects.

The tuberculosis death rate has gone down year after year following the start of the Anti-TB Association. In the meantime, the Association Managing Director Toyama relinquished this post in order to start a hospital in Naha City, but continued his work with the association as member of the board of directors. Dr. Seigo Hanashiro, Chief of Public Sanitation Division of the Welfare Department, then assumed the post of Managing Director.

Although the tuberculosis death rate is decreasing annually, the number of tuberculosis patients is steadily increasing. Government officials and the Anti-TB Association continued to appeal to the Legislature for the enactment of an Anti-TB Law. A system for home treatments was established under the supervision of Health Centers and \$500,000 worth of medicine was obtained from USCAR for this. Then the authorization of funds, which can be said to be the guarantee of the effectiveness of the Anti-TB Law, was obtained. This, along with the regulations for tuberculosis prevention measures, made the care of all identified tuberculosis victims the responsibility of the Government.

Anti-TB Association And The Anti-TB Seal

The Anti-TB Association has continuously disseminated accurate information to the people and encouraged the people to have their entire families take physical examinations so that anyone in the Ryukyu Islands, who happens to be afflicted with tuberculosis, can receive benefits under this law and have a chance to regain his health and return to active social life.

In order to have an establishment on Okinawa capable of performing lung operations, the Ryukyu Anti-TB Association donated its profits obtained from 1953 sale of Christmas seals to the Government to help outfit the Koza Central Hospital with 70 beds for lung surgery cases.

Thus the Anti-TB Seal sales, which have been supported by you year after year, are contributing to the prevention of tuberculosis in the Ryukyu Islands. In 1955 I observed anti-TB projects and Christmas seals sale activities in the United States. Hawaii is said to greatly resemble Okinawa and I felt that their Christmas seal activity would be of great help.

When August rolls around, various organizations in Hawaii, such as women's clubs, youth associations, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts gather and offer their services in sending Christmas seals to various sections of the islands. The Christmas seals sell very well there and Hawaii, which has a population of 550,000, bought \$117,000 worth of these seals in 1955, the year I visited Hawaii. The Ryukyu Anti-TB Association realized \$32,000 from sale of Christmas seals last year. Figuring from this rate, I think we should exert more effort in the sale activity on Okinawa.

The main source of funds for the Anti-TB Association operations is the sale of Christmas seals. Some income is obtained from examination fees, which however are not enough to cover even the costs of examinations. Besides these the Association also receives some private donations which are used to help make ends meet.

The Anti-TB Association is not subsidized by the Government and does not receive any aid from the Red Feather Joint Fundraising Campaign.

In view of these conditions we would like your cooperation in promoting future sales of the Anti-TB seals. It is already 15 years since the first publication of "Candle" in 1952. The Christmas seals issued during that period have all been designed by leading artists of Okinawa and have received high praise from various areas. It is said that in some foreign countries some people receive good prices for selling them to collectors.

There may be some people who consider the Anti-TB seal campaign as merely another fundraising campaign. The Anti-TB seal is also a cry for the eradication of tuberculosis. Through your placing of Christmas seals on your letters the receivers of these letters hear the reverberation of your prayer for the prevention of tuberculosis. The affixing of seals on Christmas cards and New Years cards at appropriate places give a good feeling to the receiver. Let us show our warm feeling for our neighbors by placing Anti-TB seals on our letters and post cards.

You can say that the amount of the Anti-TB Association's managing funds depends on the sales of Anti-TB seals. This is not an overstatement. The Anti-TB Association is at present sponsoring physical examinations all over the Ryukyus, even on holidays, but has only a single mobile examination van. This is not adequate. The Association considers a minimum of at least four such examination vans as neces-

sary. There are five technicians in reserve. Since the visit of Prime Minister Sato we have been appealing to the Government of Japan to increase the number of examination vans. We have reason to believe that this request will be granted.

If the people of Okinawa fully realize the value of Anti-TB seal campaigns, and if the military organizations here will purchase twice the amounts of past purchases, and if the 180,000 households cooperate and purchase one dollar's worth of seals per household once a year, funds totaling \$200,000 could be raised. The tuberculosis program for Okinawa promotes early detection and early treatment of the disease and I call it "fighting tuberculosis at the water's edge."

By Choshin Kabira
Executive Director
Ryukyu Anti-TB Association

Item	No. of Seals	Amount	No. of Seals
	Given up	Collected	Given up but Not Sold
Gov't of the Ryukyus	340,390	2,793.95	62,310
Local Government	814,100	7,198.08	16,664
Schools	1,046,454	9,295.48	27,151
U.S. Forces	19,875	1,685.95	3,500
Neighboring Islands	400,000	3,560.93	
Ryukyuan Establishment	700,135	6,630.36	56,735
Foreign Countries	179,621	2,149.88	
Foreign Companies in Okinawa	204,500	1,291.55	38,000
USCAR	42,000	291.25	6,500
Ryukyuan-American Welfare Council	45,000	359.45	8,120
Ryukyuan Employees USCAR	100,00	500.00	58,000
Medical Practitioners	61,500	488.50	6,150
Shopping Houses	17,00	95.00	1,500
Individuals	5,125	124.67	
For Propaganda (or Donation)	24,300		
Total	4,000,000	36,465.09	284,630

BREAKDOWNS OF SALE OF 1966 CHRISTMAS SEALS

CANDLE DESIGN



1952

In 1953, it was confirmed that the death percentage from tuberculosis was increasing in the Ryukyus. Consequently, a program to organize the Ryukyu Tuberculosis Association was proposed by Dr. Kenichi Toyama, Chief of Naha Public Health Center; Dr. Zenshi Inafuku, Chief of Koza Public Health Center; Dr. Genshun Izumi, Chief of Kanagusuku Tuberculosis Laboratory; Dr. Zensuke Teruya, Director of Public Welfare Dept. GRI, and Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo, tuberculosis specialist. When the Christmas season of 1952 set in, 600,000 sheets of stateside seals were contributed to raise financial support for the Tuberculosis Association. For this the Association is indebted to Col. King, Director of Public Welfare Dept. USCAR and Lt. Col. Peskeller, tuberculosis specialist. These seals were first sent over to Koshun Printing Company in Naha for imprinting with Kanji character 「琉球」 (The Ryukyus) on them, and were sold to military personnel and Ryukyuans. This is the story how the Christmas seal campaign came about in the Ryukyus.

From the proceeds, the Ryukyu Tuberculosis Association was formed, and the first president, Dr. Koshin Shikiya and vice president Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo were elected.



1953

Ryukyuan Classic Dance "HANAGASA ODORI"

The Ryukyu Anti-Tuberculosis Association has officially approved by the Chief Executive GRI September 1953.

Mr. Shuhei Higa, Chief Executive GRI was recommended to the president of the association to take place of the former president Dr. Shikiya.

Dr. Kiyomatsu Kinjo, vice-president and Dr. Kenichi Toyama, standing director was elected, the programs planned and the first Ryukyuan designed seals issued. This dance is one of seven typical Ryukyuan classic female dance and it is a splendid dance which is done while wearing a Hanagasa or flower hat. The Hanagasa Odori or "Flower Hat Dance" is arranged in both classic and modern ways and danced to cheerful music. The seal was designed by Professor Masayoshi Adaniya of the University of the Ryukyus. He is a graduate of Japan Art Academy with a major in graphic art. He serves as a member of executive committee of the Okinawa Exhi-

bition and also member of Shunyo group in Japan. Seals were printed at printing Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japanese Government.

Number of seals issued 80,000 (1 sheet — 20 seals) Because this is the first seals issued in the Ryukyus and presented 1 sheet of seal (unperforated) to the person who had purchased the most.

SHISHI (LION) OF KANKAI MON Welcome Gate of Shuri Castle



1954

Ryukyuan Anti-Tuberculosis Christmas seal a replica of a design prepared by Masayoshi Adaniya, Assistance Professor of Art at the University of the Ryukyus, will depict "KANKAI MON NO SHISHI" Lion of Welcome Gate of Shuri Castle which was masterpiece of stone build art work in 1510. Shishi was existed with the castle as national treasure before the war but today not may be seen.

800,000 seals will be printed in this year and with 20,000 unperforated seals.

The seals will be printed at the Government Printing Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan as in the previous years.



1955

Design - Local Toy "CHIN CHIN UMA" (horse)

This toy is peculiar to the Ryukyu Islands and is made of pasted paper, and used to be sold at toy fair held at Naha and Shuri on the 5th of May (Lunar year). On this day people would buy this toy for their children, if they had no child, for their relative's children. Once, in the Ryukyus, this was the only day that they gave toys to the children as presents.

Also toy-men would do hard work to present their best toys to the King of the Island. Even now, distinguished families buy these for their children.

The toy horse stands on a wheel box, and when pulled, strings set in the box make a sound something like "Chin, Chin". This is the reason people call it "Chin Chin Uma".

Designed by:	Professor Seigi Adaniya, University of the Ryukyus
Printed at:	Japanese Government Printing Bureau
Number of printed:	1,200,000 sheets (20 seals/sheet)
Non-perforated:	20,000 sheets.



1956

"THE SHUREI GATE" (SHUREI MON)

This gate is the second one from the entrance to the Shuri Castle, home of the former King of the RYUKYUS. Its name originated from the tablet of "Shurei no Kuni" hanging on the gate. Because of its beauty it was known in olden times as "Ayajo Gate." Until about fifty years ago the first gate "Chuzan Mon" stood at the entrance of Shuri about one kilometer from Naha. The first gate was called "Shimun Tori" and the Shurei Mon Gate "Kamin Tori"

The "Kamin Tori" was constructed in 1927, about 100 years after the first gate, during the reign of King Second of the Second Sho lineage. At that time the gate was called "The Taiken Mon" and it was also commonly called "The Shurei Mon" because of the inscription on its tablet.

It is said that in 1580 King Shosei had a tablet made with inscription "Shurei no Kuni" which was hung on the gate on the occasion of the visit of Sapposhi, the Imperial envoy from China, but on most days the tablet of "Shuri" was hung on the gate. In 1663, during the reign of King Shoken the tablet "Shurei no Kuni" was hung on the gate at all times.

Later in 1930, the Japanese Government designated this gate as an important cultural property and made it a National Treasure of Japan. However, this gate was burned World War II. An Association has recently been organized for the reconstruction of this famous "Shurei no Mon" gate.

As in other years, the design of this Christmas seal was made by Mr. Seigi Adaniya, Assistant Professor of Art, University of the Ryukyus. He is a graduate of Tokyo Art Academy and is a regular exhibitor at the National Exhibition held in Tokyo every year.



1957

"KOMORI WARABE" (A NURSEMAID)

The 1957 Ryukyuan Christmas Seal represents the age-old habits of the Ryukyuan nursemaid, who with KAZAGURUMA (wind-spinner) in her hand and child strapped to her back, strolls about with the picturesque Kerama Islands (32 miles from Okinawa) vividly outlined against the sunset in the background.

Being full of fond remembrances of their happy childhood, a look at the picture will warm the hearts of all Ryukyuan who have experienced the comforts of a

dreamy sleep on the nursemaid's back to the tune of MASHINKU BUSHI (Lullaby of Ie Jima Island).

The original design for the new seal was drawn by Assistant Professor Keiichi Yamamoto of the Department of Education, University of the Ryukyus.

Hah-rih Sen (Sea Dragon Boat)



1958

The design of Hah-rih Sen (Sea Dragon Boat) portrays one of the national sports of Ryukyus. Along with Tug of War this race is still being held in Naha as well as other port villages on the fourth day of the fifth month in the lunar calendar. This day is also known as Boys Festival and the Festival of the Sea God in Okinawa.

During the era of Ryukyu kingdom prior to 1872 this race was traditionally performed in Naha port with the king's attendance. This race was a competition among three boats and is believed to have its origin 600 years ago during the feudal era of the Ryukyu Islands. Okinawa during this feudal period was divided among three lords. According to traditional legend the students sent to China by the southern lord brought this custom of the race back into Okinawa.

The seal was designed by Professor Masayoshi Adaniya of the University of the Ryukyus. He is a graduate of Japan Art Academy with a major in graphic art. He is regarded as a leading modern artist in the Ryukyus and is also a member of Shun-yo group in Japan. Besides he serves as a member of executive committee of the Okinawan Exhibition.



1959

"HATAGASHIRA"

One of the most spectacular community festivals held in the Ryukyus is the traditional tug-of-war held by the citizens of Naha, capital of Okinawa. The city is divided into Higashi (east) and Nishi (west) teams which parade through the streets, unfurling colorful flags to the accompaniment of drums and gongs. At a selected site, and before thousands of viewers, the teams engage in their tug-of-war. The tug rope is a massive affair often measuring as much as five feet in diameter. A victory for the west team is traditionally said to mean a good harvest for the year.

The pageant is on such a grand scale, and requires such detailed and extensive preparations, that it is held only once every 20 or 30 years.

Each of the two teams in this ceremonial tug-of-war adopt for their standard a distinctive "HATAGASHIRA" or Ensign.

The 1959 Christmas Seal distributed by the Ryukyu Anti-Tuberculosis Association has adopted as its design one of these colorful "HATAGASHIRA." As in the past, the Seal is a reminder of the historical and cultural background of the Ryukyuan people.

The spirit behind the "HATAGASHIRA" is clearly demonstrated in a poem written by Gisho Funakoshi, Ryukyuan novelist, which follows:

The young in the city, lads living all over the city,
Hold! Hold the Ensign!
Raise the Ensign higher and higher.
Exult in being its bearer,
Only the place where you, the young, should perchance
Be yourself a man.

The 1959 Christmas Seal was designed by Seikichi Tamanaha, an assistant professor at the University of the Ryukyus, and a graduate of the Japanese Government Art College. He is also an associate member of the Japan Shunyo-Kai artist group and a member of the operations committee of the Okinawa Art Exhibit.



1960

"YAMBARU-BUNI"

The 1960 Seal depicts a "YAMBARU-BUNI" — a type of sailing vessel similar to the Chinese junk much is written in Ryukyuan historical lore of this ship. In the days of the Ryukyuan kingdom, these black-hulled vessels resplendent with orange sails were a common sight in the sea lanes of the South China Sea. The advent of steamships brought an end to these sturdy and picturesque ships. Just prior to World War II, the last of the "Yambaru-Buni" were still engaged in commerce operations in Ryukyuan coast waters. They carried firewood and other forest products from the mountainous regions of Northern Okinawa to populated areas in Central and Southern Okinawa, and in turn transported foodstuffs and commercial items to the mountain villages.

It was designed by Mr. Koya Oshiro, professor of Art at Kokusai Junior College in Chatan-son and a member of the executive committee of the Okinawa Art Exhibit (Okiten). Mr. Oshiro is a graduate of the Japan Art Academy and a member of the Nika-Kai artist group in Japan.



1961

SOTETSU (A Cycad)

This year, the Ryukyuan seals will be printed with a Cycad design painted by Mr. Seikan Omine, a member of the SHUNYO BIJUTSU KYOKAI (Shunyo Artists' Society) in Japan.

The Cycad design is symbolic of the strength and resolve of the Ryukyuan people because it is the Cycad plant

which traditionally provide the Ryukyuan people with sustenance when all other foods were destroyed by typhoon storms and other disasters. The Ryukyuan islands, spread across the Western Pacific, are periodically hit by typhoons. In the old days these typhoons would cause such devastation that farmers would be threatened with famine. These ancient farmers turned for food to the sturdy cycad which grew thickly in the fields, hills, and mountains of the Ryukyus. They learned that the inside of the trunk and the cycad nuts were fit for food after due preparation. For months after a typhoon, these plants were used for food pending harvest of new crops. Thus we may say that the Cycad was a symbol of life to our ancestors.

The painting of the Christmas Seal represents the cycads and Island, under the leaves, lying on the sea-line far off, which produce together the quite peaceful, tranquil and warm atmosphere. The cycad painted on it looks rustic and stout but inexpressibly beautiful with spreading leaves. The leaves of the cycad are indispensable for Christmas decoration.



1962

"Dr. Gilberto S. Pesquera"

Dr. Pesquera (1893—1960), a native of Puerto Rico, was graduated from the Baltimore MD, College of Physicians and Surgeons 1915. After internship at the Municipal Hospital in Puerto Rico, young Gilberto became a doctor in 1917 at the Trudeau Sanatorium at Saranac Lake, N.Y., where he later specialized in the research of Tuberculosis.

Until 1943, when he joined the United States Army, as a major in the Medical Corps he practiced and taught at Gaylord Farm Sanatorium at Mt. McGregor, N.Y. (Metropolitan Life Insurance Company Sanatorium), and at Skidmore College nursing school in N.Y.

During World War II he served in the European, African, and Middle East theatres. In 1946 Colonel Pesquera returned home and resumed his post as staff doctor of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, in New York City.

Dr. Pesquera was sent to Okinawa by the Pacific Science Board, National Research Council in Washington D.C. in October 1951, to survey the status of Tuberculosis in the Ryukyu Islands. There he was assigned to the Army Medical Corps and made his office in the Public Health and Welfare Department of the United States Civil Administration of the Ryukyu Islands (USCAR).

In October 1952 the humanitarian interest and professional advice of Dr. Pesquera inspired Doctors Kiyomatsu Kinjo, Zenshi Inafuku, Kenichi Toyama, Genshun Tami and Zensuke Teruya for the establishment of the Ryukyu Tuberculosis Association.

The initial fund of this association was raised from the first sale of 600,000 Christmas Seals in the Ryukyu Islands which were sent from the American Tuber-

culosis Association through the good offices of Dr. Pesquera. These American seals later became a collector's items, because they bore two Kanji letters imprinted the seal.

Dr. Pesquera was also the key force in securing the transfer of the Kanegusku U.S. Military Police station in Southern Okinawa to the newly-organized Ryukyu Tuberculosis Association. The present Kanegusku Tuberculosis Sanatorium and Laboratory were developed out of these facilities.

Dr. Pesquera left Okinawa in 1953 and resumed his position at the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company until he in New York city retired in 1958. Even in retirement, Dr. Pesquera served as tuberculosis advisor to the cities of Saratoga and Glens Falls, New York. At the age of sixty-seven, Dr. Gilberto Pesquera passed away on February 26, 1960 and is buried in the Puerto Rico Branch of the Arlington National Cemetery Washington, D.C.

On the tenth anniversary of the Ryukyu Tuberculosis Association it is felt most appropriate to have the portrait of Dr. Pesquera imprinted on the 1962 Christmas seals in remembrance of his good will and humanitarian contribution.

The original oil painting was done by one of Okinawa's foremost artists, Mr. Koya Ohshiro, a member of Japan's prominent Nika-kai group. Layout and graphic design was prepared by Executive Secretary Choshin Kabira of the association.

Sango (Coral)



1963

It is issued with the design of Mr. Choshin Kabira, Executive Director of the Association.

Coral grows in the sea located close to Okinawa. It is processed exclusively into necklaces, earrings, necktie-pins, cuff buttons, rings, hairpins and sash clips. Furthermore, because there are large amount of rose and orange coral here

which are considered very valuable, the Government of the Ryukyu Islands feels that much can be expected by its exportation and has encouraged the businessmen who have developed it into a full-scale industry since 1960. As a result, 50,000 tons of corals were collected in one year, and its exportation is increasing yearly.

Ryu-Hi (Dragon Fountain Head)



1964

The Ryu-Hi, Dragon Fountain Head, was constructed as the fountain conduit approximately 450 years ago, under the reign of King Sho-Shin, the third king of the second Sho Dynasty and the first of its kind in the history of Ryukyuan masonry. It has been installed ever since in the Zuisen spring, located by the second gate of the Shuri Castle, the present

site of the University of the Ryukyus. The Royal household as well as the people living in the neighborhood used the water from this spring through the Dragon Fountain Head.

During this reign, Ryukyuan masonry flourished, and stone lions and stone bridges were built at the gates and Buddhist temples in the vicinity in the wake of beautification programs in the castle premise and its surrounding launched by the King Sho-Shin.

This Ryu-Hi Dragon Fountain Head was designated as a national treasure by the Japanese Government in the 1920s and was perfectly preserved until the last battle of Okinawa in 1944, but unfortunately the nose part was chipped off during the war.

1964 is the year of dragon and as the symbol of good health this dragon head was designed for this year's Christmas Seal by Mr. Choshin Kabira who has contributed much to the rehabilitation of Ryukyuan culture from devastation in the last war. Much of his accomplishments took place during his term of office from 1946 to 1948 as chief of Fine Arts Section, Department of Culture of the then Okinawa Civil Administration.

Mr. Kabira, historian, artist and poet, is the executive director of the Ryukyu Anti-TB Association. Besides his position with the Association, Mr. Kabira has been devoting his time and effort in the civil education for the Ryukyuan youth through the boy scout activities as the District Commissioner of the Ryukyus. He was Awarded the Silver Beaver Award by the U.S. Boy Scouts in 1963 for his distinguished service.

CHIKARA MUCHI



1965

Illustration is of a Ryukyuan Boy Carrying Chikara Muchi (rice cakes) Wrapped up in Kuba or Getto leaf (Fan Palm or Galangad leaf)

We have had professional artists draw the designs for our Christmas seals since the establishment of the Association. This year we invited the public to join in a prize contest. Through careful screening, the design of "CHIKARA MUCHI" by Mr. Masaru Oyama, 35, who lives in Summide, Yagaji-son, northern Okinawa, was selected.

"CHIKARA MUCHI" is a rice-cake wrapped up in a Kuba or Getto leaf (Fan Palm or Galangal Leaf). On December 8 of the lunar calendar, according to custom, most families in Okinawa make many "CHIKARA MUCHI" from glutinous rice powder and offer some cakes on the altar, praying to God for their children's health

and prosperity in the future. The rice cakes are also suspended on strings from the ceiling for a subsequent snack.

In recent years, however, this custom seems to be dying out in urban areas, yet we hear that in rural areas it still generally prevails. Parents are sure to please their children by giving them "CHIKARA MUCHI" during the last month of the lunar calendar, even when nothing else pleases.



1966

The Buddhist Temple Bell

The Buddhist temple bell recovered from the war-torn Hall for State Ceremonies, Castle of Shuri in Naha, Okinawa. The bell 60.87 inches high, 17.33 inches in diameter and 1320 pounds in weight, was cast by Kokuzen Fujiwara, an artisan, during the second year of Choroku under the reign of Sho

Taikyū, King of the Ryukyus (AD 1458). The engraved epigraph indicates "Sail-cross-the-ocean" which expresses King Sho Taikyū's policy of promoting overseas trade and international goodwill. The bell survived World War II without losing its original form although it was slightly damaged. It is now in the Shuri Museum in Shuri, Naha.

The design of the seals was created by Mr. Choshin Kabira, Executive Director of the Association as well as a custodian of ancient culture.



1967

Ryukyuan Classic Dance "KASEKAKE"

The first seal issued in 1953, described the Ryukyuan classical dance "Hanagasa Odori". It was designed by Seigi Adaniya, an art professor at the University of the Ryukyus, and proved to be extremely popular. Since then, Christmas Seals of the Ryukyus have been designed to reflect the culture, history and customs of the islands, and become increasingly popular throughout the world.

In celebration of the fifteenth anniversary, another Ryukyuan classical dance "Kasekake" appears on the 1967 seal. It was designed by Choshin Kabira, Executive Director, Ryukyuan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, and serves as a reminder for the original seal aforementioned.

"Kasekake" is one of the most elegant of the seven famous Ryukyuan dances, and is full of variety. The design on the attached sample depicts a young wife reeling woven thread which she will use to make clothing for her husband during his absence on business. Her costume is of dyed bingata (a special material used for the Japanese kimono). During the era of the Ryukyuan Kingdom, prior to 1870, this dance was used at the King's Court.