Two sources related to Otani Kozui and his Central Asian expeditions

Imre Galambos (British Library)
Stein's letter was a response to Keltie's request to help him edit the typescript for *The Geographical Journal.* Keltie was asking Stein's help in editing the typescript sent to him by Otani. It is apparent that the Journal was eager to publish the material but in the end gave up on it, no doubt because of its poor writing style.

Together with the same lot is also a five-page manuscript titled "New exploration in Chinese Turkestan and Mongolia." This is a proposed plan for the next expedition, according to which Tachibana was going to go back to Chinese Turkestan via Russia, meeting up there with Z. Hashiramoto and B. Aoki. The manuscript is signed by Zuicho Tachibana and was written in the first person. In contrast with the typescript examined by Stein, the writing style is very natural and implies a competent English speaker. *The Geographical Journal* published a rephrased version of this plan in the April 1910 issue.

Of special interest is a large square map in the Map Room of the RGS Archives showing the routes of Tachibana's two trips. Both the drawing and captions are executed in a highly professional manner, revealing the work of a trained cartographer. At the top of the sheet is a smaller (1:7,500,000) map of Central Asia, bearing the title "Map of Central Asia, Showing the Routes of Mr. Tachibana's Journey, 1908-1912." The larger part of the sheet is used to show an enlarged section (1:1,500,000) of the desert route from Turfan to Kucha, proceeding in a V-shape via Loulan, Abdal, Miran, Charkalik, Cherchen, and Bugur. The title is "Sketch Map Illustrating a Portion of the Takla-Makan and the Lob Desert, by Mr. Zuicho Tachibana, 1911-1912." What makes this map especially valuable is that it includes not only the place names but also the dates and a short description of some of the artefacts discovered at a particular site.

The RGS Archives also hold a series of photographs from the Otani expeditions. All of them have the same date of 1913 on them, some marked as having been taken by Otani Kozui, and some by Tachibana Zuicho. One of the photographs (076702) shows the now lost *gaoshen* 告身 manuscript, photographs of which have been discovered in 1999 at Tokutomi Soho’s Memorial Hall. The caption reads, "Part of the middle of the certificate of merit (dated Tang Dynasty 28th Feb 716 A.D.) which is rewarded for distinguished service in war. Discovered in Turfan."

Photograph No. 076177 is important as it sheds light on a long-debated issue regarding the place of discovery of the famous 4th century *Li Bo* manuscript 李柏文書. The caption reads "Dr. Sven Hedin’s Lulan" and it shows the ruins designated by Stein as L.A. Because in the above typescript Tachibana stated that he had found this particular manuscript at "Hedin’s Lulan," this photograph corroborates that the discovery was made at the L.A. site.
The Cantonal Archives (Archives cantonales vaudoises) at the University of Lausanne have the property deed for Otani’s villa in Switzerland called Seikyo sanso 清鏡山莊. Although fragmentary information has been available regarding the existence of such a place, its concrete location remained unknown. In one of his travel accounts, Otani retold the story of how in October 1928 he was driven around the hills of Lausanne in search for a suitable location by the son of Mr. Galland, the former British Consul. After looking at a number of possibilities, 7 km to east of town they found a large lot with two buildings, overlooking Lake Geneva. Otani committed himself to buying the property the following year.

The key to finding the exact location of the estate was a document in the National Archives of Japan. This was a letter (September 1, 1943) addressed to the Japanese Embassy in Bern by a lawyer on behalf of the tenant who had been renting the villa since 1934. The estate was managed by Mr. Galland but because of disputes regarding repair work on the property the tenant wanted to get in touch directly with the owner. He had to realize, however, that although the property was registered in the name of one Tatsumi Kamimura, the actual owner was Count Otani.

Since the letter stated that the property was located in La Croix sur Lutry, a small town to the east of Lausanne, as well as the date of purchase, I was able to track down the property deeds at the Cantonal Archives in Lausanne. There were a total of four deeds dated May 16, 1929 and in all of them the name of the new owner was Tatsumi Kamimura from Osaka-fu.

The properties were designated by the name of their location: Miroir A (meadow, residential building, fields); Miroir B (meadow); Bory (meadow, fields); and Boissieres (vinyard). They were either adjacent or very close to each other. The villa on the first estate was called Le Miroir (i.e. “mirror”), which is a close match with the Japanese name Seikyo sanso 清鏡山莊. Unfortunately, the villa itself is no longer extant, having been replaced by modern apartment buildings. But the site itself, with Lake Geneva below and the city of Lausanne to the west, immediately reminds one of the location of Otani’s old villa on mount Rokko above Kobe.

1 RGS Archives, JMS/7/129, “Brief notes on a Japanese archaeological expedition to Sinkiang.”
2 Kellett’s letter (May 11, 1910) asking for Stein’s help is now located at the Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. For the text of this letter, see Imre Galambos, “Otani Kozui’s 1910 visit to London,” Heisei 19 nendo kotenseki dejitaru akai bu kenkyu senta kenkyu seika hokokusho 平成19年度古典籍デジタルアーカイブ研究センター研究成果報告書, Ryukoku University, 2008.


5 Obviously, 1913 is the date when the photographs were sent to the RGS and not when they were taken. At least one of these (076704) was published in Tachibana’s 1912 book (Chūa tanken 中亜探検, Tokyo: Hakubunkan, 1912).


8 This corroborates Professor Katayama’s conclusions regarding the provenance of the Li Bo manuscript. See: Katayama Akio 卡田雅男, “Ri Haku monjo no shutsudochi” 増頼文書の出土地, in Chūgoku kodai no hō to shakai 中国古代の法と社会, Tokyo: Kyukoshoin, 1988.

9 The only place I have seen the Japanese name of this villa was the dissertation of Ronald Anderson. (Ronald S. Anderson, Nishi Honganji and Japanese Buddhist Nationalism, 1862-1945, Ph.D. dissertation, University of California, Berkeley, 1956, p.201.)

10 “Hōyūki” 平遊記, Ōtani Kōzui zenshū 大谷光瑞全集, Tokyo, Osaka: Dajiosha, 1935, vol. 9, pp. 414-6. The Consul and his son referred here must have been Alfred and Maurice Galland who, beside their diplomatic career, also owned a bank, a travel bureau, and a real estate agency.

11 Japan Center for Asian Historical Records, Ref. code BO4121175500.

12 Kamimura Tatsumi 上村貞巳 was Otani’s personal secretary from the mid-1920s. As part of his assignment, he had managed a farm in Turkey and also travelled widely throughout Europe and Asia.

◇研究所収書目録◇

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