

**MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION
OF YUIITZUKWAN, TOKYO,
JAPAN, MARCH 25TH, 1894:
CATALOGUE OF SENSHIN. 1893-
1894**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649366361

Memorial of the Dedication of Yuiitukwan, Tokyo, Japan, March 25th, 1894: Catalogue of Senshin. 1893-1894 by Clay MacCauley

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

CLAY MACCAULEY

**MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION
OF YUIITZUKWAN, TOKYO,
JAPAN, MARCH 25TH, 1894:
CATALOGUE OF
SENSHIN. 1893-1894**

MEMORIAL
OF THE
DEDICATION OF YUIITZUKWAN
TOKYO, JAPAN.
March 25th, 1894.

Catalogue of

Senshin Gakuin,

1893-1894.

Tokyo, Japan.

1884.

INTRODUCTION.

This pamphlet has been prepared especially as a memorial of the erection and dedication of Yuiitzukwan, (唯一館) Unity Hall, the head quarters of the Unitarian Mission in Japan and the home of Senshin Gakuin, (先進學院) the School for Advanced Learning, established and supported by the mission.

The need for a suitable building in which the several departments into which our work had been organized might be kept together and be made more helpful to one another, became urgent fully three years ago.

At that time the Japan Unitarian Association had already been proposed, and, in part, formed. This association was not intended to be a dependent of the mission. It was considered advisable, however, that for a while it should remain in close relationship with us, the mission taking an advisory attitude toward it, and supplying its officers with working room and the means for furthering its objects. The objects of this association are : first, the organizing and assistance of local associations and of churches whose aim is the promotion of the knowledge and the practice of pure religion ; second, the publication and distribution of books, pamphlets etc., which may diffuse rational opinion about social, ethical and religious questions; third, contribution to the support of speakers, writers and others who may be authorized to represent the association or do its work ; and fourth, to collect funds for the support of this work. As a branch of our church extension department is to be considered

also the "Post Office Mission," which the representatives of the general mission have conducted wholly under their own direction, for the sake of special personal intercourse with inquirers into the kind of religious faith and purpose the Unitarians have sent from the West to Japan.

Our department of publication had also become of considerable magnitude three years ago, with the certain prospect of a great increase in the near future. Under its care was issued our monthly magazine, which was growing rapidly in importance, and requiring especial conveniences for its editorial and business management. Our tract publication and circulation was already large, and the preparation of books embodying extended discussions of the fundamental problems of religion and of ethics had become a pressing demand.

The decisive interest however which led to our doing everything in our power to secure the needed building, was the school of religion, ethics and social science, which we had three years ago decided to open. The departments of church extension and of publication might have been conducted for a long time without serious embarrassment, in such houses as may be obtained in Tokyo. Not so our proposed school. A building adequate to its wants could not be found. We therefore rented as a headquarters and school building, for the time being, the most available house then vacant in the city, persuading ourselves that, having begun the school, our necessity would be met before the full number of the classes planned for in our course of instruction should come under our care.

For these and yet other reasons we immediately set ourselves to work to procure the funds required for the purchase of land and the erection of a mission and school hall. We estimated that with about \$7,000, our want could be supplied. At that time we had nearly one third of this amount, gathered previously from various sources for some future want, lying in bank at interest. This sum we made the basis of our "Building Fund," as may be seen in the financial statement given on another page. In the following spring, the burning of our chapel in one of the northern wards of the city, gave us an

opportunity to make a special appeal to home friends of the mission for the remainder of the required money. We asked for \$4,000. To this appeal came many generous answers from societies and individuals in the United States and elsewhere. Before the year closed, more than \$1,500 had been sent to us. Soon afterwards, about a year ago, having nearly half the sum total asked for, and being pressed by a necessity no longer to be avoided, we determined to go ahead, at least as far as our bank account would let us, and to trust to our friends and to more work on our part to get our project through to the long hoped for and long striven for goal. In this faith we were not disappointed. The American Unitarian Association, from whose annual appropriations, by a fortunate fall in exchange, much had already been saved for our building fund, notwithstanding its limited resources, gave us, last spring its credit for a loan of \$3,500. This loan completed the specified fund and enabled us to finish, in every way satisfactorily, the Unitarian headquarters building for Japan, the commodious, and handsome Unity Hall, which, on Easter Day last, we formally opened and dedicated.

Unity Hall, as completed, is a much better building than we had dared even to hope for three years ago. The fall in the price of silver became our good fortune as builders. This change increased the gifts made to us by more than one-third their apparent value. The American dollar which would have been but little more than a Japanese dollar three years ago, has averaged in exchange during the erection of our hall about a Japanese dollar and a half. For this reason Yuiitukwan now stands, not only in every respect just what the mission needs in the way of commodiousness and convenience, but also, in large measure, what Japan needs in the way of an object lesson in appropriate and attractive architecture. Yuiitukwan is, in fact, one of the best looking as well as one of the most useful public buildings in Tokyo. The description of the hall and of its situation given in the appeal sent to friends of the Japan work a year ago may be repeated here. In February 1893 we had purchased the site for the building, an excellent lot in the Shiba district of this city, and we wrote : —

"The land is approximately 120 feet by 110 feet in area, and fronts, with its longer side, a new street 100 feet or more in width, which is part of the great thoroughfare of Tokyo, extending almost the length of the city. The site is in the vicinity of one of the most important college and university institutions of Japan, many of whose students have shown much interest in our work. We congratulate ourselves on having secured this excellent piece of property. There is ample ground space about the building. There are streets on three sides of the lot. A stream and the great Shiba Park close by at the north, protect our property from the conflagrations which at times spread, almost invariably from the north, over this city. The lot cost us 3,800 *yen* or approximately \$2,600, and is sure to increase in value.

By reference to the accompanying elevations and plans it will be seen that our building is about 75 feet by 50 feet in area and is two stories in height. The style of architecture devised is an agreeable combination of Japanese and Western modes of construction. The building is simply but strongly constructed of unpainted native woods, and contains a fire-proof and well lighted library and reading room as one of its special excellences.

It will be observed, in detail, that our plans furnish the mission on the lower floor, to the left of the entrance, with a good sized reception room, an office for the Japan Unitarian Association's secretary, a retiring room for the students of the theological school, the janitor's residence, and with store rooms for our publications and other material. On the right of the entrance are offices for the magazine, and the "Post Office Mission," a room for the professors of the Senshin Gakuin, and the large fire-proof library and reading room spoken of.

Up stairs, reached by a wide, well lighted stairway, are five lecture rooms for the use of the Senshin Gakuin classes, and an assembly hall which will seat more than three hundred auditors for church services, commencement exercises, lectures and other entertainments. The assembly hall is a pleasant room 50 feet by 30 feet in size, open to the roof, with generous exits, and

capable of enlargement by the opening of large doors into a room adjoining. Altogether the new hall is admirably suited to the uses of our three departments, and is a good object lesson here in tasteful, attractive, but simple architecture and good construction."

To this description there is now to be added;—the grounds have been surrounded by a strong and good looking wall, consisting of a stone-capped brick base nearly three feet in height and an ornamental iron superstructure; that there is an excellent gravelled driveway through two large gates to the front entrance of the hall; that there is a porter's lodge at one main gate; and that the grounds are now a tastefully laid out garden in Japanese style, already to the eye appearing to have been for some time under cultivation, the grass green, the flowers blooming and the trees vigorous, as if to this manor born. The foundation of the building is deep, broad and strong, made of hard brick and gray stone. The garden is every where tile drained. In the process of building, the workmen uncovered a long buried well which has been found to be worth much to us. The new city water supply is now at our service. The interior of the building has been furnished with necessary desks, chairs, shelving, tables and other conveniences. In the assembly hall there is a handsome platform desk or pulpit, together with appropriately designed platform chairs and a settee, made of historic wood, from the ancient gateway to the domain of the Prince of Mito, a daimyo famous in the politics and literature of Old Japan. The building throughout, is lighted by electricity. The color effect of the unpainted woods, exposed in the walls and ceilings of the hallways and rooms, as also of the panel plasterings, in different tones, tawny, gray, olive and light yellow, is unique here and is much praised. The assembly hall is especially pleasing by its simplicity and by its harmony of furnishing and color. Particularly noticeable is the large black panel back of the center of the platform, on which, in characters in gold antique Chinese, is the dedicatory motto of the Hall (至誠正義雍穆) "Truth, Righteousness, Peace," over which, in the handwriting of the venerable Count Soyejima, is the name "Yui-

itzukwan," tastefully framed. The Japanese have an especial pride in possessing a treasure such as this gift of the handwriting of a man widely known and revered in their national history. Altogether Yuitzukwan is finished and has been furnished, not only as well as we had asked for when we began our effort to get it, but better than we had even thought possible. Moreover, as will be seen by the building fund statement, the work is at an end leaving a balance at our command which we shall now set apart for a new fund which we shall seek in time to complete, an endowment fund, by which the exceedingly important service of our mission to the people of Japan may be further supported and strengthened.

Possession of Unity Hall, for the first time gives us the feeling that the Japan Unitarian Mission is measurably provided with the means for meeting its great duty and opportunity. For years we have waited and longed and labored for the sake of gaining this building. Its completion means much more to our advantage than most of those who read these pages will understand. It is not to be wondered at, however, that the way to this consummation has been so slow and so trying to head and heart. Japan is far away from America and Europe, and even among Unitarians at home, there are comparatively few who see reasons strong enough to justify our apparent interference in the religious and moral affairs of the Japanese people. Unitarians are not moved by the soul-harrowing convictions concerning human nature and destiny under which most Christian missions are instituted and carried forward. And even with favoring conditions for knowing them, and even though they may appeal to the motives by which Unitarians act, the affairs of a people as far distant as the East is from the West naturally arouse comparatively small attention and sympathy. But, seen as here we see it, having part in the course of the thought and life of the Japanese people, the Unitarian mission has unquestionably good reasons for being, let these reasons be tested even by the optimistic humanitarianism characteristic of Unitarian beliefs. And we are confident that could Unitarians at home be made to know these reasons as we know them, they