

「重要文化財 神戸女学院」指定関連報告

(1) コーベ・カレッジ・コーポレーションからのお祝いの手紙

2014年5月16日、神戸女学院岡田山キャンパスの重要文化財指定の答申が文化庁によりなされたことは、学院の在米支援団体であるコーベ・カレッジ・コーポレーション^①(KCC)にも即日伝えられた。折り返しのメールによる祝意に引き続いて、6月10日付でコーポレーションの理事会から森 孝一院長宛にお祝いの手紙が届いた。

甲山や西宮の街の眺望、豊かな自然環境、ケンウッド館(阪神淡路大震災までは宣教師教員住宅として使われていた)、体育祭やバザー、よく手入れされた建物、毎朝の礼拝、中庭の夏休み草、クリスマスキャロルを歌ったこと、猫のクロちゃん。学生として、教員として、あるいは訪問者として神戸女学院と関わりを持ったKCC理事会メンバーのみなさんそれぞれからの、愛情溢れる思いが綴られた手紙の全文を、感謝を以って掲載させていただく。

手紙は以下のような言葉で結ばれている。「私たちは、先人たちが岡田山キャンパスの造営を支援するという、意義深い貢献を成し遂げる先見の明と度量を持っていたことを誇りに思います。私たちのキャンパスへの思いは深く変わることがありません。神戸女学院の支援を続ける団体の一員であることは私たちの喜びです。」

June 10th, 2014

Dr. Koichi Mori

Chancellor and the Chair of the Board of Trustees

Kobe College
4-1 Okadayama, Nishinomiya-city
Hyogo, 662-8505
Japan

Dear Dr. Mori,

What exciting news to hear that Kobe College's Okadayama campus has been designated an Important Cultural Property by Japan's Council for Cultural Affairs. This is something that we have always believed: that Kobe College, designed and built by the impressive architect William Merrell Vories, is a sacred place and deserves this national recognition.

Many of the KCC-JEE board members have spent time on the Okadayama campus as students, professors, teachers, and guests, and each has his or her own fond memories. Here are a few images that stand out in people's minds when they reflect on their time spent on your beautiful campus:

The sight of Kabuto-yama as a backdrop to the buildings; one of the first things I learned is that it was Helmet Head mountain—so descriptive! Kenwood House, hidden in the back of campus, such a mixture of Western and Japanese aesthetics and surrounded by hydrangea. Also, the atmospheric wisteria, which always made me think of Lady Murasaki Shikibu. The sight of the sun reflecting off the red rooftops as students competed I Sports Day events.

The sparkling floors of the auditorium. We learned that the cleaning people polished the wooden floor by hand with bran of the rice wrapped in the cloth (Japanese old way of polishing the wooden floor.)

Long ago when there was nothing but rice fields from the train station to the hill, all of the now “ancient” folks marveled that the campus standing on the hill looked like a jeweled crown. We were proud to tell the people where we studied.

The auditorium and the chapel provided a great environment to quiet myself before getting busy with classes.

I remember Kenwood House mostly as the residence for single missionaries with Kimura-San as the housekeeper. My apartment had been Charlotte DeForest's rooms. I remember English faculty Christmas parties there, entertaining the exchange students and the Tanabata Festival with the dormitory students. But my favorite place at Kenwood House was the screened in porch that looked down toward Mondo Yakujin and on to Nishinomiya. We could see the baseball stadium when it was lit for a game.

I enjoyed the large playing field with the track that was used for Sports Day and the Bazaar. Sometimes I would run on it early in the morning. The wisteria arbor was nearby and lovely in the spring or for taking pictures anytime. The walkway back to Kenwood House was lined with cherry trees that bloomed as school began in the spring.

The chapel building with the motto “Ai Shin, Ai Rin” (love God, love neighbor) was impressive to me. In front was the grass we called “natsuyasumiso” or summer vacation grass because that's when it bloomed. Inside I have memories of the classes singing Christmas carols as well as the candlelight service. I enjoyed having my own hymn book in kana so I could sing along even if I didn't understand the meaning.

When I visited Kobe College it felt so peaceful as I wandered around the campus drinking in the architecture, the grand auditorium, the grounds, and the views. Everything seemed so well cared for, just like the students. When it was time to go, I was overcome with the feeling of not wanting to leave.

My favorite place is the Shakespeare Garden. Early on during my year at KC, I was having a snack there and was befriended by a black cat. That cat (kuro neko—that was her only name!) knew that I was a good target. Soon I was bringing cans of cat food and she and I would often have lunch together. Students, faculty, and grounds staff would stop by—curious about the visiting professor and neko-chan. Sometimes, they would join for lunch or a snack or conversation in that splendid spot!

Though we often used the back gate because it was closer to Kenwood House, walking up through the front gate was so lovely because of the trees and flowers. And then to arrive at the plateau with the beautiful buildings, we felt so appreciative to live and work at such a green, spacious place.

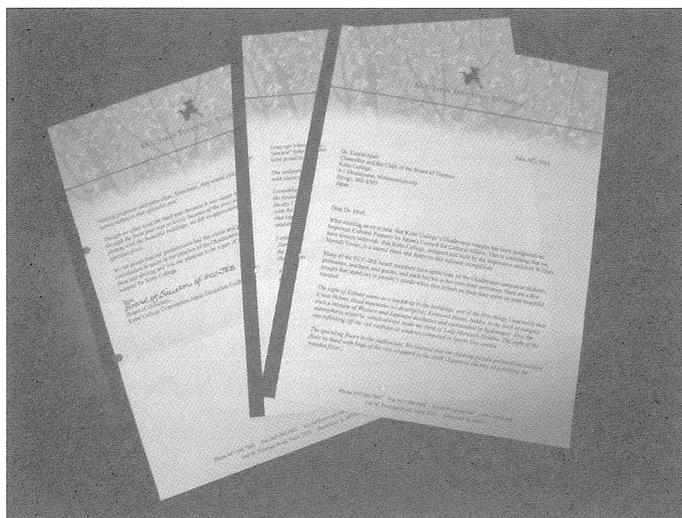
We are proud that our predecessors had the vision and generosity to have made such a significant contribution to assist in the creation of the Okadayama campus. Our connection to the campus is deep and abiding and it is our pleasure to be a part of an organization which continues to provide support for Kobe College.

Best,

Board of Directors of KCC-JEE

Board of Directors,

Kobe College Corporation-Japan Education Exchange



KCCからの手紙

(2) 国際基督教大学教会 聖日礼拝(聖徒の日礼拝)および召天者記念礼拝

『学院史料』第27号に、新校舎建築委員長ハロルド・ウォレス・ハケット氏の事績について書かせていただいた。続編は紙面の都合もあり次号に譲るが、重要文化財指定がらみで少しだけ報告をさせていただきたく思う。

2014年11月2日(日)、東京都三鷹市の国際基督教大学教会の聖日礼拝(聖徒の日礼拝)と、八王子市上川霊園内の納骨堂での墓前礼拝に列席する機会を与えられた。納骨堂で、1958年1月5日に亡くなったハケット氏のご遺灰を確認させていただいた。

1958年1月17日に学院で執り行われたハケット氏の追悼礼拝の様子を、ハワイ在住のハケット夫人に知らせる当時の難波紋吉第7代院長の1月20日付の手紙には、「神戸女学院とその美しい校舎とキャンパスは、ハケットさんの長年にわたるお働きの記念碑として長く伝えられていくことでしょう。」と記されている。この「予言」が、キャンパスのほぼ全域が国の重要文化財に指定され



国際基督教大学・教会納骨堂に納められている
ハケット氏の遺灰

るという形で成就したことを、墓前に報告することができた。関係各位に御礼を申し上げる。

註

- ① コーベ・カレッジ・コーポレーション(Kobe College Corporation, 通称 KCC)は、C. B. デフォレスト第5代院長の呼びかけにより、1920年に学院の維持・発展を助けるために設立された。岡田山移転に際して、校舎建築費用として70万ドルの募金を集めてくださったことに始まり、現在に至るまで、絶えず海の向こうから神戸女学院の学びを支えてくださっている、アメリカ合衆国イリノイ州を本拠地とする非営利団体(NPO)。2004年、KCCは21世紀におけるその活動方針を明確にするため、名前の後ろに“Japan Education Exchange”という副称を付け加えて、通称 KCC-JEE となっている。

(院長室課長 井出敦子)