

Portland, OR 97215  
March 4, 1992

Ben Kobashigawa, Ph.D.

San Francisco, CA 94117

Dear Dr. Kobashigawa:

I was happy to speak with you last week regarding the translation of the Yabe family's *koseki tohon*. I have been aware of your special skills for quite a few years now through conversations with Chiyo Nakamura and Joe Yamagawa, and of course in reading The History of the Okinawans in North America. You did a splendid job on the book and are to be commended for such a worthwhile contribution to English readers here and abroad.

As you know, my father was Kenden Yabe, but he died in 1939, when I was still quite young. For that reason, I have never learned--nor heard--very much about my Okinawan heritage, particularly that part which related to my father's own family. My mother, Mitsuye, was born and grew up in Shikoku. I have, however, cherished the memories of my youth, which was greatly enriched by our Okinawan friends and their activities. We have a few books which tell the story of Okinawans--books such as Uchinanchu, Okinawa, the History of an Island People, and a few others, but I'm still in the process of reading them intensively. During the past ten years, I have visited Okinawa twice and have met our relatives there.

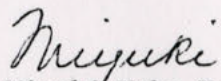
A few years back, a first cousin on my father's side, a native of Shuri, wrote a book which he said was the Yabe *koseki tohon*. Along about 1988, he sent me this book, as well as another later on, but they appear like more than a simple *koseki* to me. Of course, both of these books are written in Japanese, which I unfortunately cannot read.

I am pleased that you will consider translating them for me, and I fully understand that due to your busy schedule, it may be some time before you have a chance to work on them. I would be more than happy to pay you for whatever you believe to be a reasonable cost for this service.

I am enclosing xerox copies of these books. They were originally written with a *fude*, and thereafter duplicated at least twice, so the clarity of the written characters have deteriorated somewhat, but I hope that they are legible enough to your expert eyes.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding this matter, hopefully with a favorable reply.

Very sincerely yours,

  
Miyuki Yabe Yasui