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Description of contents

- (1) Box no. 2947
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(3) Date: Dec. 1946 - Jan. 1947

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- i) Kyoto
- ii) Includes Contents List (partial)

(6) Reproduction: Yes No

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007 FINE ARTS

<u>No</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Subject</u>
1.	11 Mar 47	Recomplete Collection of the Buddhist Scriptures Obaku Edition
2.	14 Mar 47	Survey of Damage on Historical, Cultural and Religions Objects and Installations
3.	7 Jun 47	Petition for Supporting the Works of Kyoto National Treasures Preservation Association

007 - FINE ARTS

1. 5/2/47 - To Whom it May Concern: Ltr supporting exhibition for crimes prev (Juvenile)
2. ~~23/1/46 - OD No. 8 - Ret on Historical, Cultural and Religious Objects & Install.~~
3. ~~15/2/47 - to CG I Corps - Use of Kyoto Stateside Theater~~
3. 14/3/47 - Kyoto-fu Govt - Survey of Damage on Historical, Cultural & Religious Objects and Installations
4. 11/3/47 - Complete Collection of the Buddhist Scriptures 'Obaku' Edition
5. Mimeo - Research - Botanical Gardens
6. 14/5/47 - Report of Inspection of Shiga Prefecture
7. 7/6/47 - Petition ~~of~~ for Supporting the Works of Kyoto Nat. Treas. Pres. Assn.

Petition for Supporting the Works of Kyoto
National Treasures Preservation Association

773 013

CPC
CI+E 007

Kyoto National Treasures
Preservation Association.

June 7, 1947.

TO : Major Sheffield, Commanding Officer of
Kyoto M.G.T. of the Allied Forces.

THROU : Commanding Officer of Kyoto M.G.T.

SUBJECT: Petition for Supporting the Works
of Kyoto National Treasures
Preservation Association.

JUN 8 1947

INTER-OFFICE
CO. <i>GDI</i>
Exec. <i>GDI</i>
Adj. <i>GDI</i>
Res. <i>GDI</i>
Nat. Res.
Proc.
Pub. Aff.
CI+E <i>GDI</i>
Legal+Govt.
Labor
Pub. Hlth.
Mail
Tr. <i>GDI</i>
Requ. <i>GDI</i>
+return for file

I request you to forward the attached documents
regarding above mentioned subject.

Inspected by *[Signature]*
Senior Liaison Officer

[Signature]
.....
Y. SHIGEEDA
Chief of Ext. Aff. Sect.

Copies submitted
Date: June 17 / 1947

Kyoto National Treasures
Preservation Association.

May 1st, 1947.

To : Commanding Officer in charge of
Fine-Arts Preservation, G.H.Q.
of the Allied Forces.

Throu : Commanding Officer of Kyoto M.G.T.

Subject: Petition for Supporting the Works
of Kyoto National Treasures
Preservation Association.

It is a great fortune that Kyoto, the ancient capital for more than one thousand years, abundant in historical sites and mementos of the oriental fine-arts and religions, has been rescued from the war-damage owing to the foresighted consideration on the part of the Allied Forces' Military authorities, in spite of the fact that many other cities have been destroyed by the Pacific War.

We, citizens of Kyoto, can find no appropriate way of expressing our heartfelt thanks toward such cultural attitude taken by the Allied Forces.

Kyoto National Treasures Preservation Association has been composed of the owners of national treasures residing in Kyoto in order to translate our such thankful feeling into the deed, and such practical step taken by us of completing the formation of the said cultural Association is what we hereby have to report to the authorities concerned of the G.H.Q. of the Allied Forces.

The said Association held the first meeting at Myohoin-Temple, Kyoto City, on Dec. 2, 1946 under the spontaneous promotion of the national treasures owners residing in Kyoto. At the meeting, first of all, the statement of thanks for the Allied Forces' cultural consideration taken particularly on Kyoto district has been decided unanimously. Next, they decided to the effect that every obstacles impeding preservation of national treasures should be exterminated and every effort be exerted for developing all the facts favourable for their preservation into some form, and the method whereby to materialize the said purpose should be conducted spontaneously as well as democratically.

The herewith annexed two petitions are the copies of those submitted to the Education Ministry as the first step taken for the realization of the Association's purport, following its formation; and they were drafted and decided freely by all the Association's members, covering the items considered necessary by them. What these petitions keep in view as the main objective is the democratization of the National Treasures Preservation Law and its administrative execution.

Subjunctive to such pressure step taken as above-mentioned, what we are now under preparation is the investigation and study on the precaution counter-measure for the earthquake now being predicted as likely to happen in near future, expecting ourselves to be adequately prepared so as to be able to rescue our treasures intact from the earthquake damage heretofore considered unavoidable.

The above-mentioned is the outline of the works of our Association either already done or to be done in future. If the authorities of the G.H.Q. of the Allied Forces take into consideration the purport of our Association and support our works, we should be exceedingly grateful for it.

K. Okada

KAIGYOKU OKADA
Chairman of
Kyoto National Treasures
Preservation Association.

Annex No. I

Petition to Education Minister.

February 27th, 1947.

To : Minister of Education.

We, members of Kyoto National Treasures Preservation Association are endeavouring to the end of preserving the national treasures. It is a great pleasure the National Treasures Preservation Law is said to be amended in near future. Although we believe already a thorough going consideration has been taken for the said amendment, we hereby taking this opportunity submit to you our petitions itemized as following which we unanimously have decided to make as a result of study at our directors' meeting held in connection with the said law, wishing you take them into special consideration for the sake of the said amendment.

Kyoto National
Treasures Association.

Items of the petition:

1. The definition of a national treasure will be desirably mentioned in the Chapter I General Rules, stressing the basic importance that the preservation of national treasures ought to have on the development of national culture, and also the responsibility of their preservation to be borne not only by the owner himself but by the total national itself be positively therein defined.
2. In order to meet the new situation the set-up and activities of preservation administration will be renovated.
 - (a) A committee as the executive organ of preservation administration will be organized respectively at the central government and each local self-government where any national treasure is located. The said committee will be composed of officials of the authorities concerned, representatives of treasures' owners, those civilians interested including learned men and experts.

(b) In case of settlement or amendment of the National Treasures Preservation Law or the laws decrees and the like thereto relating, the representatives of the owners will participate therein in order to respect their opinions.

(c) The stipulation giving the power to Education Minister or Prefectural Governor concerned of designating interim the national treasure in order to meet a emergency requirement.

3. The expenses necessary for maintenance and repair of national treasures, and for new installation of preservation equipments and their repair will be borne totally by the state, but the self-government will also partly bear the expenses under circumstances.

4. In order to materialize perfectly the aim of national treasures preservation, the following measures will be particularly considered into their maintenance and repair:

(a) In case of the complete loss of a national treasure, the duplicate of the original size will be made, because of its importance of being a symbol of national culture.

(b) Many original duplicates of a national treasure will be made so that they can be shown to the public of other districts.

(c) The compulsory removal of any establishment injuring or likely to injure a national treasure building its surroundings amenity is desirable to be executed within a certain circumscription centering on the said building, and also any action involving the same injury will be prohibited.

(d) Fire defense establishments such as green zones, fire defence roads, water supplies, underground water reservoirs and drainages will be furnished in the surroundings of national treasures buildings.

(e) In order to ensure preservation of national treasures, their appropriate protection equipment will be repaired or strengthened and new one be established in case of necessity. The above-mentioned items will be clearly stipulated in the National Treasures Law, and the expenses needed for their execution be borne by the state or the local government.

4. Any tax whatever will not be imposed on a national treasure.

5. In case of transfer of a national treasure, the first priority will be given to the state or the local government in order to prevent the said treasure from being scattered and lost.

6. In case of transfer of a privately owned national treasure also, the approval of its transfer will be required.

7. In case when a national treasure owner has donated his treasure to the state or any local public body, he will be awarded a fair honour from the state. Holding in respect the national treasure is the public duty of the government as well as of the public body and the popularization of the concept of respecting the national treasure depend much upon the culture of the whole national; consequently the government will desireably exert every effort for the elevation of the national culture from the view-point respective of the School education and the social education and launch an enlightenment movement through a well organized network of civilian groups concerned with national treasures preservation.

The police authorities will co-operate in preservation of national treasures, endeavouring to inspect from time to time the national treasures located at districts of police patrol; and against any case of injury on the national treasure will be met out a punishment.

In view of severla instances of legislating laws contradictory with the purport of national treasures preservation being known heretofore, the thorough understanding on the part of legislative authorities of the government as to national treasures preservation is earnestly requested.

Kyoto National Treasures
Preservation Association.

Unnex No. II.

Petition to Mr. Kotaro Tanaka,
Minister of Education.

Dec. 2, 1946.

To: Mr. Kotaro Tanaka, Minister of Education.

We, owners of the national treasures hereby express our thanks for the consideration taken for preservation of the national treasure on the part of the authorities concerned of the government. The national treasure buildings located in Kyoto Prefecture numbering 350 odd are mostly in a state of serious desolation which needs some way of prompt repair, and if they continue to be out of repair, there is such fear as of causing falling down of the roof or the wholesale collapse of many buildings. Particularly, the attention should be called at Tomyoji Temple's main hall, almost a half part of which is collapsed, facing the total ruin in near future.

Although we are sacrificing ourselves as the owners as much as possible for repairing our own national treasures, as we believe such sacrifice is morally duty-bound, it has become almost impossible nowadays for us to continue maintaining them at our own cost because of the inflation prices of commodities so high as beyond our private financial power. Those owners of seriously broken down buildings are those who have lost the opportunity of repairing their own treasures because of their nonqualification as of the recipient of a national subsidy due to their lack of the private paying capability provided in the National Treasure Preservation Law. It is almost impossible for them to continue repairing at the existing percentage of the private paying. The sum of ¥ 150,000 - ¥ 200,000 of the state yearly subsidy settled in the National Treasures Law which may have been appropriate formerly is hardly sufficient for repairing 1-2 buildings in Kyoto Prefecture per year under the actual high prices economic condition. Without the increase in the

sum of the said governmental subsidy, the continuation of any repairing work would not be expected. The subsidy percentage was comparatively high at the time of the promulgation of the National Treasures Law. However under the actual economic condition the said percentage have been lowered on one hand, while the private paying percentage much increases on the other hand. Especially the financial condition of every treasure-owner is getting worse, with the decrease of their income since the termination of war, so that if such circumstances continue still so as hitherto, their repairing work will necessarily encounter the financial deadlock. Therefore in order to relieve such actual difficulties, there is no other alternative than increasing the subsidy percentage as an emergency counter measure.

Doing nothing for any ruined national treasure is a matter for regret of an international bearing, all the more because of Kyoto being the city of culture. Now that the cultural resources preservation measure is the most needed for rebuilding a new Japan, we can not help worrying ourselves about the actual state of many national treasures ruined or in process of ruining. Therefore we, in charge of temples and shrines as owners of many national treasures, submit to you a petition asking for the respective increase of the sum of the state subsidy and of the subsidy percentage, in order to ensure the integrity of our national treasures as symbols of our national culture.

Furthermore, we wish you take also into consideration the following items:

1. In order to conduct the perfect custody of a national treasure, the subsidy of an appropriate sum to be needed for the respective cost of its custody, preservation equipment and maintenance work is requested.

2. The National Treasure Law will be so amended that any tax will be imposed in future on a national treasure and an important art-object for the sake of their preservation

National Treasures Owners of
Kyoto-Prefecture.

Joint Signatures.

KYOTO-FU-CHO

14 March 1947.

To : Major Harold C. Sheffield,
Kommanding, K.M.G. Team,

Subject: Survey of Damage on Historical, Cultural and
Religions Objects and Installations.

I hereby bet to submit the report on this matter
as it has been forwarded by the Chief of the Social Education
Section.

Inspected by *Y. Nagashi*

2 For Senior Liaison Officer
Copies submitted

Date: *March 14 1947*

K. Fujisawa
.....
KOTCO FUJISAWA
Chief of External Affairs Sect.,
Kyoto-fu Govt.

I. Reasons by which Damages have been caused:

1. In case of Repository of National Treasures and Vital
Objects of Art pertaining to Yomei Library:

- a. Date: Jan. 6, 1946, around 10:00 a.m.
b. Location: Izumo Shrine, located at Chitose-mura,
Minami-kuwata-gun.

c. Reasons:

On Jan. 5, 1946, when a second-lieutenant of the
C.F. and 1 other, without being accompanied by
any interpreter, came to inspect the Izumo Shrine,
they had a suspicion of the Repository of the
National Treasures, Vital Art Objects and Ancient
Documents owned by the Yomei Library, which is in
evacuation at the shrine.

Accordingly, on the following 6th day of January,
around 10:00 a.m., 2nd-lieutenant Robert W. Black
and 2 others visited the shrine with an interpreter
and asked to open the door of the Repository, but
the key was not brought owing to the imperfect
arrangement on that day before the Repository had
been exploded.

2. In case of Mr. Okumura's where Temporary Resting-place of late Emperor Meiji.

a. Date: Dec.31, 1945 (Hours unknown)

b. Location: Tamamizu, Ide-cho, Tsuzuki-gun.

c. Reasons:

Explosive wind which resulted from the explosion of arms containing powder which were procured from the Hozono Unit located at Kitaini-Hakken, Kawanishi-mura, Soraku-gun and its surroundings and piled on the beach of the Kizu River.

3. In case of Izumo Shrine:

a. Date: Jan.6, 1946, around 10:00 a.m.

b. Location: Chitose-mura, Minami-kuwata-gun.

c. Reasons:

Explosive wind which occurred when the foregoing Repository (a safe) exploded.

II. No other damage has been done in this prefecture.

III. Description boards or notice-boards will be installed at some of vital importance among shrines, temples and other historical and cultural objects and installations.

IV. Kyoto Botanical Garden established in commemoration of Grand Ceremony of Accession:

The Kyoto Botanical Garden procured by the C.F. for the purpose of constructing dependent housing will most probably suffer overall loss and damage on the materials of novelty and value that are novel and valuable from the botanical point of view.

KYOTO-FU-CHO

14 March 1947.

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Kommanding, K.M.G. Team,

Subject: Survey of Damage on Historical, Cultural and
Religions Objects and Installations.

I hereby bet to submit the report on this matter
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Section.

Inspected by *Y. Hayashi*

For Senior Liaison Officer
Copies submitted

Date: March 14/1947

K. Fujisawa

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Chief of External Affairs Sect.,
Kyoto-fu Govt.

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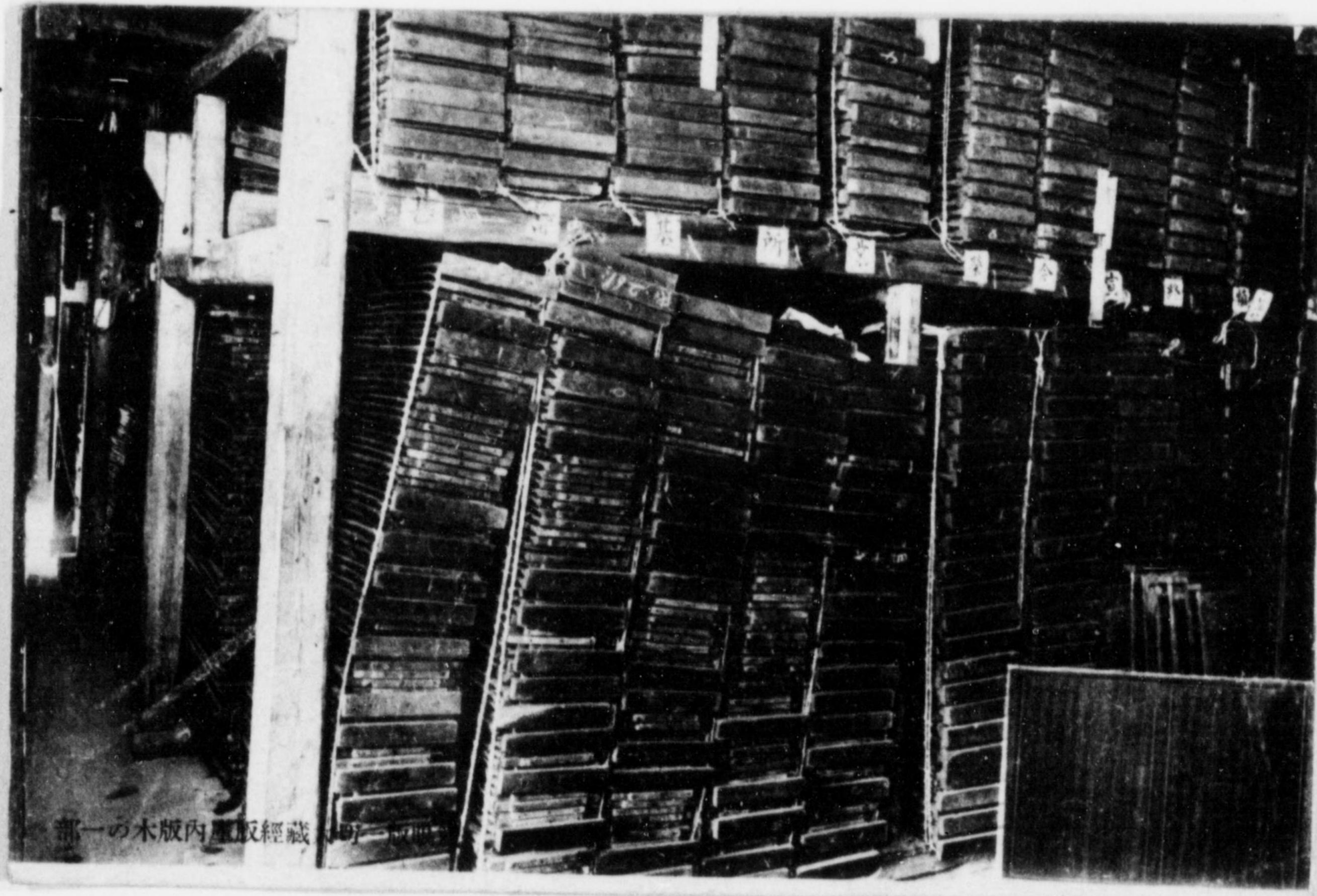
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773 013



007

Kyoto, Mar. 11, 1947

File

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8

Major Harold C. Sheffield,
Commanding Officer,
Kyoto Military Government Team.

Sir:

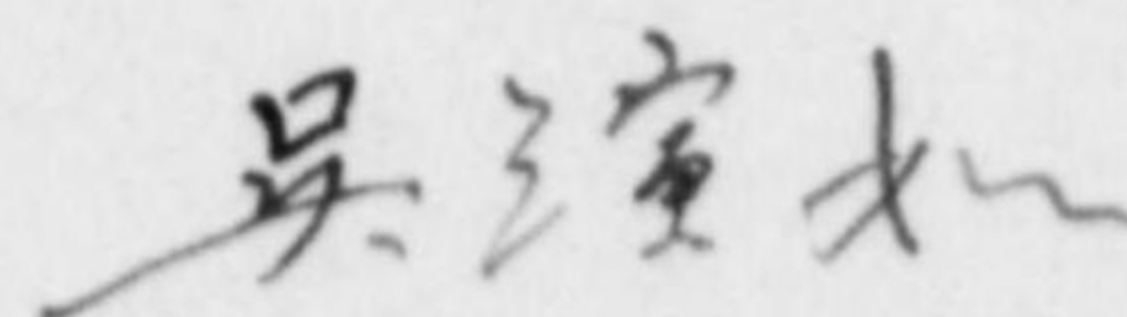
RE COMPLETE COLLECTION OF THE BUDDHIST SCRIPTURES
'OBAKU' EDITION

About 60,000 printing blocks of a complete collection of the Buddhist scriptures 'Obaku' edition which are kept at Manpukuji-Temple of Obaku Sect, located at Uji-cho, Kyoto Prefecture have been specified as a national treasure by Japanese Government. The origin of this collection was brought from China several centuries ago by a famous Chinese priest called Ingen, and nowadays no printing blocks of the complete collection exists not only in China but in the world with exception of this fixed and complete edition.

Therefore, in order to promote friendly relation between China and Japan, especially those in cultural and religious directions, we want to reprint some copies of this edition, and bring them back China with the capital contributed by Chinese residents in Japan and Japanese interested persons.

We would appreciate you very much if you could come to see the printing blocks and give us your kind advice and guidance concerning this international cultural enterprise.

Yours truly,



(U. Yen-Jo),

Representative, Association for Floating
& Printing of Complete Collection of the
Buddhist Scriptures, Obaku Edition.

Address: c/o Manpukuji-Temple, Higashi-
Uji-cho, Uji-gun, Kyoto Prefecture.