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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY  
Tule Lake Center  
Newell, California

Community Analysis Section -- April 27, 1944

THE LIBRARY DEPARTMENT OF THE TULE LAKE SEINEN DAN

Location, System, and etc.

The library of Japanese books in Tule Lake is operated as one of the activities of the Seinen Dan. It is located at 4608, Tule Lake WRA, occupying one half of the barrack. The total number of volumes is at present about five thousand. It is operated in an open shelf system, supervised by four men who constitute the entire staff of the library. It is opened to the public as follows:

Week days, except Mondays on which it is closed.

9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sundays, closed after 5 p.m.

Circulation

The daily average of circulation is about 500 volumes, of which about 250 are fiction and novels; about 100, magazines; the rest consists of miscellaneous books. In the past when the period of rental was three days, the daily circulation soared up sometimes above 1000 volumes. But the average was ~~was~~ brought down to 500 when a 5-day period was allowed for all kinds of books.

Membership

All members of Seinen Dan are automatically ~~the~~ members of the library. Any person outside Seinen Dan can obtain ~~the~~ membership



by contributing any book or books in the Japanese language. Formerly the membership could be obtained by payment of \$1.00 in place of a book. But it made the accumulation of books very slow and difficult, as most of the people would rather pay \$1.00 than to part with a Japanese book which is almost impossible to obtain under the existing circumstances.

The total number of the library members as of April 1, 1944 was 2,440. Dividing it by 71 blocks in Tule Lake center, the average is 34.4 members per block. The block No. 46, in which the library is situated, has the highest number (59 members), while the block No. 9 holds the lowest figure of only 10 members.

#### Regulations

A member can take out only one volume at one time and hold it for five days. The charge for overdue is three cents per day, which is, incidentally, the main source of income. Ten cents is charged for loss of the membership card. For damage or loss of a book, an amount is charged as considered expedient by the staff.

Occasionally loss by theft occurs through some non-member clients, which can be prevented if the staff had more members to watch out. At present, however, the amount of loss of this nature does not warrant an increase in the staff members.

#### Financing

The main sources of income come through the charge for taking out the special books, and through the overdue charge of 3¢ per day.



One of the principal expenditures is what they call the compensation to the members of the staff which amounted in April, 1944, to eighty dollars. There has been deficit every month which has been made up by the Seinen Dan. Below is the financial statement for the month of April, 1944.

The Financial Report of the Japanese Library,  
dated April 1, 1944.  
(covering the period from 3-1-44  
to 3-31-44)

Income:

Special renting charge	\$106.47	
Over due charge @ 3¢ per day	113.44	
Sundries, including contributions	51.29	
		\$251.20

Payment:

Repair materials, for books and others	\$ 86.50	
Stationery	6.94	
Paints	7.50	
Compensations	80.00	
Sundries	5.21	
		\$184.05
Balance in favor of income		\$ 67.15

Deficit brought from the previous month		\$98.07
	Deduct	67.15
Total deficit carried forward		\$30.92

Other remarks

The books: The present accumulation of five thousand volumes in the library has been made through the contribution by those whose purpose was to obtain a membership. It can be reasonably assumed that they have brought in only those books that they can afford to part with. With this in view it can be found that the appraisal on the books accumulated is not very disappointing.



The bulk of the five thousand volumes consists of literary works - novels, essays, sketches, poetry and etc. - by the writers who were popular between 1890 and 1925 (from middle of Meiji to the latter part of Taisho). In the section of translation, which probably occupies about ten percent of the entire stock, one can find Shakesperian plays, some of O'Neill's, the works of Hugo, Maupassant, Balzac; among the Russian writers, Turgenef, Chekov, Dostoiefsky, and Gorky. There are also Tolstoi's "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina", both of which were translated while the author was still alive. One is a little taken aback when Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" is seen on the shelf for translation books. The famous "Treatise on War" by Clausewitz, which was translated by Mr. Kennosuke Umagome in 1938, is also found on the shelf. Incidentally, the first three volumes of this treatise were translated about forty years ago by Dr. Mori, a surgeon, literateur, and authority on German language. As for Japanese classic literature the only conspicuous one is "Genji Monogatari" (The Story of Genji) in more than ten volumes.

All in all the entire collection of the library is more than praiseworthy considering the time, place and the circumstances in which it was made.

War Relocation Authority: According to a member of the staff of the library, financial assistance by WRA is very desirable. One



great difficulty is, however, that when the library is taken up by the local authority, the entire population of Tule Lake center become automatically the clients of the library. Then there will be a great amount of wear, tear, and loss of the books, which will be almost impossible to replenish under the existing conditions. Thus the staff prefers to keep on as is now.