

2009 No.02 July 1, 2009

Thematic Exhibition Series “Thinking of Peace”

Commemoration of 100th anniversary of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.

Shibusawa Eiichi Goes to the U.S.A.:

Private Economic Diplomacy of 100 Years Ago

August 15 – September 23, 2009

Organized by the Shibusawa Memorial Foundation

Supported by the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce

Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.
A delegation to the U.S.A. of about 50 businessmen including members of the Chambers of Commerce in Tokyo, Osaka and other major Japanese cities headed by Shibusawa Eiichi.



Shibusawa Eiichi in the U.S.A.,
Shibusawa Memorial Museum Collection

Since their departure from the Port of Yokohama on the Minnesota, an American ship, on August 19, 1909, the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan had visited to various cities in the U.S.A. from coast to coast for about three months, where they received warm welcomes. While visiting industrial, economic, political, social and educational institutions and organizations, the delegation also had occasions to meet influential figures of the time such as William Howard Taft, the 27th President, Thomas Edison, the king of inventors, and James Hill, the king of railway business.

Japan's position in the international community had dramatically changed after the Japan-Russo War, which required Japan to strengthen the friendly relations with the U.S.A. by solving the trade dispute and proceeding with the further development of the trade and commerce. The Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A., in this circumstance, significantly contributed in building connections between the business societies of the two countries.

The year 2009 marks the 100th anniversary of their visit to the U.S.A. In this commemorative exhibition, the records of the visits and experiences of Shibusawa Eiichi and the fellow commissioners in the U.S.A. in 100 years ago are presented, which we hope to give us an opportunity to reflect on peace today.

PRESS RELEASE

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Shibusawa Eiichi Goes to the U.S.A.: Private Economic Diplomacy of 100 Years Ago

Dates: Saturday, August 15 – Wednesday, September 23, 2009
10:00 – 17:00 (last entry 16:30)

Venue: Special Exhibition Hall, Shibusawa Memorial Museum
2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo
Tel : 03-3910-0005 / Fax : 03-3910-0085

Admission: Individuals 300 yen
Elementary, junior high school, and high school students 100 yen
Three Museum* Tickets: Individuals 720yen / students 240yen
20% discount for groups of 20 or more

*Three Museums: Kita City Asukayama Museum, Shibusawa Memorial Museum, Paper Museum

Organisation of the Exhibition

Prologue: What is the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.?

- I. Japanese delegation goes to the U.S.A.
- II. Inspection trip in the U.S.A.
- III. Meeting with representatives of various sectors in the U.S.A.
- VI. The U.S.A. seen from the viewpoints of the Japanese delegation

Major exhibits

* Documents from the Shibusawa Memorial Museum collection:

Tobei jitsugyodan shi [Record of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.];

Kinen shashin cho [Memorial Photo Album];

“Sasaki Yunosuke ate Shibusawa Eiichi Shokan” [Letter from Shibusawa Eiichi to Sasaki Yunosuke];

“Kyu tobei jitsugyodan shorui” [Documents of the former Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.];

Shin yoko miyage, Iwaya Sazanami;

“Tobei jitsugyodan arubamu” [Photo Album of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.], former collection of the Tanabe Family;

articles from American newspaper.

* Documents from the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce collection:

“Tobei jitsugyodan shorui” [Documents of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.];

“Jitsugyodan juyo shorui” [Important documents of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan].

*** The exhibits include 162 photos many of which have not been shown to the public before.**

Publication: Exhibition catalogue (1000 copies) to be sold at the museum

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Related events and special offer**1. mini-symposium****100th anniversary of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan to the U.S.A.:
Shibusawa Eiichi and Private-sector Diplomacy**

Historical significance of the mission, what lessons we learn from it today, and Shibusawa Eiichi's private-sector diplomacy are discussed in this mini-symposium.

Date: Saturday, September 12, 2009, 13:30-15:00 (Door open 13:10)

Venue: Meeting room, Shibusawa Memorial Museum
2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo

Panelists: Masato KIMURA (Director, Research Department, Shibusawa Memorial Foundation)
Hiroaki ISHII (Historian)
Ken SHIBUSAWA (CEO, Shibusawa and Company, Inc)

No fee beyond the admission of the museum is required.

Due to capacity of the venue, attendance is limited to 50. Please reserve a seat by sending a post card to the museum with your name, postal address, age and telephone number, or make a reservation via the internet (<http://www.shibusawa.or.jp>). Reservations accepted on a first-come-first-served basis.

2. Internet reduction

20% discount is available if you present the voucher printed from our website.

Contacts

Hitoshi SEKINE, Curator

Ruri KATO, Public Relations

Shibusawa Memorial Museum <http://www.shibusawa.or.jp>

2-16-1 Nishigahara, Kita-ku, Tokyo

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About the SHIBUSAWA MEMORIAL MUSEUM

The Shibusawa Memorial Museum collects and displays documents and artifacts from the life of Shibusawa Eiichi (1840-1931), a leader in business and finance who fostered the growth and development of the modern Japanese economy. Throughout his life he advocated for the harmony of morality and economy; playing an important role not only in the business world but in the fields of social welfare, education and private-sector diplomacy as well.



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Images for the press

The images below are available for press use. Please fill in the attached application form and fax it to the Shibusawa Memorial Museum.



1. Shibusawa Eiichi in the U.S.A.,
Shibusawa Memorial Museum Collection



2. Condensed milk factory in Seattle,
Shibusawa Memorial Museum Collection



3. Welcoming ceremony at Grand Forks,
Shibusawa Memorial Museum Collection



4. Members of the Honorary Commercial
Commissioners of Japan,
Shibusawa Memorial Museum Collection

Application for the Use of Press Images

Attn. Mr. Jun Inoue
Director
Shibusawa Memorial Museum

Date: / /
Applicant Name:
Signature
Company/Institution:
Address:
Tel:

I hereby apply for the use of images from the exhibition “Modernization and Entrepreneurs of Japan, China and America” under the conditions stated below:

1. Images to be used

- 1. Shibuawa Eiichi in the U.S.A.
- 2. Condensed milk factory in Seattle
- 3. Welcoming ceremony at Grand Forks
- 4. Members of the Honorary Commercial Commissioners of Japan

2. Purpose of use (title of publication etc.)

3. Media

*total number of pages: *length of the article: *circulation:

4. Date of issue

5. Details of usage

6. Conditions

- * The provenance of the images must be clearly noted.
- * The images cannot be used for purposes other than those stated in No.2 above.
- * The applicant must send two copies of the publication to the Shibusawa Memorial Museum.
- * The applicant must immediately inform the museum of any changes to the above information.

7. Format

- The applicant will scan the images attached to the press release.
- Please send printed photos to the above address.