

INAMORI, Kenji. The professional archive of Kenji Inamori (active 1903-44), prominent architect & engineer in the Ministry of Education's Division of Preservation for Important Cultural Buildings. This archive includes hundreds of documents, manuscript and printed, including original detailed drawings, blueprints, schematics, government reports (some classified), photographs, rubbings, & various ephemera. Nara, Kyoto, & Tokyo: 1903-38.

\$15,000.00

An important archive. Inamori, a native of Nara, was a prominent government architect and engineer specializing in the reconstruction, renovation, and preservation of shrines and temples. Over the course of his 40-year career, which he began as a trainee in Kyoto's regional department devoted to preserving monuments, he participated in and led innovative efforts to rebuild, restore, and preserve Japan's most iconic temples and shrines, such as Todai-ji, Horyu-ji, Daikaku-ji, and the Byodo-in. He was also entrusted with the careful excavation of newly discovered sites, as well as the design and construction of new structures in styles complementing the original buildings. Inamori worked on Buddhist, Shinto, Christian, and Tenri sect buildings.

In 1935, Inamori was promoted to an important position in the division of monument preservation within the Ministry of Education. There, he was responsible for the development of criteria to rank national monuments according to their cultural significance and their need for preservation. Inamori's impressive career is not at all well-documented in contemporary sources but we have found several published references and his own handwritten résumé is present in this archive. A 2007 thesis by Yuki Yoshi Hirooka appearing in the journal of the Architectural Institute of Japan, entitled "Research on the Personnel Structure of Architects Who Were Involved in Reconstruction of Honbou of Hasedera Temple of Taisho Era," mentions Kenji Inamori in his footnotes, with a brief description of his accomplishments.

This is Inamori's own archive of his professional life's work; it documents his accomplishments in the design, construction, preservation, and restoration of temples, shrines, and monuments as well as archaeological excavations. We have organized this archive chronologically, divided by project. Also present is a considerable amount of his personal correspondence and effects, government documents (many classified), and ephemera.

The archive contains the following:

1914: Meiji Kinenkan, Kyoto — series of six collotype images.

1915 & 1933: Okunishunishi-jinja, Hyogo Prefecture — architectural drawings in manuscript and printed, schematics, manuscript designs for the entranceway, and additional manuscript plans.

1916: Taima-dera, Nara — rubbings of architectural motifs and text, correspondence with head of Taima-dera, and additional documents.

1917: Daikaku-ji, Kyoto — printed schematics, rubbings, and additional documents.

1920-33: Hasedera, Nara — plans, rubbings, printed details of the temple's decorations, and manuscript list of materials, with prices, and additional documents.

1924: Hijiri-jinja, Osaka — manuscript plans for the restoration, account of material costs, and correspondence.

1928: [Excavation site] Nukatabe Kama Ato — list of excavated "treasures" and archaeological reports.

1930: Chosha-ji, Nara — one detailed drawing of an ornament.

1930-31: Ko-jinja (or Tateri Ko-jinja), Nara — ornament designs, preparatory sketches, manuscript schematics and blueprints, correspondence, shrine-issued ceremonial chopsticks, and additional documents.

1931: Ishigami-jingu, Nara — architectural plans and additional documents.

1932: Nara Kirisuto-kyo (Christian Church) — two photographs of the interior, report on the

construction costs, and a few additional documents.

Ca. 1932: Ueno Seiyō-ken — view and layout of roof blueprint.

1932-33: Tenri-kyō, Nara — drawings of the site and designs, renovation plans, request for permits, and additional documents.

1933: Hoke-kyōji, Chiba Prefecture — rubbings.

1933: Jusanzuka (“Thirteen Mounds”), s.l. — surveys of the site.

1934: Horyū-ji, Nara — photographs of the temple and surrounding structures, blueprints, rubbings of decorative motifs, and additional documents related to the planning of the restoration. There is also a picture of Goichi Takeda (1872-1938), architect and scholar of Western and Japanese architectural history, who was director of conservation for this project.

1934: Ono Yahata-jinja, Hyogo Prefecture — architectural plans and rubbings.

1934: Jofuku-ji, Ibaragi Prefecture — four manuscript detailed cross-sections.

1935: Choko-ji, Hyogo Prefecture? — blueprints, rubbings, and additional documents.

1936: Tsuruoka Hachiman-gu, Kamakura — four architectural plans.

1937: Doro Hachiman-gu, Aichi Prefecture — one folded sheet of schematics.

Undated: a series of undated projects:

—: Kasuga-jinja, Nara — blueprints, rubbings, manuscript schematics, and additional documents with many manuscript notes.

—: Reizan-ji, Nara — architectural plans for construction and preservation, and rubbings.

—: Niukawakami-jinja, Nara — architectural plans, memorandum from the temple on the winning bid for its restoration contract.

—: Sasahata-jinja, Nara — manuscript plans of the library, many architectural plans in manuscript and printed, rubbings and manuscript memo with measurements, and additional documents.

—: Fuki-ji, Oita Prefecture — several blueprints, one rubbing, a collection of planning reports with costs and schedules.

—: Sofuku-ji, Nagasaki — two blueprints.

—: Bunshō-in, Tokyo — five blueprints.

—: Sogen-in, Tokyo — two blueprints.

—: Hokan-ji, Kyoto — one large blueprint of the pagoda, Yasaka-to.

—: Saidai-ji, Nara — four large blueprints.

—: Futai-ji, Nara — six blueprints.

—: Kinpusen-ji, Nara — two structural designs.

—: Shuri Castle, Okinawa — two rubbings.

—: Izumo-jinja, Hyogo Prefecture — four detailed drawings, one large.

—: Choho-ji, Wakayama Prefecture — one folded drawing.

—: Watamuki-jinja, Shiga Prefecture? — manuscript floor plan.

—: Kubo Hachmangu, Okayama Prefecture — manuscript cross-section of a beam.

—: Nikko Mountain Gojū no to (“Five Layer Tower”) — one large folding printed cross-section.

—: Hirose-jinja, Nara — two manuscript schematics.

—: Ooyamato-jinja, Nara — manuscript floor plan and under-drawing.

—: Oshitate-jinja, Shiga Prefecture — one manuscript cross-section.

—: Hazu-jinja (“Crushed Beans”), Hyogo Prefecture — manuscript cross-section.

—: Murahi-jinja, Tochigi Prefecture — one large folded manuscript cross-section of beams and ornaments.

—: Kagamiyama Saiko-ji, Shiga Prefecture — one manuscript cross-section.

—: Eiho-ji, Gifu Prefecture — one large manuscript folding schematic of beams.

—: Misogi-kyō, [?] — one large blueprint.

—: Private House for the Mitsui family, Tokyo? — one large blueprint.

—: Kagetsu-so, [?] — one large blueprint floor plan and view of exterior.

—: “Luxury Rental Housing,” [?] — two large blueprints.

—: Maruo Shoten office and warehouse — one large blueprint.

—: Monument marking the visit of Emperor Matsuhito, [?] — one cross-section.

—: Sagisu Jinja — manuscript schematics with annotations.

Government documents: a series of Government documents issued by the Ministry of Education (all printed unless noted):

Undated: [Manuscript copy of] “Regulations for the Restoration of All Temples and Shrines in Shiga Prefecture,” source material from 1898.

1936: February “Nominations for National Treasure Status.”

—: “Progress Report on Horyuji” [with] “Progress Report on Gosha Jinja & Hokkekyo Dera.”

—: “[Classified] Selection of National Treasure Landmarks Issued by the Minister of Education Takukichi Kawasaki.” “Classified” seal.

1936, May: “Work Flow for the Research Project on the Preservation of National Treasure Buildings.”

1936, July: “Description of the Nominees for National Treasure Status.”

1936, July/October/November: “List of Buildings Eligible for National Treasure Renovation” / “Explanation of the Repairs on Horyuji Auditorium” / “Progress Report on National Treasure Buildings.”

1936, November: “Progress Report on Nominated National Treasure Buildings.”

—: “On the Preservation of National Treasure Buildings.”

—: “List of National Treasure Monuments Approved for Restoration.”

—: “Regulation of the Association for Religious Groups.”

1937, February: “Nominees for National Treasure Status.”

1937, March: “Catalogue of National Treasures [incl. buildings, books, paintings, sculpture, etc.].” & “Mid-Year Research Report on Temiya Dokutsu Cave [in Hokkaido].”

Printed documents: a series of printed documents:

—: Seven collotyped broadsides depicting important “National Treasure” Buddhist statues in Nara and published by the Nara Imperial Museum, 1910-17, covered with printed tracing paper.

—: 61 loose sheets with collotyped photographs of decorative elements, architectural plans and schematics, and documentary images of ceilings, joints, patterns, alcoves, and roof tiles in various temples and shrines.

—: *Horyu-ji Kondo nikki* [Journal of Horyuji’s Golden Hall], 1924. 24 pages of manuscript. Author unknown. One vol.

—: *Shitei teien chosa hokoku* [Report on the Research of Distinguished Gardens in Kyoto], by the Home Ministry, 1928. One vol.

—: *Todai-ji Nandaimon shi oyobi Showa shuri yoroku* [Guide to the History and Restoration of the South Gate of Todaji], by Kumakichi Kishi, 1930. One vol.

—: *Juyo bunkazai Toshun-ji Kannondo shuri koji hokokusho* [Report on the Restoration of Toshunji Temple’s Kannon Hall, Important Cultural Property], by the Committee of the Restoration of Toshunji’s Kannon Hall, 1951. One vol.

—: *Yakushi-ji toto konryu nendaiko* [Theory on the Completion Year of Yakushiji’s East Tower], by Ko Adachi, n.d. Supplement to *Kokka* art magazine nos. 483-491.

IN ADDITION: In this archive, we also find business cards, receipts and invoices for business travel, business & personal correspondence (with many letters from the heads of temples and shrines), certificates for promotions and assignments, and Inamori’s handwritten résumé.