

Kristine Jane Tuazon

October 28, 2018

Research Grant Report

'The Toyohiko Kagawa Papers in Columbia University

Toyohiko Kagawa (1888-1960), born in Kobe, Japan was an influential Japanese social activist, scholar and Christian evangelist. His contribution to not only Japan but the world at large is notable and earned him a Noble Peace prize nomination in 1954. He is also known for his 150 published works, about a vast number of subjects such as religion, poverty, politics and economics. His best-selling autobiographical novel, *Shi-sen o koete* (translated in English under the title of *Before the Dawn*) caused him to be known in Japan as a novelist. This autobiographical novel tells the story of the sensitive yet idealistic young man named Eiichi Nimi who is determined to put Christian love into action. This brought him to live in the slums of Shinkawa and explores his emotional, spiritual and philosophical struggles and growth. My graduation research project focuses on Kagawa's *Shi-sen o koete*'s translation, *Before the Dawn* (1924) and its reception in the United States.

With the support of the Graduate School of Global Studies research grant, I was able to physically go to New York and peruse the Kagawa Papers which was collected and archived in the Union Theological Seminary's Burke Library from October 14 until October 31, 2018. The objective of this research is to look for primary research sources pertaining to *Before the Dawn* and its translation, production and reception. The plan was to visit Burke Library's special collections (open in the weekdays from 10:00-1:00, 2:00-4:30) and examine all fifteen boxes that contain personal and administrative letters, newspaper articles, recorded speeches, photographs,

books, pamphlets etc. I also intend to use Columbia University's subscribed databases for more book reviews about *Before the Dawn* published in newspapers, literary journals etc. from the United States but also from different countries.

Just as stated in my proposal, I spent most of my time in Burke Library's special collections reading room. Originally, I aimed to look through three boxes of archived material each day which would have given However, due to the time constraint and the volume of text in each box it difficult to do so. Instead of initial plan of three boxes per day, I have examined materials a box or two boxes a day. Boxes such as the audio recordings took three days to listen and jot down notes. The Burke Library permits the use of photography of the materials, therefore my research method turned into photographing documents and reading and analyzing the materials off collection hours. I have photographed most of the materials using my iPhone 7 plus and an application that renders photographs into scanned documents. I have an extensive collection of these materials with me in PDF formats. I also did some searches in Burke's database for "Toyohiko Kagawa" and "Before the Dawn" which yielded new book reviews and articles about Kagawa and/or his work. Unfortunately, I lacked sufficient time to do searches in the public libraries within New York City, this forced me to modify my research plan and focus on the resources I have access in Burke library.

Burke Library has access to several databases, including major newspaper archives from different parts of the world including the United States, England, Ireland, Africa, South Asia, Latin America and Japan. A very useful database that I often used was *Chronicling America*, a database that is maintained and run by the Library of Congress that gathered historical American newspapers published from 1789-1963 across the country. A quick search of Kagawa's name brings up several articles and advertisements which mention Kagawa's coming to America and

some of his meetings from the several states including North Carolina, Washington DC and Michigan. I also was able to find and obtain articles using in the Asahi Shinbun database, ProQuest Historical Newspapers (The New York Times and the Christian Science Monitor), London's Time's Literary Supplement, African and Ireland newspaper archives. I also collected some English articles and research papers written and published in English about Kagawa.

The first day after my arrival, I took care of logistics and visited the necessary offices needed in order to be granted the permission and access to the Burke library found within the Union Theological Seminary. I and received a card from the library services located in the Butler library in Columbia's main campus that gave me access to Burke library. A steep fee is required in order to access all the libraries in Columbia University; however, I realized that most of my time will be spent in Burke and Columbia's databases are accessible through any computer within any library, so it was not necessary to pay that fee. I also acquired more access time through the help of one of the librarians in Burke, who extended my time from the initial one week research plan in the collections only, to a full two weeks and a half access to all the resources in Burke library.

Much of the material are correspondence, financial reports, tour plans, administrative records etc. that were being conducted by Kagawa Committee in America, a group of people who supported and funded Kagawa's missionary and social work in Japan. A large number of longer publications are manuscripts: including Kagawa's translated books, books written about Kagawa. This includes publications that are out of print and that are difficult to obtain. Books like Bradshaw's Unconquerable Kagawa (in which I found a used copy online and bought it through Amazon USA) and Kagawa: The Measure of a Man etc. There was also a number of transcripts of his addresses/speeches, pamphlets and the Kagawa calendar in which was printed

and distributed for a small sum to support Kagawa and his missionary work in Japan. Large volumes of photographs used for publicity and kept for keepsake was also found in the archive. One series of boxes called the Hunter Family Materials were donated by a family that was personally close to Kagawa. This had signed books, photographs and articles written or kept by Stanley Hunter. Hours of recorded audio of some of his speeches and addresses that were made during his tours to America were also available. One of the most notable recordings that I have stumbled upon is a recording of Kagawa's memorial service done after his death. His daughter Umeko Kagawa gave a speech about what kind of father Toyohiko Kagawa was allowing listeners to see another side of Kagawa in which many would not have known.

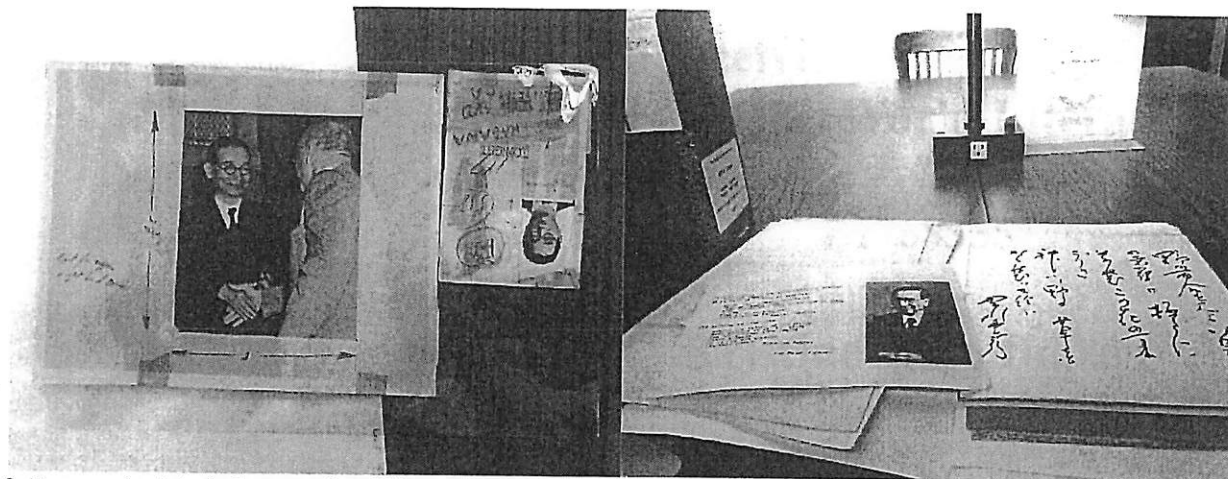
The scope of the Kagawa Paper's collection is heavily on Kagawa's tours and visits to America during 1936, the pre-war peace mission on 1941 and post war tours of 1950 and 1954. There are very few sources that refer to *Shi-sen o koete*, which is his first ground breaking work in Japan and its translation, *Before the Dawn*. The collection did have an original manuscript with very minor grammar corrections and some key biographies about Kagawa which was written by people who personally knew him, such as Emerson O. Bradshaw's *Unconquerable Kagawa* and William Axling's *Kagawa*. I also discovered the identity of one of *Shi-sen o koete*'s main translators from Japanese to English, Ichiji Fukumoto. In order measure and ascertain Kagawa's influence in America as a whole, even beyond his initial breakthrough with *Before the Dawn*, this archive holds a significant number of key materials and resources. What makes this collection distinctive is the variety of different sources that paint Kagawa's image and message which was perceived and received in the United States before and after the Second World War. Kagawa was more than just a novelist and labor union activist (a very common narrative and image the Japanese public has used for Kagawa) for his followers in the United States. Even

before the war, Kagawa already had a sympathetic image of the trophy Japanese convert of American Christian Protestant missions and was further catapulted to a strong image of practical modern Socialist Christianity as he continued to work with the poor in the slums of Kobe and built up labor unions in order to sustain the rights, privileges and protection of the working man.

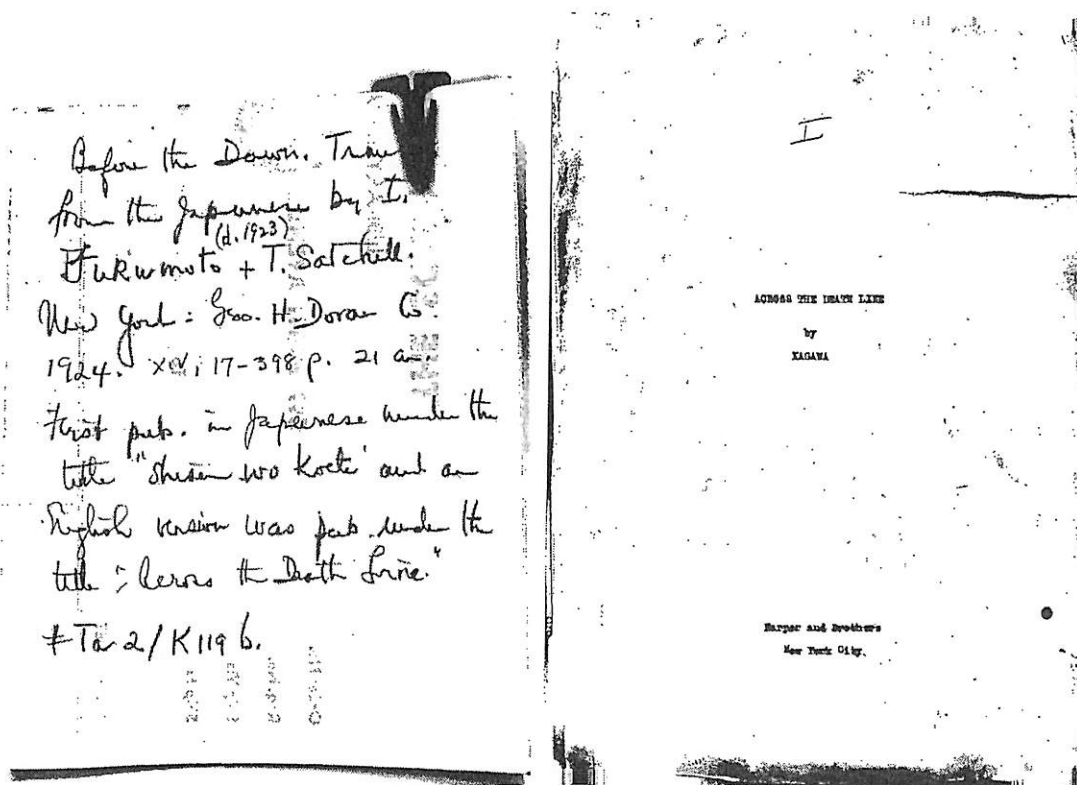
The papers present a very notable contrast in which Kagawa is represented in Japanese and American media. Despite of his influence and activity globally and domestically, he is a controversial figure in Japan. His message of Christianity, society and peace was generally accepted by Americans and heralded him as “the great Japanese evangelist”. This same message and messenger is looked upon with suspicion by some left-wing intellectuals and politicians in Japan. During the war, he was imprisoned twice: once for his pacifist stance and his supposed “defeatist” lectures in militarist Japan (1940) and once for his anti-militaristic pre-war messages nearing the end of World War 2. After the war in America he was a symbol of the modern post-war Japanese, who symbolized Christianity, democracy and peace. In an article printed in the Christian Herald, entitled “Japan’s Two Men of Destiny”, the author compares Toyohiko Kagawa with Emperor Hirohito as figures of political, social and religious change in post-war Japan (1950).

The significance of Kagawa Toyohiko, encompasses historical, socio-political, cross-culturalism and religious spheres, unfortunately there are very few research done to address these. It seems like the author and its tremendous impact during his time was forgotten completely by modern writers, historians and scholars. Kagawa embodies the seemingly Western ideas of Christianity in a Japanese body. He embodies Christian influence in the midst of institutionalized Shintoism, his realism in the midst of Japanese romanticism, his self-effacing character who was

willing to work with the vilest of all places in the midst of seemingly industrial and capitalistic growth, his message of peace and hope in the midst of war.



Left, Preserved original photographs of Kagawa; Right, Box and folders where in which Kagawa related papers are preserved



Left, Notes written about Before the Dawn; Right, the first page of Across the Death Line original manuscript