

Funded by a grant from the Scientific Research Program (Creative),
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on Japanese Society**

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(The research project on the history of disabilities)

First Version: January 2009

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Chikako Mochizuki

〔 題目 〕 Title

The Impact of Iwahashi Takeo and Helen Keller on Japanese Society

岩橋武夫氏とヘレン・ケラー女史が日本社会に及ぼした影響

〔 キーワード 〕 keywords

岩橋武夫, ヘレン・ケラー, 大阪盲人協会, 日本盲人連合協会, 日本ライトハウス

Takeo Iwahashi, Helen Keller, Osaka Association for the Blind, Japan United Association of the Blind, Nippon Lighthouse Welfare Center for the Blind

〔 要旨 〕 Abstract

This paper focuses on Helen Keller's three visits to Japan, the first in 1937, the second in 1948, and the last in 1955. Keller's three visits were significant events for people with disabilities in Japan who sought to improve their social status, but it was equally important for the development of the various institutions for physically disabled such as The Osaka Association for the Blind Lighthouse, founded in 1929 and Japan United Association of the blind in 1948. By examining Keller's visits to Japan this paper also discusses the founder of the Nippon Lighthouse Welfare Center for the Blind, Iwahashi Takeo, who organized Keller's first two visits of 1937 and 1948.

Through his personal friendship with Keller, Iwahashi worked for the Japanese blind communities by implementing Keller and her influence of worldwide fame as a tool for diplomatic approach, newer more inspiring ways of expanding welfare services for people with visual disabilities. Through Keller's visit of 1948 to Japan, Iwahashi was able to successfully work with GHQ (Headquarter of Occupational allied forces) for the promulgation and enactment of Japanese welfare Laws for disabled promulgated in 1949 and enacted in 1950. The newly enacted welfare laws for physically disabled were far from perfect; however, they earmarked the significance of expanding welfare systems and services for people with visual disabilities.

ヘレン・ケラーの3度にわたる日本来日は日本の盲人社会だけではなく晴眼者一般にも影響を及ぼした。また、日本ライトハウスの設立者岩橋武夫氏もケラー女史とともに日本の盲人社会に明るい光をともした。

同ディスカッションペーパーは1937年から1954年までの岩橋武夫氏、日本ライトハウス、そしてヘレン・ケラー女史が日本の盲人社会に与えた影響を描くとともに、一般の晴眼者がケラー女史の来日に対してどのような反応を示したのか、障害者福祉法の成立とケラー女史との関わり等を描く。