

Center for Okinawan Studies Lecture Series

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa



Sanmon Gate, Enkakuji – Shuri 1933 *

Shuri, The Capital or (Why I love *Shui Uēguni* 首里親国)

By Alfred Yama Kina, PhD

Shuri town was the center of the royal government, as well as Ryukyuan culture, from the early 1400s to the end of the monarchy in 1879. Cherished for its beauty and tranquility, Shuri was similar to the ancient cities of Nara and Kyoto, yet possessed a character distinctly its own. The park-like setting of the old capital featured massive castle walls and gates, mansions and gardens, parks and lakes, shrines and temples, tree-lined parks and roads, and fine stone bridges.

“I had the fortunate opportunity to live in Shuri for one year in 1983-84. Shuri was my playground; late at night, I would go exploring the old castle site, or the vestiges of Enkakuji Temple (above). Frequently, I would sit for hours at a time, on the edge of Ryutan pond, absorbing the muted splendour of my surroundings. This is my story...”

* Photo by Sakatani Ryonoshin. From the book 首里城を救った男 *Shuri Castle, and the Men Who Rebuilt This Historical Heritage*; 1999; Nonomura, Takao; Nirai-Sha: Naha.

SPEAKER: Alfred Yama Kina, PhD
DATE / TIME: THURSDAY, September 22, 2011 / 3:00PM
PLACE: Tokioka Room, Moore Hall 319

Event is free and open to the public.
For more information or disability access, please contact:
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