

for his thesis on the landed-fief systems of Sendai and Nambu domains, and published as 『近世 日本知行制の研究』清文堂、大阪、1988. He teaches on Japanese culture and Australian society at Miyagi Gakuin Womens' Junior College, Sendai, Japan.

Kumayama chō shi: Ōaza hen 熊山町史一大字編: 通史編, 参考史料編 470 pages, ¥5,000

Philip Brown
Niigata Japan

Local histories (city, town, and village histories) in Japan tend to follow a few, set patterns which are reflected in both the structure and the emphases of the volumes. My own personal tendency probably reflects the approach of many local history users. I start by seeking out histories that have fairly extensive collections of documents, especially those that have separate *shiryō* volumes with document titles indexed chronologically within subject categories. Most local history users quickly recognize that within a given region, much of what is written in general treatments of village or town histories (*tsūshi*) quickly gets repetitive and that what we really want is to identify those documents which directly illuminate our research problem. The end result is that single volumes which appear to be general treatments are far less likely to be given a serious look.

Kumayama chō shi: Ōaza hen would at first appear to be just such a general volume, yet the concepts underlying it (the first of three) are distinctive, the materials collected here rather unusual, and the outcome fortuitous, at least for early modern specialists interested in land use patterns, the relationship between settlements and their surroundings, and local cultural history. Under the general guidance of

Ishida Hiroshi 石田寛, emeritus professor of Hiroshima University, the editorial committee and its staff faced a formidable challenge: How do we develop an overview of the region incorporated as Kumayama Town (1954), in the face of the very limited number of documents that often are employed to prepare such a history?

The inspiration for meeting this challenge came from Ishida's background as a geographer. Using several early modern maps, maps from the early Meiji era and modern maps, Ishida has reconstructed the relationship between Kumayama villages and their natural environment. The major effort here was to reconstruct the shifting course of the Yoshii River, the northernmost of the three large rivers that drain modern Okayama Prefecture, and its impact on settlements.

A second innovation was to structure the volume in geographical units that were constant over the early modern and modern eras down to the immediate post-war years, the *ōaza*. This consistency in the units facilitated the use of oral history in the absence of other documentation. Even when the *ōaza* lost their superior administrative position (they were incorporated into larger administrative villages before World War II) many residents still viewed them as their "neighborhood" and through the *ōaza* and its subdivisions, they identified the location of their farm plots.

To recreate a record of how *ōaza* expanded their territory and transformed land from one use to another, Ishida conducts a careful analysis of the meaning of local place names in conjunction with the available written documentation and close examination of the topography. Although not as certain an precise as contemporary documents, I believe readers will find the results of his analytical approach interesting.

Except for the introductory chapter, each chapter focuses on a single *ōaza*, and all chapters are uniformly divided into three sections: "Historical Geography," "Cultural Assets", and "Chart of *Aza* Names and *Ōaza* Map". This approach not only helps preserve the distinctiveness of each community (a major concern of the authors), but also facilitates comparison between them. The final sections of each chapter include meticulously redrawn *kiri ezu* detailing the layout of paddy and dry fields and local names. (Four *ōaza* maps are reproduced in larger format and included in a supplementary folder.) To accommodate the detail of these maps, *Ōaza hen* is published in an unusually large format (Japanese A4 dimensions). In addition, the editorial board chose to made generous use of aerial photographs and color reproductions of Edo period maps. All of this makes for a beautifully produced book. Finally, this volume includes one feature often missing from local histories: a good index.

Orders can be sent to: Kumayama machi yakuba, Chōshi hensan shitsu 町史編纂室, Matsuki 松木 623, Kumayama machi, Akaiwa-gun 赤磐郡, Okayama-ken 岡山県 709-07; FAX (08699) 5-2309

KanjiWORD 2.0 for Windows
Pacific Software Publishing, Inc

Raymond Scott
Texas Instruments

For the last few weeks I have been using KanjiWORD 2.0 for Windows. Below is the publishers information and the program's features and requirements, followed by my comments.

FEATURES:

Front End Processor to enter Kanji and Kana phonetically.

Ability to display, print, or fax to Windows compatible monitors, printers or fax modems.

Capability to use any Windows fonts such as TrueType, Postscript, and Bitmap.

Pop-up 50,000 word English to Japanese dictionary.

Ability to import/export files to other Japanese applications.

Online English spell checker.

Multiple document editing.

Menus/prompts can be in English or Japanese

REQUIREMENTS:

IBM PC or compatible - 386 or above

Windows 3.1 or above

3.5" floppy drive

5MB free on Hard disk

VGA, Super VGA, or any Windows compatible color monochrome monitor.

COMMENTS:

KanjiWORD comes on three 3.5" floppies and includes a typeset softcover manual that has both English and Japanese. It uses a standard Windows setup program to install. KanjiWORD's document editing screen appears much like Word for Windows or JWP, with buttons across the top just under the menu bar.

The program does not need any 'extras' to run. No DOS/V or Windows/J. It uses a Front End Processor (FEP) to enter Japanese text. This FEP is a software product also known as Katana. The FEP can be turned on or off by pressing the F1 key. English and Japanese can be readily mixed on a line with differing font sizes or bolding etc. All of the fonts you normally use under Windows can be used in KanjiWORD. Currently there is only one Japanese font but it can be scaled from 6 to 96 points. Japanese is entered phonetically, using romaji. Since I have been using NJStar, I had no problems with entering Japanese. You may enter in Hiragana or Katakana. Currently, only Katakana can be

entered as 'Han-kaku' or half-sized characters. The entered Hiragana or Katakana is highlighted as you enter it. For example, entering KISHA NO KISHA GA KISHA DE KISHASHITA (spaces added for readability) would leave the entire line highlighted. You then press the space bar to convert to Kanji. The program will parse the sentence and look for a convertible combination and convert it on the screen. Subsequent presses of the space bar will cycle through kanji/combinations with the same sound. A line at the bottom of the screen will display up to 9 possible kanji at a time out of the total possible combinations. You may select a kanji by pressing 1 - 9 also. In the above example, each KISHA would be highlighted in sequence and you are given the chance to select the proper kanji. Pressing enter 'confirms' your selection, un-highlights it and moves on to the next one.

KanjiWORD can enter Kanji you do not know how to pronounce by entering the 'hen' and the number of total strokes. Entering TEHEN11 and pressing F1 will produce a list of all Kanji that have the 'TE' hen and have 11 strokes.

The program can also expand Japanese postal codes. By entering the postal code,; ex. 101, and pressing F1, KanjiWORD will convert the 101 into the kanji for ToukyoutoChiyodaKu,

By typing MARU and pressing F1, a selection of Japanese circles and bullets can be selected. The same for HOSHI (star) and SHIKAKU (square).

KanjiWORD's dictionary is English to Japanese. You enter an English word and the KANJI are displayed. No phonetics, English or Japanese are shown. This seems a bit odd, since the program is designed for English speaking users. If I need to look up the Japanese equivalent of an English word, it means I don't already know the Japanese. If I am then shown a list of Kanji with no phonetics or definitions; which one do I choose for the best meaning I want to convey? - End result, I run JDIC in a separate window.

The FEP has a small menu that pops up when you press F1. One of the selections is FURIKANA (sic). However, furigana does not seem to be supported at this time. My Japanese teaching wife feels this is a drawback to the program as she often needs to add furigana for her beginning classes.

While it is true that you have the capability to use the same fonts you use with windows, some are not displayed or printed well. I attempted to use the AGaramond font and found that characters overlapped each other on the screen and on print. The print function offers a print preview capability to see how the layout looks. Nice feature.

I was unable to find a way to enter my own conversion dictionary, a la NJStar's user dictionary. If the phonetic you entered is not converted to the Kanji you are looking for, you have to break it up or try different readings etc. There is a way to enter JIS codes by typing KIGOU and pressing F1. A selection of JIS symbols is displayed at the bottom of the screen and you scroll through them to pick the one you want.

KanjiWORD's documents are in a proprietary format. They cannot be used by any other product. However, you can export into all the usual formats; ascii text, Old-JIS, New-JIS, EUC, Shift-JIS, NEC-Jis, BMP and PCX (good for faxing). You can also import files in these formats, but KanjiWORD does not automatically recognize the encoding method. You have to tell it what type of file you are importing. Of course cut and paste is available, but it is only useful between KanjiWORD document windows. If you have a fax-modem program installed as a printer, you can send faxes directly from KanjiWORD.

I found two major bugs in KanjiWORD:

1. KanjiWord stores its documents in a proprietary format.

It is supposed to be able to export to other formats, SJIS, EUC etc. It is also supposed to export to PCX & BMP. The times I have tried to export, the program crashed with a UAE (unrecoverable application error).

2. I use my Japanese wordprocessor to create study lists and kanji lists to be used with KanjiGuess. I often need to look up/verify the reading of a kanji combination. KanjiWord's dictionary is only English to Japanese, with no phonetic readings for kanji. NJSTAR is the word processor I currently use.

BOTTOM LINE:

Being able to have scalable fonts is worth a lot to me. The dictionary's draw backs can be covered by using JDIC in another window, but I still miss being able to lookup an unknown kanji combination right on the screen with NJStar. I suspect that future releases will have better/additional features, and for \$199.00 (msrp), I think it is quite capable and functional.

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(Note: these addresses are each a **single, continuous** line)

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