

## Events Commemorating the Scottish Educational Advisor W. K. Burton :Advancing Japan-Great Britain Relations

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### 1. Events celebrating the accomplishments of foreign educational advisors in Meiji-era Japan

#### (1)

Foreign educational advisors hired by the Meiji Government contributed to the modernization of education in Japan by performing three major duties: teaching Western science and technology, organizing and managing schools, and advising policy-makers. By training Japanese students to be their successors, they also contributed to the creation of a self-sustaining educational system in Japan. Furthermore, after returning to their native countries, these advisors used their experiences in Japan to promote relations between their own countries and Japan, and in doing so furthered the internationalization of education in Japan.

There have been commemorative events held in Japan to celebrate these contributions. For example, in November of 2011, there was an exhibition held at the University of Fukui General Library titled “Oyatoi Gaikokujin Kyōshi Griffis-ten” (‘Hired Foreign Instructor Griffis Exhibition’) to commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assignment to Fukui of W. E. Griffis (1843-1928), who taught physics and chemistry at the Meishinkan Domain School in the Fukui Domain. A second international symposium “The Yatoi—a Comprehensive Study of Hired Foreigners,” which explored the roles and qualities of the foreign advisors that built the frameworks essential to the modernization of Japan, was held in Fukui in October of 1985.<sup>1</sup>

In the case of the French educational advisor G. E. Boissonade (1825-1910), there were commemorative exhibitions in 2010, corresponding to the centennial anniversary of his death, to reflect upon his role in the early days of Hosei University. The Museum of the Printing Bureau of the Ministry of Finance held an exhibition for E. Chiossone (1832-1898), who led the design of paper currency at the Bureau. Held in 1997, it was entitled “Oyatoi Gaikokujin Chiossone Botsugo 100-nen” (‘100 Years after the Death of Hired Foreigner Chiossone’). In 1976, which marked the centennial anniversary of his arrival in Japan, the Italian Culture Institute put on an exhibition called “Oyatoi Gaikokujin Edoardo Chiossone to Sono Jidai-ten” (‘Exhibition of Hired Foreigner Chiossone and His Era’). B. S. Lyman (1838-

1893), who was a surveyor with the Hokkaido Colonization Commission and taught academic disciplines related to mathematics and mine surveying to younger members of the Commission. In 1995, the Historical Museum of Hokkaido hosted the “Lyman Collection Exhibition” to commemorate ties between early Meiji-era Hokkaido and Lyman’s native Massachusetts.<sup>2</sup>

Even when we broaden our scope of examination to include non-teachers, we see that there are still numerous events commemorating Meiji-era foreign advisors. In 1987, on the hundredth anniversary of the advent of modern plumbing in Yokohama, an exhibition titled “Mizu to Minato no Onjin H. S. Palmer” (‘H. S. Palmer, mentor in matters relating to Water and the Port’) in honor of Henry Spencer Palmer (1838-1893), the British civil engineer who designed Yokohama’s waterworks, oversaw its construction, and was responsible for the construction of the Port of Yokohama. R. H. Brunton (1841-1901) also made major contributions to the development of Yokohama. An exhibition was shown in 1991, which corresponded to 150 years since his birth and 90 years since his death, and titled “R. H. Brunton: Nihon No Tōdai To Yokohama No Machizukuri No Chichi “ (‘R. H. Brunton: The Father of Japanese Lighthouses and the Development of Yokohama’). C. A. McVean was a Scottish engineer who was responsible for modern surveying projects at the Ministry of Industry’s Surveying Section and the Home Ministry’s Geography Bureau. In February of 2012, an “International Symposium on C. A. McVean (1838-1912) and His Achievements in Early Meiji Japan” was held. M. Moser (1853-1912) taught photography and took photographs for the Agency for the Promotion of Industry, and in October of 2013, the “Seitan 160 Shūnen Kinen: Meiji No Shashin-shi Michael Moser Shashin-ten” (‘Exhibition of Meiji Photographer Michael Moser to Commemorate the 160<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth’) was held.<sup>3</sup>

## (2)

In recent years, the achievements of Scottish educational advisor William Kinninmond Burton (1856-1899) have received renewed attention, and a number of commemorative events have been held. Invited to come to Japan in 1887, Burton is celebrated in Japan as the father of the country’s modern water supply and wastewater systems. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that events commemorating Burton have been held not just in Japan, but as part of Japan-Scotland exchange programs held in both countries, specifically the 2006 “150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton’s Birth,” and the “W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009.” In this paper, I examine these two commemorative events.

## 2. W. K. Burton, the father of Japan's modern water supply and wastewater systems

### (1)

Burton was born on May 11, 1856 in Edinburgh, Scotland. His father, J. H. Burton (1809-1881), was a renowned historian. His name appears in the *Dictionary of National Biography* and the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. His mother, Katherine Innes (1827-1898), is well known for having contributed to the education of women and the improvement of their status.

A. C. Doyle (1859-1930) of Sherlock Holmes' Stories fame was a playmate of Burton's. Three years younger than Burton, Doyle remained a lifelong friend. Burton sent Doyle news and information about Japan and encouraged him to write. In response, Doyle dedicated *The Firm of Girdlestone* (1890) to Burton.

After studying at Edinburgh Collegiate School, Burton joined Brown Brothers Co., a manufacturer of ship machinery, and was apprenticed there for five years. He also worked as a mechanical engineer for Rosebank Iron Works in Edinburgh. Later on, he moved to London and ran a company jointly with his uncle, Cosmo Innes. According to the 1881 edition of the *Post Office Directory*, the company's name was Innes and Burton Consulting Engineers, which provided technical consulting services about environmental sanitation.<sup>4</sup> He studied chemistry during this period by briefly attending Kings College at the University of London.

In 1884, he participated in the International Sanitary Conference in London, where he met Kyuichiro Nagai (1851-1913).

### (2)

For some time, the lack of adequate water systems and the absence of hygiene in the existing systems had been apparent in Japan. Improvement needed to be made to old-fashioned water supply systems that used wooden troughs. Starting towards the end of the Tokugawa regime, engineers from developed countries such as C. J. Van Doorn (1837-1906), H. S. Palmer (1838-1893) and R. H. Brunton were invited to provide guidance.

At this time a cholera outbreak provided an impetus for urgent improvement of the urban residential environment in terms of dependable water supply systems. In 1887, the Engineering College of the Imperial University began to offer a program in sanitary engineering. World-class leaders in the fields of water supply and drainage systems, as well as those in the field of public sanitation facilities, were invited from Great Britain to staff the program. Burton was invited at the recommendation of Kyuichiro Nagai and Masataka

Kawase (1840-1919).

Nagai had been sent by the Japanese government to the London International Sanitary Conference of 1884 and a medical affairs conference that followed. He continued to travel to various places in Great Britain (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester, etc.) and Europe, visiting France, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Germany in that order. He toured and surveyed water supply and drainage systems and public sanitation facilities in these countries. He returned home, convinced that Britain was by far the most advanced of these countries as far as these systems were concerned. He wrote down the following:

“Great Britain should be regarded as the model for the water supply and drainage system works. Such countries as Belgium and the Netherlands turn to English professionals, as these countries are unable to find professionals to construct such facilities. In Berlin, such supplies as iron pipes must be imported from Great Britain.”<sup>5</sup>

Based on this survey report, the Japanese government selected Britain as the best country for sanitary engineering.

This still leaves the question of “Why Burton ?” unanswered. At the time, foreign instructors of science, and especially those of engineering, were recruited mainly through the network at the University of Glasgow. Burton did not study engineering professionally at a university. Instead, he had some experience of having worked as an engineer, providing engineering consultation in sanitation works in London. This practical experience was probably what landed him the invitation from the Japanese government.

### (3)

Several points stand out about Burton’s life and activities in Japan. First, he was the first foreign educational advisor to teach sanitation engineering in Japan at the Imperial University of Tokyo. He was also hired concurrently as an engineering consultant for the Sanitary Department of the Home Ministry. He surveyed, designed and constructed water supply and drainage systems in a number of cities, including Sendai, Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Kobe, Hiroshima and Shimonoseki. In addition, he took part in the survey and construction of water supply systems in Tai-pei and Tai-chung as an engineering consultant for the Formosan Administrative Bureau in 1896. He was an enthusiast for restoring the urban environment.

His teaching of sanitary engineering philosophy and his guidance in the water supply system technology are notable not only for the rational control of waste water discharge in public spaces and a changed image of cities, but also for allowing hygienic habits to spread

and encouraging the awareness of hygiene issues.

Burton fulfilled the expectations of him when it came to the nurturing of professional engineers also. He was at first invited on a three-year contract that commenced in May 1887 to teach sanitary engineering at the Engineering College of the Imperial University. The contract was renewed twice before it expired in June 1896. During this period, he trained professional researchers in the fields of sanitary engineering and environmental engineering. He also nurtured a number of engineers to lead water works projects in various cities. Burton's work was carried on by Eiji Nakajima (1859-1925) at the University of Tokyo, Seiichi Ooi (1877-1946) at Kyoto University, and Sei Nishida (1877-1946) at Kyushu University. They served as the successors to Burton and taught Burton's sanitary engineering and his water supply technology at their respective universities. Among engineers, Toshirou Ueda (1864-1912) of Nagoya, Tojirou Sano (1869-1929) of Kobe, Shigenaga Yoshihara (1863-1919) of Hiroshima, Touji Takigawa (1868-1909) of Shimonoseki and Yashirou Hamano (1869-1932) of Taiwan should be mentioned. Burton took these students of his to project sites and gave them on-site training.

In 1894, while his appointment was still in effect, he published a voluminous book entitled the *Water Supply of Town and the Construction of Waterworks* with a London publisher (Crosby Lockwood and Son). The author's title is shown as an "Assoc. Memb. Instr. C. E; Professor of Sanitary Engineering in the Imperial University, Tokyo; Sanitary Engineer to the Home Department, Japan". Subtitled as "A Practical Treatise for the Use of Engineers and Students of Engineering," the book discussed earthquake countermeasures for waterworks, harm caused by lead pipes and countermeasures, purification of water containing iron, softening of water containing lime, activated charcoal processing, and construction of water reservoirs and filtration ponds. Practical information for the construction and management of water supply facilities is provided.<sup>6</sup> A copy of this book, which Burton dedicated to Kouji Furuichi (1854-1934) is preserved at the University of Tokyo. Burton's handwritten inscription can be read.

In recognition of these achievements, the Meiji Government conferred the 4<sup>th</sup> Class, Order of the Rising Sun upon Burton.<sup>7</sup>

Secondly, Burton worked and is responsible for achievements in a number of fields in addition to fulfilling his duty as a foreign instructor to provide sanitary engineering education and plans and designs for water supply and sewerage systems. He designed Ryounkaku, the first skyscraper in Japan (also known as Asakusa Twelve Storeys). He

participated in creating the Photographic Society of Japan, in an attempt to organize the photography profession. In addition, he contributed to the improvement and dissemination of photographic technology by devising an exposure table, personally manufacturing dry plates and authoring books that were entitled *ABC of Modern Photography* and *Burton's Modern Photography*.<sup>8</sup>

He was sent on a mission to survey a volcanic eruption of Mt. Bandai, which was followed by a scientific investigation of the Mino-Owari Earthquake. He made photographic records at these sites. He was accompanied by J. Milne (1850-1913), another foreign instructor at the Imperial University, on these trips. The two, who were instructed to make photographs and records that could be retained permanently, traveled to severely-damaged One Valley in the Prefecture of Gifu to conduct an on-site investigation. Their goal was to create accurate records to help handle future disasters. The fruit of their work was an English-language book of photographic analysis entitled the *Great Earthquake in Japan, 1891*. The book contains photographs of the collapsed Nagara River Bridge and those of the Nagoya Textile Factory, photographic records of the Neo Fault, and photographs of damage suffered at Biwajima. The initial edition of the book was followed by an expanded edition, as well as a reprinted edition.<sup>9</sup>

The third notable point about Burton is his marriage to a Japanese woman. He was one of a minority of people who had a civil ceremony, which the British government acknowledged as authentic. He seemed to have experienced little difficulty in his contact with an alien culture and easily assimilated himself into the Japanese society. He became fluent in Japanese and had a daughter with a young woman named Matsu Arakawa. On May 11, 1894, he went to the British Consulate and had a civil ceremony with this woman who had given birth to his child.

In spite of cultural differences, he lived happily and worked in Japan. However, he fell ill and passed away in Tokyo. This occurred immediately before he was to return to his homeland with his family.

While in Japan, Burton received a series of sad news about the passing of his family members. He resolved to return to his homeland to fulfill his responsibility as the head of his family. Sadly, his resolution never materialized, due to his death. He succumbed to illness while conducting a survey of a water supply system in Taiwan and died after returning to Tokyo. It is believed that he contracted malarian dysentery, which led to a liver failure.

The death certificate that was prepared by the British Consulate at Yokohama shows

that he died on August 5, 1899 at the age of approximately 45 years, that his occupation was an engineer, and that his residence was at No. 7, Nagata-cho 1 chome, Tokio. The entry in the column for the person who reported the death shows the name of C. D. West (1847-1908), a colleague and professor at the Imperial University (with his address at No. 13, Kagayashiki, Tokio).<sup>10</sup>

His friends and students mourned his death and placed a tombstone at Aoyama Cemetery, Tokyo, where he rests in eternal peace.<sup>11</sup> On his tombstone is an inscription that reads "IN MEMORY OF W M KINNINMOND BURTON A.M.I.C.E. Born in Scotland. May 11, 1856".

In Taiwan, Yashirou Hamano, one of Burton's students, had a bust of his teacher erected at the source of the Taipei's water supply.<sup>12</sup> The bust was unveiled on March 30, 1919, 20 years after Burton's death.

### **3. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton's Birth**

#### **(1)**

"The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton's Birth" was held in 2006, 150 years after his birth. On May 13, a commemorative ceremony and lectures were held in Tokyo. The grand events were planned by professionals in the water systems field with support from such public and private offices and organizations as the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transportation, the Ministry of the Environment, the British Embassy in Japan, the Scottish Development International, the Japan Water Works Association and the Japan Society of Civil Engineers. Burton's descendants also gathered from within and outside of Japan.<sup>13</sup>

An exhibition of Burton's articles was held at the same location. Included among the numerous exhibits that were reminiscent of Burton were some of his writings, related documents, photographs of people and scenery, as well as some paintings by M. R. Burton, his younger sister, and the articles and paintings by Tamako, his daughter, in addition to Japanese paintings by Sachiko Toriumi, his great granddaughter.

The commemorative events were organized to honor the contribution he made to the modernization of Japan by teaching sanitary engineering and planning modern water supply systems. Another goal of the commemorative events was to ensure that his works would be continued and expanded in the future. It is also hoped that his great achievements in Japan will be known not only in Scotland but also throughout the United Kingdom so that the friendship between the two countries would be further enhanced.

At the commemorative lectures celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burton's birth, these facts were presented and the accomplishments of Burton, who died on foreign soil, were remembered. Burton's multiple talents became all the more evident as the spotlight was shone on many aspects of his life. I too was invited to give a commemorative talk.

Incidentally, the lecture titles were as follows:

“Burton—Father of Japan's Environmental Engineering” (Kenji Fujita)

“Burton's Dream—On the Trail of His Life” (Kikuo Inaba)

“Foreign Professor W. K. Burton in the Modernization of Japan” (Shoji Katoh)

“W. K. Burton's Contribution for the Japanese History of Photography” (Ryuichi Kaneko).

On the day after the commemorative event, a memorial service was held in front of his tombstone at Aoyama Cemetery. A memorial service has been held on or around August 5 in other years. He is probably a rarity among foreign instructors for whom an annual memorial event is held.

At this year's memorial event at his grave site was Mr. Kevin Metz, Burton's great great grandson and a player of Tsugaru Shamisen, who performed in front of Burton's tombstone and offered his prayers. As bagpipe players played Amazing Grace and Highland Cathedral, attendees placed white chrysanthemums and prayed for Burton's soul. Their prayers surely reached Burton, at rest under the soil.

## (2)

In September of the same year, commemorative events cosponsored by Japan and Scotland were held in Aberdeen and Edinburgh. The events consisted of the erection of a monument commemorating Burton, an unveiling ceremony for the monument, and commemorative lectures and symposia on water supply and wastewater systems, and the environments in Japan and Great Britain.<sup>14</sup> Aberdeen is the birthplace of numerous engineers involved in the modernization of Japan, and Edinburgh is Burton's birthplace.

To begin with, on September 6, in Aberdeen City Hall there were commemorative lectures and an exhibition of materials. There was also a reading of *waka* (poetry in classical Japanese style), a *koto* (a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument) performance with a lyrical accompaniment, and performances of the bagpipes and *Tsugaru-jamisen* (a genre of a three-stringed, Japanese musical instrument, *shamisen*).

Ian Nish (Professor Emeritus, University of London) gave a lecture on the history of exchange between Japanese and Scottish figures, and Kikuo Inaba presented a lecture entitled “The Life of Professor William K. Burton.” The former was an introduction to the

lives and accomplishments of four Scots who worked for the modernization of Japan. They were: R. H. Brunton, who led the construction of lighthouses, ports, the Yokohama foreigners' enclave, and the planning of wastewater systems; T. B. Glover (1838-1911), who was involved in the development of Japan's first coal mines and ship beam endeavors, as well as in the founding of the Mitsubishi company; J. Murdoch (1856-1921), who is best known as a researcher of Japanese culture and for having taught the English language and English literature to Natsume Sōseki and others; and W. K. Burton. All four hailed from northeastern and southeastern Scotland.

The talk on Burton presented an introduction to his activities in Japan, including his contributions to the modernization of the country—which took the form of education in sanitation engineering and guidance in photography-related technologies—as well as an introduction to contemporary Japanese culture through collections of photographs edited and published by Burton—and his design and construction of the high-rise building known at the time as the “Asakusa *jūnikai* (‘Asakusa twelve-story’)” building. The lecture also touched upon his childhood, his studies in Edinburgh, his apprenticeship, his time co-managing a company that handled public sanitation constructions for improving the water supply and wastewater systems in London, the circumstances of Burton coming to Japan, his life in Japan, his activities as a foreign advisor in Japan and Taiwan, his sister Mary Rose's visit to Japan, the death of his mother, and other events involving his family. It was a report backed up by years of research into historical documents and Burton's achievements, and gave a vivid overall picture of his life and works.

The second symposium, which was on water environments, was held at the Edwin Chadwick Building at Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh on September 8. The symposia consisted of the following four lectures, which addressed not only Burton's accomplishments, but topics involving “modern civilization and technology” as well:

“True Richness and the Human Environment—Some Consideration on the Basis of the Traditional Thought of Japan” (Kikuo Inaba)

“A Review on the 120-Year History of Modernization of Water Supply in Japan (And considerations of the direction it should take from here)” (Mitsuna Kobayashi)

“Cooperative Activities to Introduce Ecological Sanitation into Rural Areas in Bangladesh Transferring Japanese Experiences in the Pre-modernized Era” (Akira Sakai)

“Engineering Civilization from the Shadows” (Paul W. Jowitt)

The last of these lectures dealt with the question of what the role of engineers should be amidst the spread of the darker aspects of modern civilization. P. W. Jowitt entreated engineers to be prepared, noting that more than a hundred years have passed since the urban environmental problems that arose as the darker side of the industrial revolution have been resolved through the efforts of countless engineers, leading to the development of modern civilization, and that in the face of extreme weather events, rampant disasters, and the neglect of poverty, engineers need the *will* to build the next civilization.<sup>15</sup>

The venue was moved to Edinburgh Napier University's Craiglockhart Campus, where two more commemorative lectures were given: "Burton-*Sensei*—Father of Japan's Sanitary Engineering" and "Japan's Water Supply and Sewerage System exploited by W. K. Burton." They celebrated Burton's contributions, noting that he was invited to train people to deal with the extremely urgent cholera problem, that he was the perfect person to teach and lead others in general technologies involving water supply and sewerage systems, that he was a diligent person, that he spared no effort in training others, and that he created an environment in which engineers were respected.<sup>16</sup>

Third, a ceremony was held to unveil the memorial. It was modelled on the monument at his gravestone in Aoyama Cemetery, Tokyo and erected on the site of his former home in Edinburgh. The site is where Burton grew up while surrounded by his parents and his siblings. His old house, which was known as Craighouse, is now preserved carefully on the campus of Edinburgh Napier University. It is worth noting that the monument houses CDs and other media that contain a brief timeline of Burton's life, documents showing his achievements, a list of sponsors of events commemorating him, and documents published or exhibited in relation to commemorative events.

The inscription of the monument is as follows;

┌ Dedicated with Deep Gratitude  
To  
WILLIAM KINNINMOND BURTON  
1856—1899  
  
Elder Son of JOHN HILL BURTON,  
Historiographer Royal, and  
KATHERINE INNES

First Professor of Sanitary Engineering at  
the Imperial University, Tokyo

Sole Consultant Engineer for  
Home Ministry, Designing  
Water Systems for Major Cities  
Including Tokyo

Designed Japan's First Skyscraper  
RYOUNKAKU in Tokyo

Introduced Modern Photography to Japan

A Most Prominent Scottish Contributor to  
Japan's Modernization

September, 2006  
The 150th Anniversary of  
W. K. Burton's Birth Planning  
and Executive Committee  
Japan and Scotland      J

Years passed without Burton's returning to his homeland. Now he was finally going home, accompanied by the gratitude of people who admire him. He came to Japan in 1887. He returned after 119 years.

Foreign instructors on contract were temporary helpers who went back to their home countries once their terms expired. They were also promoters of international exchange as they carried back their experiences and what they saw in Japan. Burton, however, was not able to go home as he was buried in a foreign land. He put international exchange into practice by marrying a Japanese woman but was unable to go back to his country. He was therefore unable to bring back his experience of having worked in Japan and introduce Japanese ideas to his people. Neither was he able to germinate exchanges between Britain and Japan through friendship with his students.

Had he been able to go back, he would surely have continued a close relationship with Japan. He would undoubtedly have offered broad-based assistance to Japan in numerous areas beyond education and waterworks.

This makes it all the more joyful that the friendship and exchanges between Japan and the UK will be further enhanced as the result of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative events of Burton's birth.

*The Daily Telegraph* mentioned these events in celebration of Burton's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in an article entitled "Japanese to honour Briton who saved them from cholera." The article reads, "If William Kinninmond Burton is remembered at all in Britain, it is as a childhood friend of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, but in Japan he is seen as a saviour from cholera and respected as a foreign engineer who constructed Ryounkaku, the country's first skyscraper." Burton's accomplishments and contribution are certain to receive greater recognition with an expansion of exchanges between Japan and Britain and the study of his work. The *Edinburgh Evening News* reported on the ceremony and commemorative lectures in an article entitled "Plaque unveiled to engineer who revolutionized cities, memorial for pioneer who transformed Japan's skyline." The article also gave a profile of Burton's background before arriving in Japan and of his diverse activities in Japan.<sup>17</sup>

#### 4. The W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009

##### (1)

The "W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009" was organized because 2009 corresponded to the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burton's death. It also happened to fall on the same year as "Homecoming Scotland 2009," and for this reason, the exchange project was held as part of the Homecoming.

"Homecoming Scotland 2009" was a series of commemorative events timed to correspond to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns (1759-1798). In the spirit of Burns, the year 2009 was designated as the year to renew old ties to Scotland, and people of Scottish ancestry were encouraged to visit Scotland and join in the celebrations. Given the fact that Burton was unable to return home, having died in Japan, "W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009" was all the more fitting for celebrating his symbolic return home and his many achievements. Five of Burton's relatives reunited in Scotland from Japan, the U.S., and London, and through the commemorative events they were able to strengthen ties with one another.

The “W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009” took place both in Japan and Scotland.<sup>18</sup> First, in Japan, on May 9, 2009, a ceremony was held at Aoyama Cemetery where Burton was laid to rest. That afternoon, a W. K. Burton Memorial Concert was put on at the Harajuku Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan. Participants listened to a Tsugaru-jamisen performance by Burton’s great-great-grandson Kevin Kmetz and performances of Scottish and Japanese folk songs played on the bagpipes as they reflected upon Burton’s life and legacy.

Commemorative events in Scotland were held in Burton’s birthplace of Edinburgh. On September 11, a Japan-Scotland exchange reception was hosted by the Japanese Consul General at his residence in Edinburgh, and on the following day at Edinburgh Napier University there was a commemorative tree-planting ceremony, the dedication of a commemorative bench, and commemorative lectures, and the awarding of the W. K. Burton Prizes. In attendance at the reception were the Scottish Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and relatives of Burton.

The tree-planting and bench dedication ceremonies were held in the garden behind Old Craig House on the Craighouse Campus of Edinburgh Napier University. The garden is situated opposite the memorial to Burton erected several years earlier to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. It was here that the bench, which was brought from Japan, was unveiled, and two young cherry trees were planted, with the Deputy Lord Provost of Edinburgh in attendance. The granite bench has a slight peach hue to it. The sides of the legs feature the inscriptions, “FATHER OF JAPAN’S WATER & WASTEWATER SYSTEMS” and “WILLIAM KINNINMOND BURTON 1856-1899.” As noted above, Craig House was Burton’s family home, so the choice of location was quite befitting.

The second round of W. K. Burton Prizes and commemorative lectures were held at the Lindsay Stewart Lecture Hall on the Craiglockhart Campus of Edinburgh Napier University. The W. K. Burton Prizes are awarded by the Burton Memorial Fund—a fund set up within the Japan Association of Drainage and Environment (NPO)—and its administrative committee to persons or groups who have made outstanding contributions to communicating the achievements and spirit of Burton in the present age. There were two recipients: Ann Jones, an archivist at Heriot-Watt University and a researcher on the work of W. K. Burton’s aunt Mary Burton; and Alan Wilson, the former Chief Executive of the Scottish Council for Development and Industry who played a leading role in the holding the events commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burton’s birth, and whose tireless efforts were

invaluable in erecting the memorial to Burton, and organizing the commemorative celebrations and lectures. They were presented with glass plaques and hanging scrolls of Japanese paintings, entitled “Wind in Spring” and “Butterfly,” by Burton’s great-granddaughter Sachiko Toriume.

The following three commemorative lectures were given:<sup>19</sup>

“W. K. Burton’s Enduring Principle—Being Applied for Current Activities beyond Time and Space” (Akira Sakai)

“Engineering Change: the Exemplary Life of Mary Burton” (Ann Jones)

“Two 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries” (Masao Inanaga)

The first lecture was a report on activities by the Japan Association of Drainage and Environment to improve living conditions in rural areas of Bangladesh through the spread of ecological sanitation toilets. Among the points made were that, to offer guidance in capabilities designed to better people’s living conditions through such sanitation improvement, it was necessary to provide technologies suited to actual local conditions, and helping residents to improve their own living conditions themselves. These activities have much in common with the concepts that Burton worked to implement in Japan more than a century ago.

The second lecture was an overview of the work done by Mary Burton (1819-1909), W. K. Burton’s aunt, to elevate the status of women (better education for women, women’s suffrage, etc.). The lecturer put forth the argument that her life had a major impact on her nephew’s, as he sought to improve people’s lives through public service.

The third lecture addressed the fact that 2009 was not only the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burton’s death, it also marked 110 years since Japan gained true independence through the rectification of unequal treaties. It was noted that Japan became a truly independent nation because it was able to industrialize thanks in large part to the success of the Imperial College of Engineering and the accomplishments of its first principal Henry Dyer (1848-1918), and that it was able to modernize in a short period of time because Scotland sent to Japan numerous talented engineers such as Dyer and Burton.

## (2)

The above-mentioned commemorative events held in Scotland were reported in *The Scotsman* and *The Daily Express*. Contributions to these papers had headlines such as “The pioneering Scot who is a hero in Japan” and “The genius Scot hailed as a hero in Japan but forgotten in his homeland—until now.” As is clear from these headlines, just as with the

media coverage of events commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burton's birth, stories focused on the fact that Burton was all but forgotten in his native Scotland but seen as a hero in Japan for his contributions in various fields to the country's modernization efforts. These articles stated, for example, that "Mr. Burton's legacy lives on, as millions of lives were transformed by his expertise in sanitation, which helped to eradicate disease," and "William Burton's overall contributions to modern Japan are beyond measure, but he remains a figure more revered in his adopted homeland than in Scotland."<sup>20</sup>

In Japan, in addition to the reports published by attendees of the commemorative ceremonies in Scotland<sup>21</sup>, the English language *Japan Times* published an article entitled "Scot honored for service to Japan." The tree-planting ceremony and bench dedication are described in these articles with accompanying photographs.<sup>22</sup>

## 5. Conclusion

As interest in foreign educational advisors in Meiji-era Japan has grown, advances have been made in research on W. K. Burton. His achievements have been revisited and recognized for their significance. Led by the Japan Association of Drainage and Environment, steady progress has been made in identifying interested parties and creating a commemorative fund, efforts which have led in recent years to the planning of the two commemorative events, namely the 2006 "150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton's Birth," and the "W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009." These events are particularly noteworthy in that they were hosted in both Scotland and Japan. Here I have examined both of these events and clarified the following points.

First, in both events, the commemorative tree-planting ceremony, bench dedication, memorial installation, lectures, and symposia in honor of Burton's legacy were carried out as part of Anglo-Japanese exchange programs. The memorial to Burton dedicated on September 8, 2006 in Edinburgh was erected on the grounds of his former home, where he spent his childhood. The monument itself was modelled on his gravestone in Aoyama Cemetery in Tokyo.

Second, Burton has been all but forgotten in his native Scotland, but developments have been made in research on Burton—especially in the context of the kind of interactions between Japan and Scotland examined here—and his achievements have become more evident than in the past, which has led to Burton's inclusion in dictionaries and other reference materials in which his achievements are praised. For example, although Burton

has not attained the level of recognition necessary to earn him entries in the *Iwanami Seiyō Jinmei Jiten* ('Iwanami Dictionary of Names of Western Figures':1981, expanded edition), the *Iwanami-Cambridge Biographical Encyclopedia* (1997), or the latest edition of the authoritative Japanese dictionary *Kojien* (6th Edition, 2008), it should be noted that there is an entry for Burton in the *Iwanami Sekai Jinmei Daijiten* ('Iwanami Encyclopedia of World Figures'; 2013). It describes his multifaceted work in Japan as follows:<sup>23</sup>

Became first professor of sanitary engineering at the Civil Engineering Department, Engineering College, Imperial University (1887). Served concurrently as advising engineer to the Sanitary Bureau of the Home Ministry (1888). Designed water supply and sewerage systems in Tokyo, Osaka, Kobe, Hakodate, Nagasaki, Akita, Sendai, Niigata, Fukui, Matsue, etc. After resigning his post (1896), he worked to fight epidemics in Taiwan at the behest of Gotoh Shinpei. Founding member of the Photographic Society of Japan. Left collection of photographs of the Mino-Owari Earthquake. Designed the Ryōunkaku ("Asakusa twelve-story") high rise building. Grave located in the Aoyama Cemetery.

In his native Britain, Burton is still not listed in representative biographical reference works such as *Who's Who*, the *Dictionary of National Biography* (a compendium of deceased figures), or its latest edition, the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, but now that light has been shed on his accomplishments anew through the types of exchange projects between Japan and Scotland mentioned above, it is surely only a matter of time before his name appears in such reference materials in Britain as it has in Japan.<sup>24</sup>

## Notes:

1. Shimada, T. et al., eds., *The Yatoi—a Comprehensive Study of Hired Foreigners*, Shibunkaku, 1987; University of Fukui, ed., *W. E. Griffis Raifuku 140-nen Kinen Jigyō Oyatoi Gaikokujin Kyōshi Griffis-ten* ('Event Celebrating the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of W. E. Griffis' arrival in Fukui: Hired Foreign Instructor Griffis Exhibition), University of Fukui General Library, 2011.
2. Museum of the Printing Bureau, Ministry of Finance, ed., *Oyatoi Gaikokujin Chiossone Botsugo 100-nen: Sono Gyōseki to Meiji no Insatsu Bunka* ('100 Years after the Death of Hired Foreigner Chiossone: His Achievements and Meiji Printing Culture'), Museum of the Printing Bureau, Ministry of Finance, 1997; Italian Culture Institute, ed., *Oyatoi Gaikokujin Edoardo Chiossone to Sono Jidai-ten: Chiossone Rainichi 100-nen wo Kinen shite* ('Exhibition of Hired Foreigner Edoardo Chiossone and his Era: Celebrating 100 years since Chiossone's arrival in Japan'), Italian Culture Institute, 1976; etc.
3. Yokohama Archives of History, ed., *Yokohama Suido 100-nen Kinen: Mizu to Minato no Onshi H. S. Palmer-ten Zuroku* ('Catalogue of the H. S. Palmer, mentor in matters relating to Water and the Port Exhibition Commemorating

- 100 Years of Running Water in Yokohama'), Yokohama Archives of History, 1987; Yokohama Archives of History, ed., *R. H. Brunton: Nihon no Tōdai to Yokohama no Machizukuri no Chichi* ('R. H. Brunton: The Father of Japanese Lighthouses and the Development of Yokohama'), Yokohama Archives of History, 1991; *International Symposium on Colin Alexander McVean and His Achievements in Early Meiji Japan: For the 100-year Anniversary of His Death*, International Symposium on Colin Alexander McVean Executive Committee, 2012; Centre for East Asian Cultural Studies for UNESCO, ed., *Shiryō Oyatoi Gaikokujin* ('Documents on Foreign Advisors'), Shogakukan, 1975, p. 423, p. 443, etc.
4. Kelly & Co., *The Post Office London Directory for 1881*. W. Kelly & Co., London, 1880, p.134.
  5. Nagai, I., *Fūju no Nenrin* ('Rings of a wind-swept tree'), Haiku Kenkyusha, 1968, p.134.
  6. Burton, W. K., *The Water Supply of Towns and the Construction of Water-works, A Practical Treatise for the Use of Engineers and Students of Engineering*, Crosby Lockwood and Son, London, 1894 (2nd ed. 1898, 3rd ed. 1907, 4th ed. 1928).
  7. *Ji Meiji 27-nen Itaru Dō29-nen Gaikokujin Jokun Zakken Eikokujin no Bu* ('The Years Meiji 27 to Meiji 29, Miscellanea of Conferral of Awards to Foreigners, Section on British Persons'), Vol. 4 (housed in the Diplomatic Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan) & *Meiji 29-nen Jokun 2* ('Conferral of Awards in the Year Meiji 29, Part 2') (housed in the National Archives of Japan).
  8. Burton, W. K., *Burton's Modern Photography, Comprising Practical Instruction in Working Gelatine Dry Plates, Printing, etc., Formerly Published as the "ABC of Modern Photography"*, Piper & Carter, London, 9th ed., 1890; Do., *Burton's Manual of Photography*, P. Lund & Co., Bradford & London, 1895.
  9. Milne, J. & Burton, W. K., *The Great Earthquake of Japan, 1891*, Lane, Crawford & Co., Yokohama, 1891 & 1892. The publishers and years published of reprints of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions, respectively, are as follows: Hajime Umemura & Hiroyuki Aoyama (Tokyo), 1992, and the Association for the Development of Earthquake Prediction, Tokyo, 1993.
  10. *Deaths within the District of the British Consulate at Yokohama* (in the collection of the late Taeko Toriume).
  11. The grave is located at Type 1-B, No. 11, Side 11.
  12. "Taihoku Suido no Daionjin Ko Burton-shi" ('The late Mr. Burton, the great benefactor of running water in Taipei'), *Taiwan Nichinichi Shinpou*, March 30, 1919, p.7; "Uchū no Jomakushiki" ('Unveiling ceremony held in rain'), *Taiwan Nichinichi Shinpou*, March 31, 1919, p. 5; Inaba, K., *Toshi no Ishi Hamano Yashirō no Kiseki* ('The Urban Doctor: Tracing the Life of Yashirō Hamano'), Suido Sangyo Shinbun Co., 1993, pp. 414-415.
  13. For commemorative events held in Japan, see Executive and Planning Committee for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton's Birth, ed., *W. K. Burton Tanjō 150-nen Kirokushi Nichiei Kōryū Jigyō 2006 Hōkokusho* ('Record of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton's Birth, Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2006 Report'), Executive and Planning Committee for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of W. K. Burton's Birth, 2006, pp. 13-58, and this author's "Nihon Jōgesuidō no Chichi, W. K. Burton no Kōseki, Tanjō 150-nen Kinen ni yosete" ('W. K. Burton, the father of Japan's water supply and wastewater systems, on the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth'), *Chunichi Shimbun*, June 21, 2006, p. 6.
  14. For the following commemorative events held in Scotland, see Executive Committee for W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009, ed., *W. K. Burton Kinen Nichiei Kōryū Jigyō 2009 Hōkokusho* ('W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009 Report'), 2010, pp. 59-107. Commemorative events in Aberdeen were reported on in the following. Marshall, C., "Far East performance that's all relative," *Press and Journal*, September 6, 2006, p. 6.
  15. Kobayashi, M., "Scotland de no Burton Tanjō 150-nen Kinen Gyōji ni Sanka shite" ('Participating in events in Scotland

- celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Burton's birth'), *Monthly Journal of Sewerage*, Vol. 30, No. 1 (January 2007), p. 88.
16. *Ibid.*, p. 87.
  17. Joyce, C., 'Japanese to honour Briton who saved them from cholera', *Daily Telegraph*, 10 May 2006, p. 14. Radcliffe, I., 'Plaque Unveiled to engineer who revolutionised cities, Memorial for pioneer who transformed Japan skyline', *The Edinburgh Evening News* (12 Sept. 2006) p.20.
  18. For details of the events, see Executive Committee for W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009, ed., *loc. cit.*; Sakai, A., "W. K. Burton Kinen Nichiei Kōryū Jigyō 2009 Hōeidan ni Sanka shite" ('Joining the delegation to Britain for the W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009'), *Journal of the Japan Water Works Association*, Vol. 79, No. 3 (March 2010), p. 45; Taniguchi, N., "W. K. Burton Kinen Nichiei Kōryū Jigyō 2009 Hōei Hōkoku" ('Report on Trip to Britain for the W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009'), *Journal of Sewerage Monthly*, Vol. 33, No. 1 (January 2010), pp. 91-92.
  19. For details of the lectures, see Executive Committee for W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009, ed., *W. K. Burton Kinen Nichiei Kōryū Jigyō 2009 Hōkokusho* ('W. K. Burton Memorial Anglo-Japanese Exchange Project 2009 Report'), 2010, pp. 20-33; Sakai, A., *loc. cit.*
  20. Macleod, F., 'The genius Scot hailed a hero in Japan but forgotten in his homeland-until now', *The Scotsman* (12 Sept. 2009) p. 20; Swanson, B., 'The pioneering Scot who is a hero in Japan', *Daily Express* (6 Nov. 2009) .
  21. See fn. 18 above.
  22. Hollingworth, W., 'Scot honored for service to Japan, in 19th century, Burton gave vital boost to waste system', *The Japan Times* (6 Nov. 2009) p.3.
  23. Paraphrased from the Japanese. *Iwanami Sekai Jinmei Daijiten* ('Iwanami Encyclopedia of World Figures'), Iwanami Shoten Publishers, 2013, p. 2103.
  24. This paper, particularly Sections 2 and 3, overlaps in parts with my paper "Nihon Kindaika no Naka no Oyatoi Kyōshi Burton" ('Foreign educational advisor W. K. Burton in Japan's modernization'), *Kansai Eigakushi Kenkyū*, No. 2 (December 2006, pp. 79-97). I have therefore abridged the supplementary notes for these two sections.