

Xinhai Revolution



Documentary photo of the Xinhai Revolution
Revolutionary forces retreating under attack*



Paper screen with messages of the
participants in the revolution*

■ The revolution Sun Yat-sen pursued

Sun Yat-sen was born in 1866 to a farming family in Xiangshan County (present-day Zhongshan City), Guangdong Province. With the support of his brother, who had a successful business, he moved to Hawaii at the age of 12 and received a Western education. He returned to China in 1883, studied medicine in Hong Kong, and took his first step as a doctor in Macau. In 1894, he went to Hawaii again to organize the Revive China Society. In order to rescue the Chinese people from the armed domination of the Western powers and the inaction of the Qing government, he advocated the Three Principles of the People (nationalism, democracy, and people's livelihoods) and devoted his life to revolutionary projects.

■ Sun Yat-sen and Soong Ching-ling

Sun's revolutionary projects were a series of setbacks and failures. He became Provisional President of the Nanking government established by the 1911 Wuchang Uprising and the Xinhai Revolution seemed to have been a success. However, in order to suppress the old power of the Qing Dynasty, which was still unabated, he handed over the position of President to Yuan Shikai. When Yuan's rule turned into a dictatorship, Sun launched the Second Revolution. However, he was defeated by Yuan's military power and was forced to defect to Japan in 1913. During this period of exile in Japan, Sun met the woman of his destiny, Soong Ching-ling. They were married in 1915 through the efforts of Umeya Shokichi and his wife Toku. They became lifelong comrades.

■ Revolution of the women

Sun Yat-sen devoted his life to the revolution and Umeya Shokichi devoted his life to supporting him both materially and spiritually. Their roles and achievements cannot be described without mentioning the efforts of two women, Soong Ching-ling and Umeya Toku, who supported them behind the scenes. Because of this, the bond between these two wives was so strong that it could instantly jump the passage of time, national regimes, and changes in the environment.