

The bridge built by Sun Yat-sen and Umeya Shokichi



Photo at the ceremony to move Sun's coffin for interment*
The man in the center of the front row wearing a hakama skirt is Shokichi

■ A photo remaining in Shanghai

In November 1924, when Sun Yat-sen, who was working to achieve the Third Revolution, came to Japan and delivered his world-renowned Pan-Asianism speech in Kobe, Umeya Shokichi was sick in bed and the two were unable to meet. Mr. and Mrs. Umeya were very disappointed and sent Sun a photo of themselves side by side, smiling, with an accompanying note: "Here is a photo of July 11, 1924. Please accept it with our best wishes." But at that time, they probably had no idea that they would never see each other again. It was only several months later that Sun suddenly passed away.

■ Donating Sun Yat-sen's statues to China

After Sun's death, Shokichi was so discouraged that he remained in a state of shock and stupor. However, with the encouragement of those around him, he launched a project that could be called the culmination of his past efforts. He hoped to pass on Sun's achievements to future generations and lead the revolution that had not yet been completed. It was a grand project that involved spending his remaining personal fortune to create four statues of Sun Yat-sen to be presented to China.



晩年の庄吉

(※)

■ Bridge between Japan and China

The statues of Sun Yat-sen were greatly welcomed by the Chinese. In 1929, Shokichi was invited to China, where he was treated as a state guest. He stayed in Shanghai for two years as an advisor to the Chinese government, and even after returning to Japan, he worked hard to improve Japan-China relations, which were deteriorating day by day. However, he collapsed at Mikado Station in Chiba Prefecture, on his way to talk with Foreign Minister Hirota Koki, hoping to serve as a conduit for peace negotiations with China. He passed away a few days later. Up until the end of his life, he continued to hope to be a bridge between Japan and China.



Shokichi's favorite haori jacket*
(Written on the lining is Sun's handwriting)