

Issues on Ernst Posner Papers in NARA, from the Viewpoint of a Japanese Archivist

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Abstract: For the 10th Research Forum, I would like to discuss issues regarding the Ernst Posner Papers in the National Archives and Records Administration at College Park, Maryland, which I consulted for one day in 2014. My first question is why the National Archives holds such personal papers. I compared the personal records in the National Archives against the acquisition policy and the holdings of National Archives of Japan.

As I learned Posner's brief biography, I felt the power of his archival materials in the reading room. In the first box, there is a list written by him. I noticed the difference between his list and the physical order. We can learn how the archivist arranged his own archival materials.

For me, he is the author of *Archives in the Ancient World*; and I found the records of publication, drafts, and a lot of “cards” representing his source of knowledge. I also found the record of his service to the American Commission for the Protection and Salvage of Artistic and Historic Monuments in Europe (Robert Commissions) and the survey of the archives in Japan during and just after WWII. Because Japanese archivists seek the influence of General Head Quarter’s archival management policy as well as archival history, these records are significant.

Ernst Posner was an educator of Archival Science as well as an important member of the Society of American Archivists. His papers speak to the friendship among archivists, the vivid history of SAA, and the activities of International Council on Archives (ICA). Ernst Posner is honored both in SAA and his motherland, where he spent very hard days during WWII. From the view point of a Japanese new professional, I discuss what I can learn from the papers and the keepers of them.

About the Author:

Yayoi Tsutsui is a certified archivist by the Academy of Certified Archivists and a registered archivist of the Japan Society for Archival Science. She is a part-time lecturer of Hitotsubashi University and a part-time staff member of the National Institute of Japanese Literature. She is also a part-time student of Gakushuin University. She earned a Master of Arts in Archival Science degree from Gakushuin University, the first graduate school of Archival Science in Japan, in March 2010. She has served as a part-time staff member at the University Museum, the University of Tokyo and the Shibusawa Memorial Foundation. Yayoi Tsutsui received her Certificate of Museum Studies from Harvard University Extension School in 2001 while she was in Lexington, MA. She received a Bachelor of Arts from International Christian University in 1980.