

Report of exhibition of the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake Disasters in Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan: Aerial photographs and eye-witnesses' information by Dr. and Mrs. Yasumitsu Kanie (Geo-Kanagawa)

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At Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center, Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture, Japan, we had a series of talks (eight talks in all within one month, September 2018) together with panel exhibition on the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake and related tsunamis. This geohazardous performance to the society was fully organized by Dr. and Mrs. Yasumitsu Kanie (Geo-Kanagawa) under the coordination of the Learning Center of Yokohama City Fire Defence Agency. They display particularly the newly found aerial photographs mostly taken by Japanese military agencies just after the earthquake that occurred at 11:57 (JMT) of the 1st of September, 1923 (M 7.9) by Philippine Sea plate subduction along the Sagami trough just west of Yokohama (Figs. 1, 2 and 3). The researchers group of Geo-Kanagawa in these years has been engaged in working to find many lines of unknown or burried disaster related evidence due to shakes and tsunamis during the 1923 Great Kanto Earthquake in Kanagawa Prefecture.



Fig. 1. Exhibition and talk at Yokohama Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center.



Fig. 2. The Disaster Risk Reduction Learning Center of Yokohama City Fire Defence Agency.

They display many panels and posters of these dear results, including several documents (books, newspapers, reports etc.), some by Japanese people, but mostly by foreign people that include some ambassadors, consuls and maritime people of Belgium, France, Canada etc. who met the earthquakes and/or tsunamis in Kanagawa Prefecture. Some phenomena and results have been already known as sentences but not all are as figures, pictures and photographs, and even eye-witnesses' testimonies, but they did such after almost 100 years of the earthquake.

The exhibition and series of talks are to be significant and remarkable to the governmental or official people, citizens, school pupils as well as researchers who visited this exhibition. Important is that almost all the new information was found and organized by Dr. Yasumitu Kanie and Mrs. Yuki Kanie. They published one book on these results in 2018 (Fig. 3) in which most of the hidden aerial photographs taken on the same day or some day after the main shock by airship of Japanese Army are shown. Also some eye-witnesses' information of tsunamis is described, including a story by a 107 years old lady (Mrs. Fuji Takashima, 12 years old at that time), who was successful to escape from the tsunamis at Zushi beach on the Sagami Bay where is the epicenter. She herself attended the talk on 22nd of September to bear testimony to her experiences by her own voice (Figs. 4 and 5). Such new information and evidence are extremely important to know the real features and results of not only on the natural phenomena of earthquake and tsunamis themselves but also on the social and human reaction by and/or against the disasters that tell how the people suffered and are rescued (unfortunately 33 thousands people are lost in Yokohama City) and how we should act or be prepared for the

coming future disasters.

One of the results of the researches on the newly known report by Captain Robinson of the Canadian Ship (*Empress of Australia*, 22,000 tons) is dear. As we know through the talk by Dr. Yasumitsu Kanie and Mrs. Yuki Kanie, the captain wrote in the report (“Japanese earthquake: The fire and subsequent operations”, stored at Vancouver Maritime Museum, Canada) as several foreign ships (including *Empress of Australia* (Canada), *Andre le Bon* (France), and *Steel Navigator* (USA) which anchored at the Yokohama Harbor at that time) rescued the drowned people on the pier, and helped the refugees to accommodate to their ships from the beaches and harbors who are evacuating from the fires in the city (20,000 people in all). The ships also transported those rescued people to Kobe and Osaka, and returned back to Yokohama with necessary substances, including wares, foods and water, and delivered them to the refugees. Small boats supplied water from the ships to the refugees in the park of Yokohama (50,000 people in all). These activities have been forgotten or not well known, but Dr. and Mrs. Kanie’s exhumating efforts made possible the present-day people to remind.

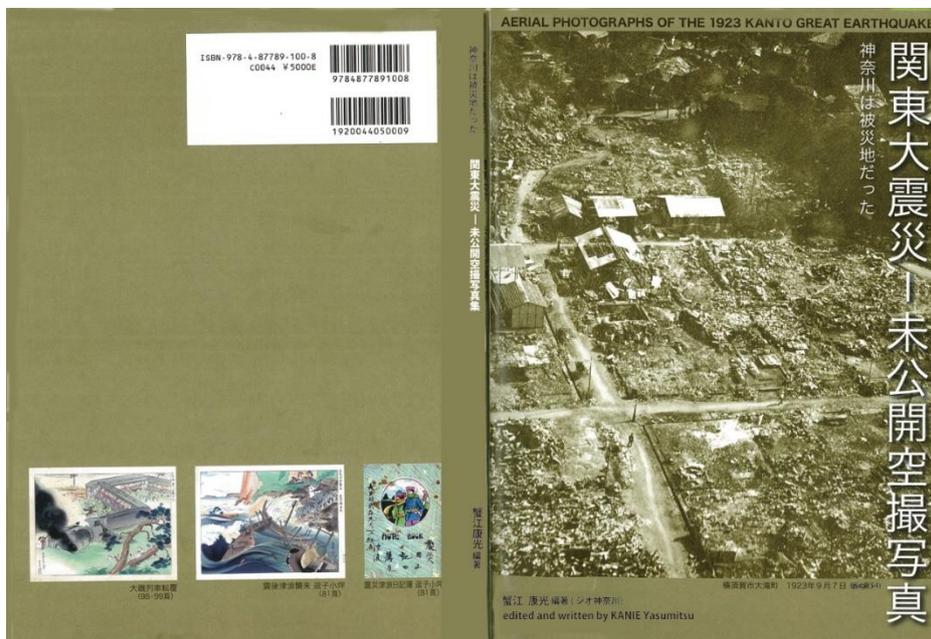


Fig. 3. Photograph book written by Dr. Yasumitsu Kanie (Geo-Kanagawa) with English preface and postscript. They intend to publish an English version.



Fig. 4. Mrs. Fuji Takashima (107 years old) attended the talk on 22nd of September, 2018, and bore testimony to the tsunamis at Kotsubo beach, Zushi City.



Fig. 5. Talk on the tsunami disasters at Kotsubo beach (Zushi City), known by the testimony of Mrs. Takashima (Fig. 4), newly found photographs, paintings (woodcuts), letters, reports and books. Mrs. Koko Umehara explaining the real tsunami phenomena and results.

(The End)