

Norwegian influence
on
Japanese whaling

Naomi Yabe Magnussen

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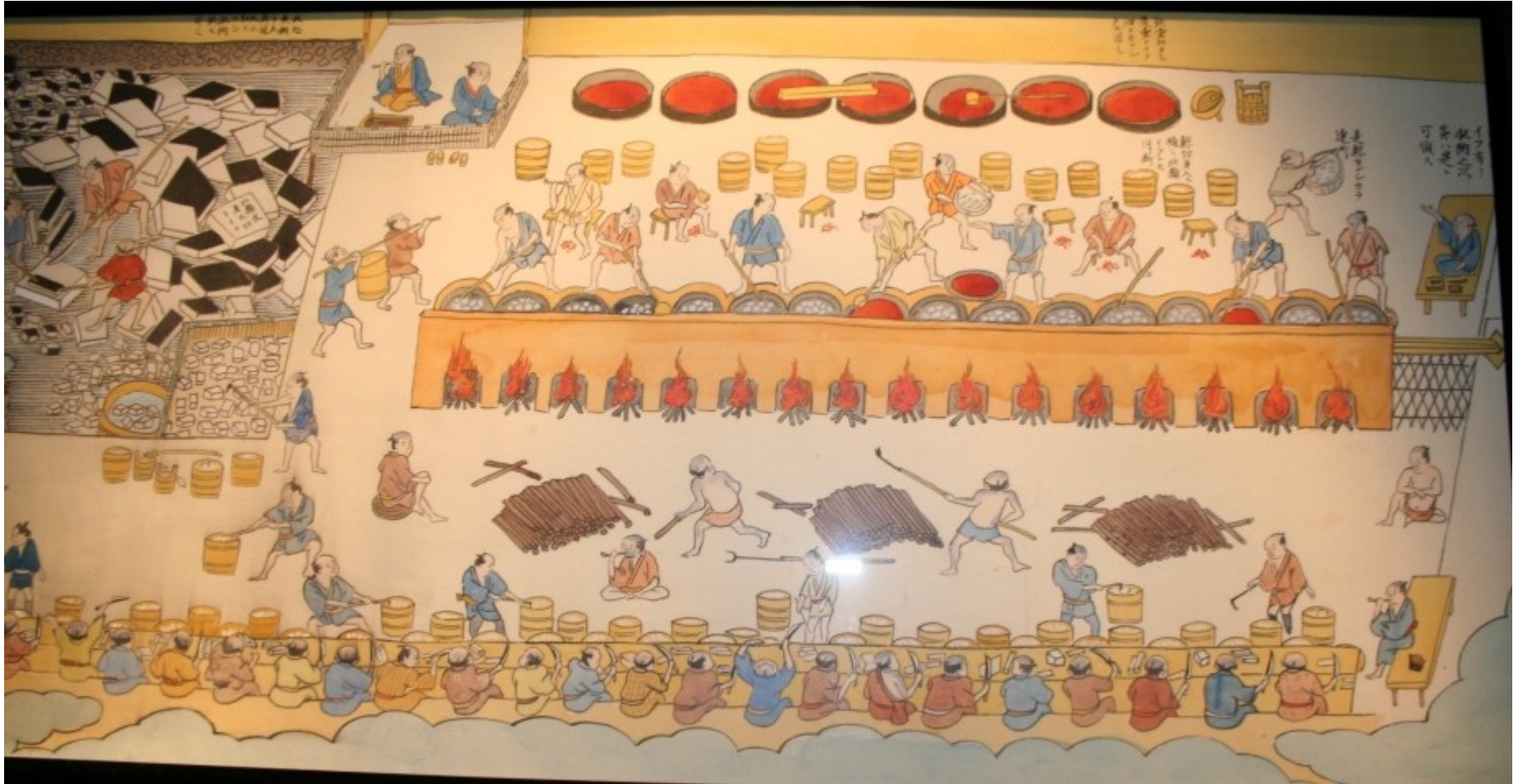
Japanese whale hunting

- In the 16th century, Japanese whale hunting began and toward the 17th century, the hunting methods developed into more organized practices, such as Tsukitori-ryo 突き取り猟, and amitori-ryo 網捕り猟)
- In contrast to the fact that only blubbers were consumed in the European countries and the US, in Japan, the whole whale was consumed.
- Whale meat was very important for Japanese in daily life. For example, it was also used as gift or payment.
- Japanese whale hunting was deeply rooted in the local culture, for example, in Shintoism.

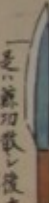








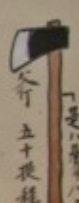
小切庖丁 五拾枚程用意



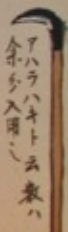
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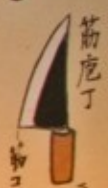
是ハ鯨船目外ノ松ヒニテ丸
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是ハ骨ヲハク入用ノ
大行 五十枚程



アハラハキト云、教ハ
余分入用ノ



竹節庖丁 二拾枚程
脚コサケル庖丁ト

鉄ニテ仕立

夕フ表



油俵候節、澤口上ケル道具ト、納屋ハ、ニハ
教余分入用ノ

柄五尺丸木

油柄杓 日



油ヲ汲上ル道具ト、教日断
柄五尺丸木

火カキ

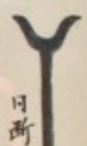


鉄ニテ仕立

是ハ壺ホ宛ナラズ、入用ナシ

柄九尺丸木

又火着



日断

是日断

柄九尺丸木

カキ棒

教多シ

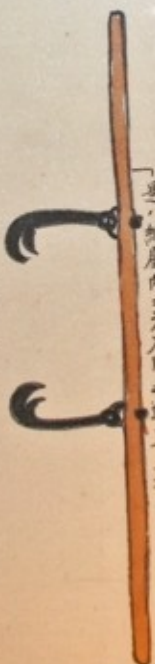


此棒長サ七尺余ニテ、廻リ九寸内外ノ

是ハ濱ニテ鯨切散ルニ、納屋ニ入ル道具ト

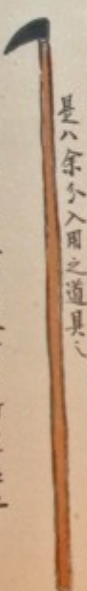
切身カキ

日



是ハ納屋内ニテ入用之道具ト、本ナラテ不入

カキ日



是ハ余分入用之道具ト

赤身持

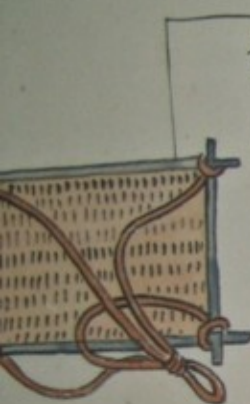
教入用



是ハ鯨納屋ヨリ持出ス道具ト、余分入用ノ

長サ六尺幅二尺許ニテ、竹ニテ仕立

鯨掛ハ風袋ト、是ヲオフコト云



職ノ籠

教入用



是ハ色々入持、ハコフ道具ト

是ヲ
万力
ト云



大キナル骨ナト、ニ
是ヲ打込、荷ク
道具ト

Pressure from the outside of the world

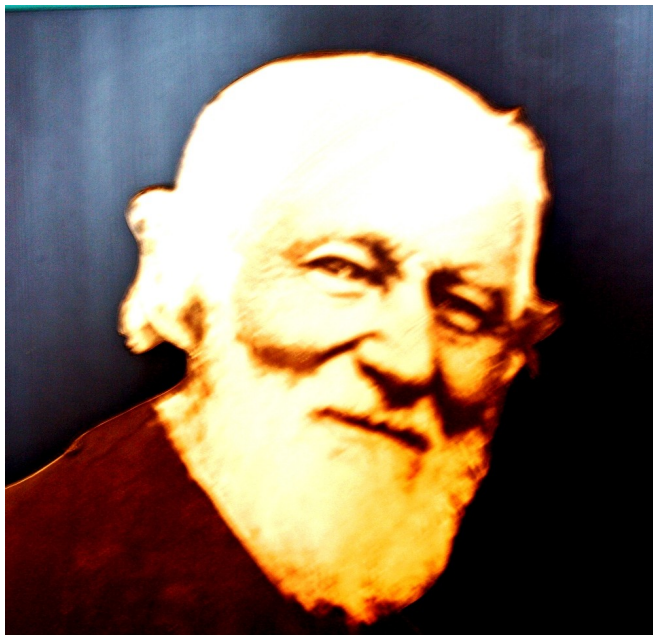
- Western whaling ships approached to Japanese coasts in the beginning of 1800.
- Several American whaling ships were wrecked on Japanese shores.
- Japanese whaling ships were also wrecked in the Atlantic Ocean and fishermen were rescued by the American whaling boats. And some of them emigrated to the US.
- The whaling issue was one of the hidden reasons for the US to request the opening the country. (For example in order to have hunting bases in Japan.)

Pressure from the outside of the world

- The introduction of modern western whale hunting methods led to the decline of the traditional Japanese whale hunting
- Japan had no choice but to modernize the whaling system (in order to compete).
- Nakahama Manjirô (中浜 万次郎) tried to introduce American whaling methods to Japan, but did not succeed.

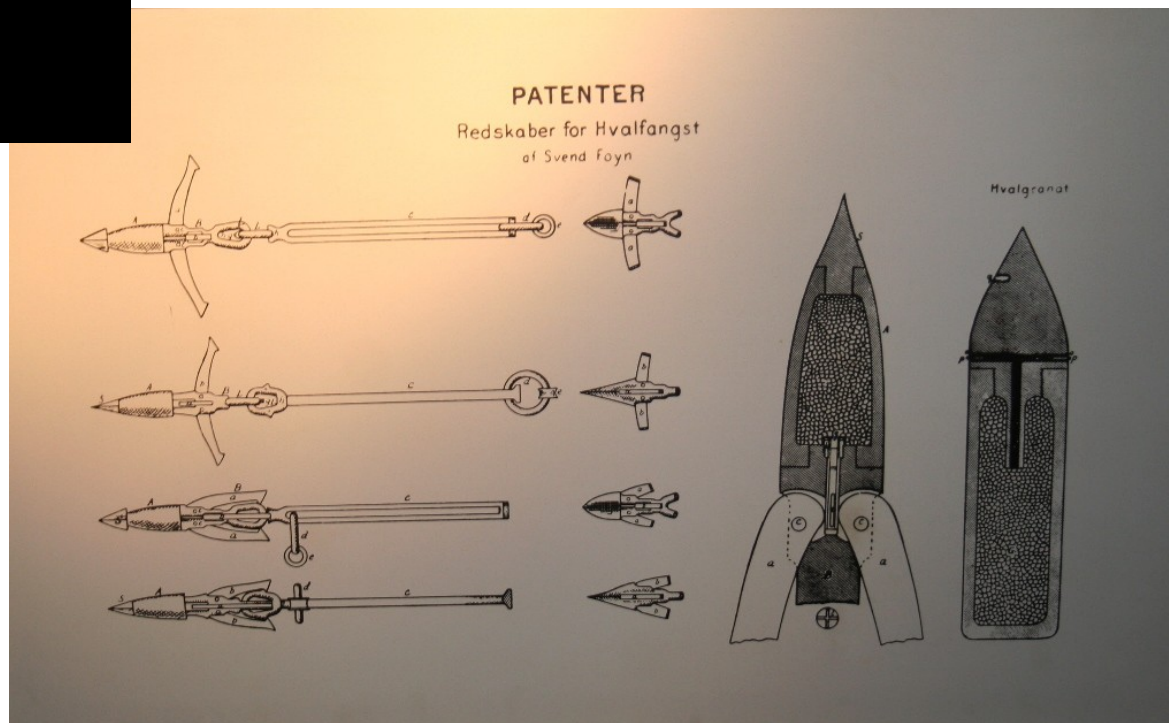
Russian and Norwegian whale hunting

- Norwegian Svend Foyn invented a grenade harpoon in the 1860's. This was the beginning of modern whale hunting. (砲殺捕鯨法 = ノルウェー式捕鯨)
- This method was more reliable than the American method.
- The Norwegian method was so successful that Russians employed Norwegians in their whale hunting industry.
- In the 1890s, Japanese were already interested in the Norwegian whale hunting method in Vladivostok.



Svend Foyn (1809-94)

and grenade harpoon



Introduction of Norwegian whale hunting method to Japan

- Japanese Oka Jûrô (岡 十郎) visited Tønsberg, Norway in 1897 to learn modern Norwegian whale hunting methods (ノルウェー式捕鯨)
.
- In 1898 the first Japanese whaling company, *Nihon Enyo Gyogyo Kabushikigaisha* (日本遠洋漁業株式会社) was established and Norwegian gunners were employed.

Oka Jûrô

岡 十郎

明治3年(1870)－
大正12年(1922)



Conditions for Norwegian gunners

Morten Pedersen in Japan

- Pedersen was employed by Oka's Nihon Enyo gyogyo in Yamaguchi, Japan.
- He had a right to employ Norwegian sailors for whaling.
- Salary: 200 yen per month, bonus: 30 yen per whale
- They received free food on board and had a right for four weeks salary in case of illness.
- They received 100 yen on returning to Norway after the service.

Gunner Morten Pedersen

- An average of 60 whales caught in a year during Pedersen's period.
- His income was almost 8000nok per year.
- Salary for Norwegian gunners in Norway was about 2500nok per year at that time.
- Salary for Norwegian sailors he employed: 30yen per month, bonus 3yen per whale

Oka continued whaling

- Even if the whaling ship wrecked in 1901, Oka never gave up whaling.
- He chartered two Norwegian whaling ships to continue. (5000 yen a month)
- 7-8years from this period, Japanese whaling called "charter catching".

Norwegian technology to Japan

- Japanese whaling companies built fully equipped whaling ships in Norway
- Norwegian whaling specialists, such as gunners, sailors were also employed by Japanese.
- However, processing whales did not follow the same procedure in Norway and Japan since the use of the whale was different.

Japanese whale process

- Though the technology was imported from Norway, the processing of the whales remained according to the Japanese way.

Critics to export of Norwegian technology to Japan

- Norwegian newspapers encouraged to break out of the whale hunting relationship between Japan and Norway.
- Norwegian authorities demanded to have influence over the whale market in Japan.
- Norwegian whaling experts assumed that the Japanese could never master their hunting technique





Reference

- Kalland, Arne, and Moeran B. (1992) *Japanese whaling : end of an era?* London: Curzon.
- Mageli, Eldrid. (2006) Norwegian-Japanese whaling relations in the early 20th century. *Scandinavian Journal of History*, Vol. 31, No. 1, 1-16
- Mageli, Eldrid (2006) *Towards Friendship. The relationship between Norway and Japan, 1905-2005.* Oslo : Unipub

- **The Whaling Museum**

Museumsgaten 39, Sandefjord, Norway

<http://www.whalingmuseum.com/Default.asp?Cat=24>

Pictures in this presentation are from The Whaling Museum
(Oka Jûrô's picture is form Shimonoseki City's home page)

- **The Whaling Museum Library**

Sandefjord Public Library, Sandefjord City Hall, Sandefjoedsveien 3

<http://www.sandefjord.folkebibl.no/hvalfangst/whalingmuseum.html>