

DR ISAMU KAWASE AND THE FIRST BOOK ON NEW ZEALAND IN JAPANESE

The Library was fortunate to purchase in a bundle at auction some time ago an unusual and still slightly mysterious item. Its interest in bibliographical, biographical and even historical terms has been brought out through a combination of expert assistance and even a measure of luck, which incidentally raises the whole problem of bibliographical control of oriental material.

The most important step, of course, was the initial purchase and provides a good example of the art of not judging a book solely by its covers. These are of stiffened paper with a pleasant pastoral half-tone of a shepherd leaning on his stock, dog at heel, gazing at a few grazing sheep. Whatever the sky was like it has been replaced by a bright orange wash—it could have been anywhere. The oriental characters of the text and on the covers may have been unhelpful at the time, but there was no mistaking the maps on the endpapers. Those at the (Japanese) front depict New Zealand solidly black, bearing aloft its proud flag, as the centre of the Southern Hemisphere of a world where other countries are mere outlines. At the end, pictorial maps of the three islands innocently show mountain ranges and where cows, wheat, geysers, whales and even Scots in kilts are to be found, arrows showing distances to other ports in traditional style. Apart from a considerable number of tables there are a few small half-tone illustrations typical of travel books—the Remarkables, Mount Cook, Wellington harbour, for example. The most surprising feature is a 12-page bibliography in English of English-language books on all aspects of New Zealand life, history and conditions ranging from Percy Smith's *Hawaiki*, the Proceedings of Grasslands Conferences 1-8 to Andersen's *The lure of New Zealand book collecting*. As the majority have publication dates in the 1920's and 30's it is an impressively comprehensive list; as some had been published after the start of World War II it became even more interesting to identify the work.

Through the Translation Service of the Department of Internal Affairs the Library was able to have translated the preliminary matter, including what was obviously a preface and contents list, the final page of the bibliography which was in Japanese and the final leaf. The transliterated title was 'Minami no Risokyo, New Zealand' (in English 'Southern Utopia—New Zealand'); its author being Isamu Kawase, who is noted as having written three other books between 1930 and 1941 on pasture and the breeding of livestock, especially sheep. This work was published by the Maruzen Company on 1 August 1941, three months before Pearl Harbour. Both the Library of Congress's massive *National Union Catalogue of pre-1956 imprints* and the printed catalogue of the (then)