

Tribute to the Koizumi Fumio Memorial Archive ('KFMA')

KOSHIBA Harumi

I am very pleased that the Koizumi Fumio Memorial Archive has received the “Special Prize of the Koizumi Fumio Music Prize for Ethnomusicology”.

This archive is extremely valuable because a wide range of research and investigation materials of one particular ethnomusicologist are collectively stored in one place.

There may be some who feel a little uncomfortable about KFMA's winning the Koizumi Fumio Music Prize.

Incidentally, one of the first winners of the music prize was the Ethnomusicology Research Group of Tokyo University of the Arts, which was initiated by Professor Koizumi.

I made an acceptance speech on that occasion as the representative of the group, and said “I take this award as a message from the late Professor Koizumi for us to work harder in future.” I do remember that the award truly encouraged us in our work.

Similarly, this award, which is the last and the final Music Prize, seems to us as an encouragement by the late Mrs. Koizumi.

There are two anecdotes I would like to share you with.

The first one is about when and how these materials were brought to the Tokyo University of the Arts.

Professor Koizumi passed away suddenly in August 1983 when his house in Sakuradai, Nerima Ward, was in the process of reconstruction. A great number of books, records, photos, recorded tapes and many instruments of various shapes needed to be sorted out. I remember that Professor Koizumi obtained a lot of cardboard boxes from the King Record Company and packed those materials, which were stacked in the room, by himself. After he passed away, Mrs. Koizumi gave careful consideration to the best way to prevent the materials from being dispersed and on the best method to keep traces of Prof. Koizumi's thoughts. She concluded it best to donate all the materials in one lot to the Music Department of the Tokyo University of the Arts.

All the materials were transferred on October 20, only two months after his death. It was almost impossible to transfer everything in such a short time. But it was successfully done because Prof. Koizumi had already done some packing beforehand himself.

The second story is regarding ‘Personal Archives’.

A newspaper article (Nikkei on April 6, 2020) reports as follows.

“The challenges of personal archiving are not only how to preserve the materials but also how to utilize them. Personal archive is difficult to be established due to problems of facility to store, personnel and funds, etc. However, the merit of personal archive is that

it makes people possible to access to the whole picture of a particular person's thoughts and background. We may say that the accumulation and the quality of such personal archives indicate the country's potential for knowledge.”

I agree with this writer.

Almost 40 years after his death, when we see the current situation in which Professor Koizumi's materials are sorted out systematically, released open to the public to be used, I am probably not the only one who feels that Mrs. Koizumi made the right decision.

I also believe that the efforts by concerned people are immeasurable, people such as Professor Tsuge, who was the first director of the Memorial Archive, the second director, Prof. Uemura, and those who have been involved in the KFMA, especially Ms. ODAKA Akiko, Ms. MATSUMURA Chikako and Mr. OHARA Takayoshi , who are currently in charge of the archive's work.

Professor Koizumi attached great importance to personal interaction through music.

He always approached music with great curiosity and contemplated flexibly.

The materials in the archives must contain an abundance of seeds for thought of Prof. Koizumi's waiting to be discovered. If people of a new generation dig out such seeds, they shall be brought to new light and new flowers may bloom.

I sincerely hope that the KFMA continues to disseminate the information of Professor Koizumi and to keep the materials open to the public, meeting the needs of the times.

Congratulations on the Music Prize award!

(Committee Member, Professor Emerita: Tokai University)