

The “Everyday Life” of a Japanese Colonial Official in Taiwan:

A Case Study of Utsumi Chūji’s Diary

Hui-yu Caroline Ts’ai

ABSTRACT

In the past decade, diaries are becoming a major source for research in Taiwan, as they are now increasingly available for public use. In Japan, thanks to the recent discovery of the diary of Utsumi Chūji 内海忠司, scholars of Japan’s colonial empire are now for the first time able to peep into the inside world of a middle-ranking colonial bureaucrat in the interwar years. In this paper, I take up the year of 1935 as a case study by focusing on key social activities of Utsumi in a transitional period when he moved that fall from his post as Prefecture Governor (*chiji* 知事) of Shinchiku (新竹, or Xinzhu) to that of Takao (高雄, or Gaoxiong). The diary offers insights into a particular case of “everyday modernity” as well as social networking.