

Edison と日本

1. 京都石清水八幡宮の竹を白熱電球のフィラメントに

<http://www.iwashimizu.or.jp/story/kj.php?seq=15&category=0>

<http://daikaiun.jp/info/column.html> に詳細

2. 御木本幸吉

<http://kokichi.mikimoto.com/html/p3.html>

真円真珠の養殖に成功。そして時の発明王エジソンとの会談

その後、10年以上もの長い年月をかけて真円真珠の養殖にも成功した幸吉は、養殖真珠の発明者として世界でも知られるようになります。1927年（昭和2年）欧米視察に出ている幸吉は、ニューヨーク郊外のエジソン邸を訪問、世界の発明王との会談が実現します。エジソンは贈り物として出されたミキモトパールを見つめ感嘆して言いました。「これこそ、真の真珠です。私の研究所で出来なかったものが2つだけあります。一つはダイヤモンド、もう一つは真珠です。あなたが動物学上からは不可能とされていた真珠を発明し完成されたことは、世界の驚異です。」当時の「ニューヨークタイムス」でもこの会談は掲載され、アメリカでもミキモトパールの名が飛躍的に知れ渡ることになりました。

<http://www.mikimotoamerica.com/legacy>

1927 MEETING WITH THOMAS EDISON

Kokichi Mikimoto visits the inventor Thomas Edison at his home in New Jersey. An admiring Edison remarks, "There are two things which couldn't be made in my laboratory - diamonds and pearls."

<http://www.mikimoto.co.uk/blog/about-our-heritage/triumph-against-adversity/>

Mikimoto had to constantly fight allegations that his pearls were only "imitations" of real pearls, despite scientific reports to the contrary. It wasn't until 1927, when Kokichi had the opportunity to meet Thomas Edison that this perception began to shift.

Admiring the Mikimoto pearl that Kokichi presented to him, Edison declared, "This isn't a cultured pearl, it's a real pearl. There are two things which couldn't be made at my laboratory—diamonds and pearls. It is one of the wonders of the world that you were able to culture pearls. It is something which is supposed to be biologically impossible." The meeting was reported in the New York Times, and Mikimoto pearls were almost instantly in demand.

<http://www.karipearls.com/letter-from-thomas-edison-to-mikimoto-at-pearl-island.html>

Letter from Thomas Edison to Mikimoto at Pearl Island, 1927

Read a letter from Thomas Edison to Mikimoto at Pearl Island. Get a glimpse of the friendship between these two inventors.

In 1927, during a tour of the U.S. and Europe, Kokichi Mikimoto met a man he highly admired--Thomas Edison. He and Edison visited together at Thomas Edison's home in West Orange, New Jersey--a memorable event in Mikimoto's life. Here is the contents of a letter from Thomas Edison to Mikimoto at Pearl Island. At the time of this letter Mikimoto was age 69 and Edison age 80.

Letter from Thomas Edison

Dear Kokichi,

Allow me to thank-you for the very fine photograph of yourself, which you kindly autographed and sent by the hand of Mr. Ikeda.

I'm very glad to learn from him and Mr. Lee that your enterprise is succeeding well and I congratulate you not only upon that fact but on your decoration by the Japanese government.

With all good wishes, I remain very truly,

Thomas Edison

Thomas Edison quote

During their visit together, while examining a pearl, Edison said to Kokichi,

"This isn't a cultured pearl, it's a real pearl. There are two things which couldn't be made at my laboratory--diamonds and pearls. It is one of the wonders of the world that you were able to culture pearls. It is something which is supposed to be biologically impossible."

Kokichi responded, "If you were the moon of the world of inventors, I would simply be one of the many tiny stars."