

あとがき

一、本書の編集刊行には旧同盟通信社の多くの同志諸兄が忍耐づよく長期にわたって協力した。いつの間にか自然発生的に生れてきたわが国初期の通信社はもとより、その後、次第に組織化されて世界のどの国の通信社にも劣らぬ陣容と機能を備えて今日に至った大通信社についても、さて正確なデータに即した一つの系統的な歴史を書くとなると、余りにも資料が乏しかつたり、不完全であつたりするのに、今さらのように驚かされた。殊に大戦の末期に「同盟」別館をはじめ関係者中にも戦災をこらむつた人が多かつたために、必要な記録やデータの収集や確認に予想外の困難を経験した。そういう条件の下に基盤的な調査の努力を根気よく続けてくれたのは天野良和、故小野田正、秋山操、藤井信次郎、浅野豊、長林密藏、のちに佐々木健児などの諸君であった。

一、各章別に担当者が分担執筆したが、多きは数回、少きも一回以上、稿を改め、内容の可及的正確と行文の調和に努めた。内容の正確を期するため、それぞれ関係の深い章の草稿に目を通し、校閲ないし加筆していただいた人々は板垣武男、塚本義隆、鷹嘴寿、加藤万寿男、岩本清、萩原忠三、座間勝平、折橋慶治、波多博、佐々木健児、大川幸之助、船木重光、小野敏夫、鈴木建、高木一実、升井芳平その他の諸君である。

一、また隨時、それぞれの関係者の座談会を開いて執筆者ならびに編集委員の参考に資したが、こ

の種の会合に出席し、また草稿や質問応答等の方法で協力を惜しまれなかつた人々は、一々列挙するに遑がないほど多数に上つた。この機会に厚く謝意を表したい。

一、各章の執筆分担は、第一章総説および第二章初期の通信社を天野良和君、故小野田正君、第三章帝国通信社を藤井信次郎君、第四章国際通信社と第五章東方通信社を秋山操君、第六章日本電報通信社を故小野田正君、藤井信次郎君、渡辺孟次君、第七章新聞聯合社と第九、第十両章同盟通信社を秋山操君、第八章滿州国通信社を藤井信次郎君、第十一章共同通信社を大星石松君、第十二章時事通信社を秋山操君、第十三章海外の通信社を殿木圭一君、第十四章通信機構を鷹嘴寿君と秋山操君にお願いした。また巻末の年表は浅野豊君の嘗々苦心の結果に成るものである。

一、以上各章の草稿は各編集委員またはその代理者において一回ないし数回閲読、さらに全巻におのずから一脉の流れあるごとく補筆調整し、また内容的にも細部に至るまで努めて調査し正確を期した。しかし最終の責任はあくまで編集委員長の負うべきものである。

一、写真の収集、選択、レイアウトなどには藤井信次郎、中田義次、高木凱人、内山林之助、角田匡、不動健治、小椋留吉の諸君が協力してくれた。

一、印刷には特に太平印刷社に多大の労をかけたことを特記して謝意を表したい。

一、なお共同通信社と時事通信社の項は、両社が共に現存の通信社である関係上、委員長より、草稿の査閲をそれぞれ松方三郎、長谷川才次の両君にお願いした。併せてここに謝意を表する次第

である。

一、その他、本書の編集刊行に協力を惜しまれなかつた人々の名前を逸すること多いのを恐れる。これらの人々には非礼を深くお詫び申し上げる。

一、最後に、申し添えるまでもないことではあるが、本書の刊行には終始、前「同盟」社長・通信社史刊行会会长・古野伊之助氏が総括的指示を与え、関係者を激励せられたことを付記しておきたい。本書は恐らく古野会長の意図せられたところに及ばざること遠いものがあるに違いない。それらの欠陥を不日関係同志諸兄の執筆による「想い出集」（仮称）とでも言うべきものによつて補足することができれば、興味深いものがあろうと信ずる。

一九五八年十月三十一日

財人通信社史刊行会

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委員

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横松長岡

谷

村

田方

川

三才二武誠

実郎次一男一

昭和三十三年十二月一日 印刷

『通信社史』

発行所 財團法人 通信社史刊行会

発行人 長林密藏

印刷所 株式会社 太平印刷社

crisis came in the end over Japan. Japan provides a good example of how the Agency Treaties worked and of the nature of the American objection to them. Since the early 1870s, when Tokyo, still suspicious of the outside world, received its first regular news of the West from a Reuter Agent, Japan had been 'Reuter territory'. Reuters kept virtual control of all the news coming into Japan from the rest of the world and of most of the news going out. Until 1913 the position was practically unchanged. Then, with Reuters' support, a group of Japanese business-men set up the first Japanese news agency, Kokusai, which was soon distributing domestic and foreign news in Japanese newspapers in Japan and in Japanese possessions. But the foreign news still came almost entirely from Reuters, and Reuters had exclusive rights in the rest of the world to Kokusai's own domestic news of Japan.

The first incentive to the Associated Press to change this order of things was not so much hostility to Reuters' control; it was a belief among prominent Australian newspaper publishers that Kokusai was giving both the news it supplied to Reuters, and the news it distributed itself in Japan and Japanese possessions, a deliberately anti-American flavour.

Determination to establish a direct interchange of news between the Associated Press and the Japanese newspapers soon followed. It was heralded by the replacement of Kokusai in 1926 by a co-operative newspaper-owned Agency, Rengo. Its full English title, 'Associated Press of Japan', showed the new Agency's orientation; its distinguished Managing Director, Yukichi Iwanaga, although friendly to Britain, desired a direct contact with America. Here was material for a crisis. To Reuters, Japan was still 'Reuter territory'; to Kent Cooper, the claim was one of the barriers to the free interchange of international news, and he was determined to break it down. The Japanese Agency itself was moving towards the Associated Press and beginning to chafe under its exclusive contract with Reuters.

In response to pressure from the Associated Press in 1932 from the restrictive clauses of the Sino-Japanese Treaty barring the Associated Press from entering China and Japan. In 1933 the crisis came. Kent Cooper went to Japan and made a contract with Iwanaga under which Rengo would take a news service from the Associated Press and would make its own news service available to America through the Associated Press. They did not attempt to evict Reuters from Japan; what the Associated Press obtained from Rengo was equality of status *vis-à-vis* the British Agency. This contract was allowable under the arrangement of 1932; but the negotiations were carried out without Reuters being informed first. This Sir Roderick Jones regarded as an unfriendly act from an Agency still in alliance with Reuters. A special meeting of the Reuter Board formally denounced the Treaty between Reuters and the Associated Press. A traditional alliance seemed to have ended.

But in London facts had to be faced. More than a relationship between two news agencies was at stake: this was a matter of concern to the newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic. It was clear that the old order was gone and that the new ideas represented by the Associated Press had come to stay. Kent Cooper decided to accept defeat and on February 12th, 1933, Sir Roderick Jones was in New York to sign a new agreement with the Associated Press which for the first time gave both Agencies a free hand to issue news everywhere in the world. Each Agency could now serve any newspaper or news agency in any country, without the other's consent. This was the fulfilment of Kent Cooper's ambition. The Associated Press now had what he had fought for since the First World War: the right to the free exchange of news throughout the world and the right to sell Associated Press news in all countries without restriction.

It was also the end of a news-agency era. With the crumbling of the old Four-Power alliance went the central idea upon