



SOPHIA 100th ANNIVERSARY
SOPHIA JUNIOR COLLEGE 40th ANNIVERSARY
SOPHIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE 50th ANNIVERSARY



The Brick-by-Brick Fund-Raising Campaign for Building Number 1 NO.8

1. Sophia's Building Number 1 was constructed thanks to the generous financial contributions from people all over the world

The German Jesuit Father Hubert Cieslik, a gifted scholar of the history of Japan during the periods of religious persecutions of Christians, used to recall his youth whenever he walked past Building Number 1.



A recent picture of Building Number 1

“Even now, whenever I walk near here, I recall that a brick that I and my classmates paid for is somewhere within this building.” By ‘here’, Father Cieslik meant the building constructed on the Sophia campus in 1932. Speaking more precisely, the building to whose construction he contributed is the successor to the red brick university building, and is not constructed of bricks at all. Rather,

it is a ferro-concrete-constructed structure with a total of five floors (four above ground, the fifth a semi-basement). Therefore, why could he say that the brick he purchased was somewhere inside this building?

In 1928, following the guidelines of the Law on Universities, Sophia was raised to the status of a university, in answer to the fervent desires of the administrators and faculty



Father Bruno Bitter, SJ

members. Consequently, a school building that could provide for many more students became urgently necessary. A campaign to raise a building fund by contributions from outside Japan was therefore started immediately. Another German Jesuit priest, Bruno Bitter, had to busy himself with such fund-raising activities. He set up a fund-raising office in Cologne in Germany and arranged for paper leaflets describing the goal of the fund-raising to be sent to Catholic schools and churches not only in Germany but also in the Netherlands, France, the United States and elsewhere.

An example of the German-language version of this fund-raising leaflet is reprinted on the right. The leaflet picture shows a drawing of the red brick school building at Sophia that was destroyed during the Great Kanto Earthquake. Below the picture, the German text begins with the request: Would you please help to build this again? Underneath the text is a drawing of 25 bricks (horizontal rectangles) arranged in six rows on top of each other. One each brick/rectangle is written the sum of one Reichsmark. The text on the fundraising leaflet continues: Please embed one or two of these bricks, with your name written on each one, in our new school building. The drawing shows the handwritten names of donors on each brick/rectangle. Some brick surfaces do not contain any names, for persons of good will pledged the money anonymously. One can see

the name of the same person on more than one brick/rectangle. Some of the handwriting is obviously that of a small child. Sometimes the written name does not cover the entire brick/rectangle, for cases where the amount donated was less than one Reichsmark. Many of these donation pledge pamphlets are carefully preserved in the Archives of Sophia. If one counts the pledge sheets available, one finds German pledges in first place with 19,375 bricks, 400 pledge bricks from France, and 75 from America.

Father Cieslik wrote an article for a Festschrift in honor of Father Bitter, which appeared in the Jesuit-sponsored devotional magazine "The Messenger of the Sacred Heart". Father Cieslik explained: I was a junior high school student, about fourteen or fifteen years old. One day, one of those fund-raising leaflets found its way into our classroom. My classmates and I had only very small amounts of spending money, but when we pooled our money together, we could buy one brick. When Father Klaus Luhmer proceeded to Germany as Chancellor of Jochi Gakuin to raise money for the new Faculty of Science and Engineering, the former Chancellor of Germany Konrad Adenauer told a similar story: I remember that my son brought home such a fund-raising leaflet.

One more well-known world figure had a great influence on the fund-raising for



This photograph shows one form of the sheet for soliciting donations. The rectangles represent bricks. 1 RM means one Reichsmark. The names of the donors are in handwriting.

Sophia's new academic building. This was Pope Pius the Eleventh. The Pope supported the fund raising activity by writing: I will gladly bestow my Papal Blessing along with my fatherly thanks and great love on all beloved faithful who contribute some money to the school building construction

program at Sophia University. There were two types of acknowledgement certificates for contributions to this building fund campaign. One



Pope Pius XI

is shown in the picture on the left. The other had a picture of 50 bricks piled up to make a wall. On this certificate was written: Please help the efforts of the Pope to build a new academic building for the Catholic University in Tokyo. The Pope earnestly requests your cooperation. Whatever you give to the Pope, you give to the Risen Lord. As many as 3150 brick contributions were raised by these Papal-assisted efforts. Thus, our Building Number 1 was supported by donations from people all over the world. The construction was completed thanks to the good will of so many individuals, as expressed in the Red Brick Fund-Raising campaign.

This certificate says that, during the Holy Year of 1929, the religious sisters of the Freidrich Hospital in Willingen have donated five Reichsmark to the Catholic University in Tokyo out of love and respect for His Holiness Pope Pius the Eleventh, on the occasion of the golden jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood.



This photograph shows Fr. Hoffmann, the university president, reading the cornerstone documents in Latin during the cornerstone laying ceremony of Building Number 1.

2. Some Historical Changes Involving Building

Number 1

The cornerstone laying ceremony for Building Number 1 was conducted in 1930 with considerable dignity. Inside the cornerstone were placed the related documents, the lists of faculty members and current students, a medallion of Cardinal O'Connell, newly minted Japanese coins, and other items. The building was completed on June 12, 1932. Even before the completion, 32,000 volumes were arranged in the library rooms, and classes had started that April. The architect was a Swiss professional named Max Hinder. The building-related property measured about 4580



The picture shows classroom 1-403 full of wide-awake male students of Sophia about 1935

square meters. The lengthy building completion ceremonies lasted from June 12th through June 19th. Events included a public commemorative ceremony, presentations of recorded music, dramatic performances, commemorative lectures, a lecture about Goethe and a movie of his famous work Faust. The new university orchestra presented a concert, the

journalism department sponsored an exhibition, and the clubs for mountain climbing and for automobile tours participated. The representative from the Holy

See to Japan was kind enough to join some of the ceremonies. The international flavor of the completion ceremonies was increased by the presence of many guests, including some from overseas.

Having escaped damage from the bombs dropped during the raids on Tokyo during the Second World War, Building Number 1 remains today as the oldest university building. At the time of its completion, the building was a source of pride because of its modern design, complete with an elevator that no longer exists, and because of its typically German sturdy construction. On the first floor, the building featured a spacious entrance area, with offices, a library and a reading room. On the second, third, and fourth floors, one could find a variety of small and large classrooms. In the basement, there was a dining room for students, a Japanese bath, and a room for changing clothes,



This picture shows the auditorium in Building Number 1. It could seat about 310 people and was used for a variety of purposes.

along with a workshop and rooms for machines. On the second and third floors of the west section, there was a multi-purpose auditorium. This was used before the war for the opening ceremonies of the school year and for the graduation ceremonies of the university, as well as for public lectures and presentations of student drama clubs. After the war, the room was used as a very large classroom for community college

events and general education classes. When the university gymnasium was built in 1971, many of the major ceremonies were shifted there, because it was much wider. The former auditorium was and is



Student drama clubs could present plays in the Little Theatre of Sophia, the present version of the auditorium of Building Number 1.

primarily used for student theatrical and dance productions.

3. Another Red Brick Building Fund Campaign is planned for the new 21st century

Sophia University will celebrate the centennial of its foundation in 2013. It hopes to accomplish educational activities of such a high level that it will be internationally evaluated as an institution that can compete with the best educational institutions in the world. A building fund campaign is under way to achieve these high aims. This will be positioned as the 21st century version of the Red Brick Fund Raising Drive. We hope that many graduates living in Japan and many living overseas will generously respond to these appeals.