

## 日本盲人図書館開館直後の活動実態

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An account of the activities following the opening of the Japan Library for the Blind

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### 要約

1940 年 11 月に開館した日本盲人図書館（現・日本点字図書館）は今日、日本最大の視覚障害者のための図書館に発展している。創設者である本間一夫（1915～2003）は、開館準備の内容や開館後の業務の内容を大学ノートに点字で書き取っていた。その大学ノートが 2010 年、日本点字図書館内で複数発見された。これらのノートは、これまで詳らかにされていなかった開館前後の状況を語る貴重なものである。本報告では、1940 年 11 月 10 日の開館から 12 月 31 日までの 1 ヶ月余りに注目し、この間の活動を明らかにし、考察する。

「図書館」は借家で約 700 冊の点字図書を並べた。有料で月刊の「図書館ニュース」を備え、この月に創刊号を出し全国の盲学校へ送付した。視覚障害者の反応が良く 1 ヶ月で全国から 100 人の利用登録があった。貸出は郵送を基本としたが近くの盲学校生徒数名の利用も続した。

### Abstract

The Japan Library for the Blind (currently known as the Japan Braille Library) which was inaugurated in November 1940 has developed into the biggest library for the visually impaired in Japan. Its founder, Kazuo Honma (1915-2003) recorded the details of preparations for the opening and the account of post-opening development in braille in large notebooks.

These notebooks, found in 2010 at the Japan Braille Library, are invaluable as they give us an insight into what was happening at the library during the pre- and post-opening period.

This presentation will focus on a short period following the opening — between the 10th November and the 31st December 1940 — and cover the activities during this time.

The Japan Library for the Blind was, in fact, a small two-storey rented house. Honma placed a bookshelf in a downstairs room and filled it with 700 or so braille books. He came up with the idea of “The Library News”, a paid monthly magazine for spreading the word about the library, and the first issue was published in November. “The Library News” were posted to all the schools for the visually impaired to raise awareness of the library. The responses among the visually impaired who would be the library users, were very positive and the record shows a 100 people across the country using the library within a month. As a rule, the books were loaned via post, but every day they had a few visitors including those from local schools for the visually impaired, partly out of curiosity.