

History of the Mandolin in Japan

Some notes by Mr. Tetsuro Kudo

Let's talk about the Japanese history with author Hiruma of the mandolin method slightly to have you understand Japanese mandolin world.

Because it closed the country from 1639 to 1853, in Japan, it was late that there was not a cultural exchange with Europe and America, and a mandolin reached treasure Japan.

Of the first generation of Japanese who studied the instrument, the most notable was Professor Kenpachi Hiruma (1867-1936), who made several study trips to Europe. He studied a mandolin under Italian mandolinist Achille Coronati (*) in Berlin, returned with a mandolin and several sheet musics of mandolin (Serenata Veneziana, Zeffiro, etc...) in 1901, began to give concerts on the instrument throughout the country.

And he published the first Japanese mandolin method in 1903. He tried for the spread of mandolins in Japan

The number of the publication of the mandolin method (investigation by Tetsuro Kudo)

	UK	France	Germany	Italia	Spain	US A	Japan	Etc.	Total
1860-				1	1				2
1870-				1					1
1880-		1		4	1	4			10
1890-	5	7	5	34	1	34		1	87
1900-	7	31	5	31		48	2	1	125
1910-	1	1	3	9	1	26	8	1	50
1920-	2	2	5	7	1	10	23	6	56

(*) Achille Coronati:

Coronati came over in Berlin from Milan with an orchestra in 1888, and became a mandolin teacher here. His student had Reinhold Vorpah other than Kenpachi Hiruma, too. Gramophone Record (Germany) released the following mandolin records which Achille Coronati played in March 1900. (cf. Gramophone record Catalog)

I Bersagliere 47350 (Catalog-No.) (765A)

A Poupper de Kirb 47351 (Catalog -No.) (767A)

Scintilla 47352(Catalog -No.) (766A)

Retraintenmarsch 47353 (Catalog -No.) (764A)

More information about Achille Coronati is unspecified.

If you have his the date of birth and death, and other information, please let me know.

About the Japanese mandolin, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Yours sincerely,

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