

Urban Space on the Frontier: The Development of Sapporo in Meiji Japan **Ethan Barkalow, Class of 2018**

Through the Goldsmith Adams Research Award, I had a two-fold experience of research and language study in Japan this summer. For eight weeks I lived with a host family in Hakodate, Japan and enrolled in daily Japanese language courses. In the time immediately preceding and following this language program, I gathered invaluable primary source material with which I will use to pursue a history honors project on the urban development of Sapporo in Meiji Japan (1868-1912).

The eight-week Japanese language program through the Hokkaido International Foundation (HIF) allowed me to immerse myself in Japanese language and culture in three settings: Japanese class, Japanese cultural events, and living with a host family. Continuing my Japanese studies at HIF was especially valuable for the progress of my Japanese minor at Bowdoin because after missing a semester of class in the spring semester I was able to catch up and can continue towards completing my Japanese minor.

About four weeks of my time this summer in Japan were dedicated to conducting preliminary research and gathering primary and secondary sources to use in an honors project over the next year. Firstly, with students and faculty of the Bowdoin Japanese Program I spent about nine days in Tokyo. During this period, my faculty mentor Professor Sakura Christmas and I took several visits to the National Diet Library of Japan. The National Diet Library contains a comprehensive archive of historical documents which included material from and concerning Meiji-period Sapporo. Some of the most significant documents that I was able to procure photocopies of here are reports in English from American faculty of the Sapporo Agricultural College, an institution of the Japanese government to educate students with the goal of economic and agricultural development of Hokkaido; and a report from the Kaitakushi (Hokkaido Colonization Agency) describing the construction of roads and other infrastructure in Sapporo in the 1870s. In addition to gathered photocopies at the National Diet Library, I learned valuable skills through the guidance of my faculty mentor will regard to searching catalogues and processing a large number of sources at libraries and archives.

The last two and half weeks of my stay in Japan were spent in Sapporo to continue gathering historical documents at Hokkaido University's Northern Studies Collection and visiting museums and landmarks in and around Sapporo that commemorate Sapporo's period of development in the Meiji period. At the Northern Studies Collection, I photocopied books concerning Sapporo's development and photographed fragile original documents including maps of Sapporo, official reports, and personal journals. In and around the city, I visited museums and historical landmarks such as the "Historical Village of Hokkaido," where preserved buildings from early Sapporo have been relocated. Furthermore, I visited historical landmarks that were important locations during the development of Sapporo such as the Former Hokkaido Government Building and the Sapporo Clock Tower. Each is a physical indicator of the city's past structure and form. As some of the earliest prominent buildings in the city, I was able to compare the depiction of the early city in maps and documents with the manner in which landmarks from that time are preserved to the present day.

I look forward to returning to Bowdoin where I will read in greater detail the sources that I've gathered and begin working on an honors project exploring the development of Sapporo in colonial Hokkaido.

Faculty Mentor: Sakura Christmas, Assistant Professor of History and Asian Studies
Funded by the Goldsmith Adams Research Award