

田中式顕微鏡

Microscope, Tanaka's

大阪大学 井上了 / Osaka University INOUE, Ryo

田中式顕微鏡は、明治40年に発売された国産顕微鏡である。

独ライツ製の顕微鏡を模倣しつつ独自の工夫も施しており、倍率は25倍から600倍である。明治40年の東京勸業博覧会で一等賞牌、同43年の日英博覧会で銀賞、大正3年の東京大正博覧会で銀牌を受けるなど高く評価され、多数を売り上げた。また皇太子(後の大正天皇)へも献上され、開発者の田中李次郎は「和製顕微鏡の完成」などの功績によって大正6年に銀杯を賜った。

現存する2基の顕微鏡はいずれも明治40～41年頃に製作されたもの。技術史上きわめて重要な資料であり、また、蚕卵検査のため需要が急増しつつあった絹糸業界に対し安価な顕微鏡を安定的に供給されたもので、経済上も重要な科学遺産といえる。

Tanaka's Microscope is a Japan made microscope released in 1907.

The design of those microscopes was imitated Leitz microscopes; however, some unique designs were added, and magnifying power range of 25 to 600 times was its specification. Tanaka's microscope has received many awards, including first prize at Tokyo Industrial Exhibition in 1907, silver award at Japan-British Exhibition in 1910, and silver award at Tokyo Taisho Exhibition in 1914. Tanaka's microscopes were sold well in Japan and exported to overseas. Furthermore, Tanaka's Microscope was dedicated to the Crown Prince Yoshihito (later become Emperor Taisho), and as the manufacturer Mokujiro Tanaka was awarded silver cup by the Emperor for producing Japan made microscope and other accomplishments in 1917.

Two(2) sets of Tanaka's Microscopes manufactured in circa 1907-1908 are presented for nomination, because they represent a significant historical material for technological history. It is realized that they constitute an indispensable heritage for both science and economy since they made available a stable supply of affordable and domestically manufactured microscopes to the emerging silk industries for inspection of silkworm eggs.

