

June 27, 1968
Wallace Johnson
Mayor of Berkeley

CITY OF BERKELEY PRESENTATION TO SAKAI

The citizens of Sakai and Berkeley have a promising future as sister cities. The official visitation by Berkeley to Sakai in November 1967 was an outstanding success. We hope that our efforts here in Berkeley during this official visitation from Sakai will likewise contribute to a fruitful relationship over the years between the citizens of the two cities. Our common desire for friendship between our cities, for the blending of our two cultures, for the common aspiration we have for world peace, will surely be significant in the relationship between our two countries.

The City of Berkeley has received from Sakai City a stone lantern, symbolizing the beauty and craftsmanship of an ancient culture, as an expression of friendship across the Pacific in our modern time. Likewise, we in Berkeley have wanted to express our esteem for the citizens of Sakai and our expectations and hopes for the future of the Sister City relationship, in the form of a tangible civic gift. Fortunately, we have a gift worthy of this hope and expectation. The significance of its symbolism derives from the sun, which is the source of life and of light both in Japan and in the United States. Also significant is the effect of the sun and the moon on the tides of the great Pacific Ocean, which washes the shores of both Sakai and Berkeley. And further, it is significant that Berkeley, at longitude 122° west on one side of the world, is at approximately the same location in the northern hemisphere as is Sakai at longitude 135° east on the other side of the world. The City of Berkeley is at latitude 37° north. Sakai City is at latitude 34° north. Blessed by the same type of weather, joined by the same mighty ocean, warmed by the same sun, it has seemed appropriate to present to Sakai our civic gift from the City of Berkeley, a sun dial.

This sun dial is no ordinary one. It is the unique creation of a talented East Bay engineer-scientist-artist, Frank Cheney. He and his wife are here as our honored guests this evening, and I would like them to stand at this time for our recognition. The creation which I am about to unveil is Frank Cheney's masterpiece. There has never been another scientific-artistic creation like it. To the best of my knowledge, there will probably never be another. This beautiful sun dial is therefore unique. As you can see, it is a combination of black terrazzo, bronze, and artistic and scientific imagination, in a most unusual geometric form. Mr. Cheney tells me that the form can be accurately described as a trigonal trapezohedron. This unusual many-sided geometric form is composed of two triangular pyramids, displaced in relationship to each other in such a way as to produce an asymmetrical shape, yet which is symmetrical in a very artistic way and completely fascinating as viewed from many angles. On one of the faces of the trapezohedron is mounted the sun dial. An obvious advantage of a sun dial with an inclined face is that you can read the time of day on the sun dial from a normal viewing angle, rather than having to look downward at the sun dial. However, as I am sure we will all agree, it takes great scientific skill to create such an unusual sun dial with this advantage of easy observation combined with solar accuracy. The sun dial is mounted on a base which illustrates the compass. When installed in Japan, this compass will want to be oriented so that north on the compass is pointed to the exact geographical north. The gnomon, or vane, of the sun dial, which casts the shadow on the face of the sun dial clock, should be pointed toward the north star. At the time of installation the base of the structure is adjusted by hidden adjusting screws so that the sun dial will tell the time accurately for the exact location of Sakai at 34° north latitude. With accurate installation of this beautiful gift, Sakai will not only have a sun dial of artistic beauty, but an instrument which will read time accurately.

The sun dial here this evening, which I am sure you will each like to inspect personally, weighs 350 pounds. Obviously, it was not possible for us to bring here into this banquet room the pedestal for the sun dial, which will be even more massive. It will be of native California granite. On the sides of the pedestal Frank Cheney is crafting bronze plaques, one in English and the other in Japanese. These plaques will record for all time the following message: "June 26, 1968, Gift of the City of Berkeley, U.S.A., to Sister City of Sakai, Japan."

The massive pedestal with the bronze commemorative plaques and the sun dial itself, carefully crafted and crated for shipment by Frank Cheney, will be shipped later this summer to Sakai. We know that the officials of Sakai will choose a suitable location in their city for its installation. As a sun dial, it will express the warmth of our friendship from sunny California to the Land of the Rising Sun.