



A Study on the Post-War Reconstruction Planning of Hiroshima and Planning Ideas Proposed by non-Japanese

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Among the many Japanese cities that suffered severe damage during World War II, Hiroshima, as well as Nagasaki, was unique because the city was destroyed by an atomic bomb. In the process of reconstructing Hiroshima, many proposals were made from within and outside Hiroshima. People from overseas, too, made proposals, different from those of Japanese people in terms of their perspectives, the contents of the plans and the underlying planning ideas. This paper identifies who they were, gives an overview of their proposals, and studies their planning ideas of reconstruction planning. Shortly after the war, John D. Montgomery and S. A. Jervie became advisors to Hiroshima Reconstruction Planning, and proposed to the City Reconstruction Planning Commission. Montgomery was a lieutenant in the U.S. military government stationed in Kure in Hiroshima Prefecture. In May 1946, he was invited by the City of Hiroshima to be a reconstruction planning advisor, and proposed several plans. His planning idea was to preserve the former Industrial Promotion Hall (now the Atomic Bomb Dome) and to build “peace memorial facilities.” His planning idea did not play a direct role in adopting particular reconstruction plans or in building a “peace memorial city,” but in the years to come, it significantly influenced the reconstruction planning of the city.

S. A. Jervie was a major in the Australian army, which was a part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF). In September 1948, in his role as an advisor, he proposed to preserve buildings and structures that had been damaged by the atomic bomb. In July 1947, Miles Vaughn, vice president of United Press International (UPI), proposed a Pikadon Memorial Park and Pikadon Memorial Museum. In January 1948, Tam Derring, Director of the Recreation and Park Planning Consultancy Office in Washington, D.C., made a written proposal to construct a peace monument and an Atomic Bomb Age Memorial Hall near the hypocenter. Other proposals made by non-Japanese are also covered in this paper. What was common among the proposals made by these people from overseas was that they insisted that structures and spaces affected by the atomic bombing should be preserved and commemorated. Their proposals later played an important role in forming the concept of making Hiroshima a Peace Memorial City.

KEY WORDS: Planning idea, non-Japanese reconstruction planning, to be preserved Atomic bomb Dome.