



SOPHIA 100th ANNIVERSARY
SOPHIA JUNIOR COLLEGE 40th ANNIVERSARY
SOPHIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WELFARE 50th ANNIVERSARY



Background of the Founding of Sophia University's Faculty of Law No.12

1, Foundation became possible thanks to gifts from Cardinal Frings of West Germany

The Department of Law within the Faculty of Law was created in 1957. A curious anecdote about this process was included in a book published on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of Sophia University. In 1955, the president of Sophia University, Fr. Takashi Oizumi, SJ, participated in a Tokyo Week sponsored by the Archdiocese of Cologne. There he was surprised to hear a demand to open a Law Faculty at Sophia from the Cardinal Archbishop of Cologne, Joseph Frings. Cardinal Frings is reported to have claimed: "There is no Faculty of Law at Sophia



This picture shows President Oizumi delivering an address of welcome at the ceremony for the inauguration of the Faculty of Law.



This picture shows Cardinal Frings delivering an address of greeting in what was at the time the special assembly room in the public reading area of the library.

University. Unless an institution of higher education has faculties of Theology, Philosophy, Law and Medicine, one cannot call it a real university." A shocked President Oizumi replied, "We have no such funds." In response, the Cardinal promised to donate half of the money needed to establish such a Law Faculty.

Thirty-three new faculty members were subsequently employed. A new building to house the new faculty was constructed in 1957 at a total cost of 140 million yen. The ceremony to inaugurate the new faculty was held on May 11, 1957, in the reading room of the library building that existed at that time. President Oizumi explained the meaning and purpose of the creation of a Faculty of Law at Sophia. On Cardinal Joseph Frings of Germany was bestowed an honorary doctorate in Jurisprudence in recognition of and in gratitude for his unstintingly generous contributions to the establishment of this new faculty.

2. A similar academic program that preceded the Faculty of Law

Sophia University had opened a professional evening school in Jurisprudence as early as 1932. This program can be considered as the academic ancestor of the Faculty of Law. A professional school was an institute attached to a university under the system that was in use in Japan through the end of World War II. In legal terms, such an institute was organized under the legal system for professional schools rather than under the legal system for universities. One might say that such an institute focused on practical rather than theoretical legal education. Indeed, at this time, Sophia University had three other similarly organized professional schools: economics, business, and journalism.

The specialized characteristics of these professional programs were somewhat different from the characteristics of contemporary specialized schools. These pre-war programs were based on a law for professional schools that had been promulgated in 1903. These schools were charged with the educational tasks of teaching tertiary-level academic techniques. The students who entered such specialized programs had graduated from the junior high schools and/or the vocational schools in the pre-war system. They attended classes for three years. They did not receive an academic diploma; to receive such a document, they would have had to graduate from an old-style senior high school, a preparatory program, or some similar course of studies. In 1948, after World War II, these specialized programs were abandoned. Sophia accordingly stopped accepted new students in 1948 and phased out the specialized programs in 1951.

The new Faculty of Law of Sophia University was thus based on the School Education Act in the new post-war educational system. The first dean of the new faculty was Professor Shiro Terada. This same Professor Terada had made significant contributions to the property expansion of Sophia University in the postwar period. He had conducted tenacious negotiations with the landowner Itaya Miyakichi, who after the war had purchased much of the land along Kojimachi Avenue when it was burned-out fields. An academic journal devoted to the publication of articles related to jurisprudence was quickly started, with the first issue appearing as early as 1957.



This is the edition of the Sophia University newspaper on the occasion of the opening of the Faculty of Law.



This picture is the view of the 1960 Sophia campus from the current main gate. On the left of the picture is one corner of the old library building. Behind the male students walking toward the camera, in the center, is the building that was originally named the Law Faculty School Building. This name was later changed to Building Number Two to designate both buildings together. When Building Number Seven was completed in 1969, the teachers from the faculty of humanities and from the then Faculty of Foreign Languages (current Faculty of Foreign Studies) moved out of this building into Building Seven. Then the teachers' offices in this building became single-use. The research offices here housed teachers from the human anthropology section of the faculty of humanities, along with faculty members from law and economics.

The newly constructed Law Building consisted of one floor below ground and five floors above ground. The total floor space was 1513 tsubo (4993 square meters). The first and second floors had classrooms and rooms for joint research gatherings. The top three floors had rooms for professors. There were 30 rooms on each floor for a total of 90 offices. Two faculty members shared most rooms. At the beginning, these offices were used not only by Law Faculty members, but also by faculty members from some departments in the Faculty of Humanities, from the Faculty of Economics, and from the then Faculty of Foreign Languages (current Faculty of Foreign Studies).

3. The births of two new law departments with international connections

The stated purpose for the inauguration of Sophia University's Faculty of Law was to cultivate human resources who had become competent in both legal theory and in practical matters related to law. These purposes have continued to the present. Thus, the contents of Cardinal Fring's pressure-filled suggestions have borne great fruit in the fertile soil of Yotsuya. In this way, Professor Oka Masao, the dean at the time, could look back over the history of the Faculty of Law during the celebration of its first 25 years and speak about the faculty as enjoying international support in financial as well as academic matters; he considered that the faculty was pulsating with an international spirit.

Following this tradition and based on this early history, a department of International Legal Studies was started in the Faculty of Law in 1980. Such a unique department had

never been established in a Japanese university. This department provided one more piece of living evidence of the international character of Sophia University. The courses offered covered not only the traditional law department subjects of international law and international private law; the curriculum put at its center the legal questions related to international relations. Linked with these studies, courses were arranged that covered legal systems in foreign countries and courses that treated international politics and economics. The dream was to contribute to the tertiary education of future diplomats and officers in United Nations-related organizations.

Next, the department of Legal Studies of the Global Environment was created in 1997. This was the first academic department in Japan that approached environmental problems that occur on a global scale from legal points of view. Many courses in the curriculum were arranged to cover legal problems related to the environment inside and outside Japan. This department has become a trendsetter by studying global environmental problems in combination with experts from various fields, including natural science, economics, and ethics. Another special characteristic of this department is that it makes special efforts to recruit and welcome students from developing countries. The new department also aims to make useful contributions to developed countries that are struggling with administrative issues related to solving global environmental problems.



Seen from the old library building, this picture shows the outdoor connecting area, with the ventilation grates needed for the Law Building.