

Prof. Tameji Nakamura at Tokyo University of Commerce and Robert Burns

Akito TERUYAMA

Tameji Nakamura (1898–1991) has been highly esteemed as one of the eminent Robert Burns scholars. He was the first person to translate the complete works of Burns into Japanese. He introduced Burns to Japan not only by the translation but by writing a biography of, and publishing research on Burns. Nakamura used to be a professor at Tokyo University of Commerce (currently Hitotsubashi University) but at the age of 45 he left there suddenly and devoted himself to farming in the heart of the Mt. Norikura area, where he accomplished most of his other studies as well as those about Burns.

Nakamura has his own style of translation, such using as the plural form and word-for-word translation. As for the plural form, he never failed to translate the plural form into “*tachi*” whether it was a living or non-living thing. He did so because he insisted on accuracy in his translation.

In this paper I will discuss his life, the relation between Nakamura and Robert Burns, his policy of translating and his farm life in the foothills of Mt. Norikura.