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Franklin H. Brown -  
A Lover of Sports With a Desire  
To Lead

ARNOLD W. FLATH  
School of Health and Physical Education  
Oregon State University  
Corvallis, Oregon 97331

During the Japanese Taisho Era, 1912-1926, sport for the general public prospered and its modern structure was institutionalized. Franklin H. Brown, who served in Japan as Honorary Physical Education Secretary of the National Committee of the YMCA, 1913-1930, provided the motivation and leadership training that brought volleyball, basketball,

and mass games to the Japanese and assisted the Japanese in developing their international sports competition. Brown also served as the Honorary Contest Secretary of the Third Far Eastern Championship Games, Tokyo, 1915-1917; Honorary Technical Adviser of the Japan Amateur Athletic Association 1917-1923; Technical Representative for the International Olympic Committee to the Far Eastern Championship Games held in Japan; Honorary Secretary Far Eastern Athletic Association and Honorary Contest Secretary Sixth Far Eastern Championship Games, Osaka, 1921-1923; and Member of Foreign Relations Committee and Record Committee for Ninth Far Eastern Championship Games, Tokyo, 1930.

In recognition of his valuable service to Japan in connection with the development of athletics, His Majesty the Emperor Hirohito conferred the Fifth Class of the Imperial Order of the Sacred Treasure on Brown, July 30, 1932. In 1964 when Japan hosted the Olympics, Brown was one of a dozen sportsmen from around the world brought back to Japan as an official honored guest in appreciation of his contributions to Japanese sports.

This paper is an account of Brown's contribution to the development of Japanese athletics from 1912 to 1930.