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Summaries

THE TOKUGAWA INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF FORESTRY

Articles

A study of *Nakamura-ya Shichibei*, a timber merchant in Edo period

TAKEUCHI Makoto

This is the first full-scale study of *Nakamura-ya Shichibei*, one of the timber merchants to the Tokugawa shogunate in the 18th century and onward. He lived in Shiratori-Zaimoku-chō, Atsuta, Owari.

In analyzing the newly found documents, the following facts were identified. Nakamura-ya family had an exclusive contract with the government on timber transportation for generations since the middle of the 18th century. The family logged the official timbers from the Hida mountains, floated them down the river to Ecchū and Owari provinces, and shipped them to Edo.

It was also clarified that *Shichibei* had a close connection with the Takayama Daikan (Local Magistrate of the Takayama Region in Hida province) and went to Edo every year to submit accounts of official timber to the shogunate financial department. He was not a temporary but a permanent official timber merchant as he received an allowance from the Tokugawa shogunate. Moreover, he opened a branch at Kaji-chō in Edo.

According to the documents by the shogunate financial department in 1852, the timber transportation from Hida to Edo was publicly financed. As the result of this study, it became clear that the government transported timbers to Edo with burdening the wealthy purveyors to hold risk.

A study of forestry and mountain villages from the early 18th to the middle 19th centuries, considering the relationship between the feudalistic political and a social structures

ŌSAKI Akira

This study examines the process and structure of how woodcutters' villages became impoverished as a result of over-logging of forests in the vicinity of Kiso Mountain during the period from the Kyōhō era (1716-1736) to the end of the Edo era (1868).

In the early 17th century, Kiso Mountain in the Owari domain boasted an abundance of forest resources. Accordingly, the Owari domain and wealthy merchants who functioned as logging contractors were enriched by the lumber that was harvested from these forests.

By the 18th century, however, the forest resources became depleted due to over-logging over an extended period. As a result of this, forests in areas under control of the local magistrate/vassals of the shogunate and those jointly owned by the farmers were opened up to logging, and the loggers were replaced with wood merchants in their place of residence as opposed to direct management of the domain and the merchants.

In transactions handled by wood merchants, the logging business enjoyed stability because the wood merchants could obtain the entire proceeds of sales by means of making prepayment of the business tax immediately following the bidding.

From the middle of 19th century, depletion of wood resources was exacerbated and the business formerly handled by wood merchants was entrusted to wood agents or operated as side businesses, with the tasks of logging contractors primarily undertaken by village headmen.

In addition, inflation and famines led villagers to begin working at other villages. The domain, however, prohibited villagers to work outside their native villages, as the domain wished to retain the work force at the local post town to support the increased numbers of travelers along the Nakasendō, a major road linking Edo with the capital.

As mentioned above, it was clear that the logging business and the daily lives of the villagers were deeply affected by forest resource issues and the institutional/economical structure of the feudal system.

A study of the changes of the system of Yamamori (individuals from the farmer class who took on assignments for forests that were under the shogunate's direct control) in Sanchū-ryō villages of Kōzuke no kuni and related developments in forestry policy of the Edo shogunate in the early 19th century

SAKAMOTO Tatsuhiko

This study examines the yamamori-sei (the control system of the forests) in Sanchū-ryō villages of Jōshū as relates to the shogunate's forestry policy in the early 19th century.

The first study concerns the yamamori-sei system. A yamamori in Sancyū-ryō villages, the head of *Kakudayū* clan (who served as yamamori in the early 18th century), was appointed as a *Ohayashi* director (a domain official who controlled the forests under the shogunate's direct control) in 1825, and he was appointed as a *Ohayashi-mimamori* (a sentinel who controlled the forests of the shogunate's direct control) in 1829 because he had donated his forest land, and was subsequently appointed yamamori in 1834.

The next studies concern *Kakudayū*'s donation of the forest lands and the background of his family's reappointment as yamamori based on developments in the shogunate's forest policy at that time. From the result of these studies, it was determined that the background of the donation of *Kakudayū*'s land was dependant on the shogunate's forest policy, which meant that in 1793 the shogunate ordered the reinforcement of the control system of *Ohayashi* and the preservation thereof, and tree planting in uncultivable lands and appropriated these lands as *Ohayashi*. Subsequently in 1821 the shogunate conferred benefits to people who made great efforts to preserve *Ohayashi* and ordered a fact-finding survey for *Ohayashi* to be undertaken.

From the analysis of the lands whose title changed from *Kakudayū* to *Ohayashi*, and the *Kanjō-bugyō* (the chief treasurer) who arranged the appointment by which *Kakudayū* was changed to yamamori, it was clarified that a person experienced in Oniwa-ban (a shogunate official in charge of the secret investigations) was involved in those matters.

From these facts, it was clarified that the *Kanjō-bugyō*, who had experience in *Oniwa-ban*, operated the shogunate forestry systems during this period.

A study concerning the management and the use of forest resources in the villages around Sakuramaki during the Edo period

TAKAGI Kenichi

This study examines the implementation of a tree cultivation policy and use of forest

resources at Sakuramaki, in a so-called "*Makiba*" (similar to a ranch) that was owned by the Tokugawa Shogunate in Shimousa. These lands were controlled directly by the shogunate in the two provinces of Shimousa and Kazusa during the Edo period.

According to the study, development of *Makiba* by the shogunate could be separated into two distinct stages.

During the first period, development by *Komiyama Mokunoshin*, a local magistrate in the early 18th century, stood out. From this, the areas surrounding Sakuramaki became a source for supplying firewood and charcoal to the nearby metropolis of Edo.

During the second period in the late 18th century, *Iwamoto Masatomo* began to plant trees in the *Ohayashi* (the forest under direct control by the shogunate) for use as firewood and charcoal so as to obtain income from their sales, after which he promoted new tree planting. It was obvious that the tree planting policy was more focused than the cultivation of the lands. After that, mixed forests grew around the *Makiba*, and activities expanded as the mixed forests were thinned out in the early 19th century.

From the above studies, it becomes clear that the environment of the forest lands owned by nearby villages was determined by the tree planting in the *Ohayashi*, which was located within the *Makiba*.

Additionally, the study also clarified the economic activities and changes in life in the villages.

For example, it was determined that the villagers utilized forest resources from which villagers had sold the forest lands belonging to an individual, and paid the annual tribute in Mochikusa village inside the Sakura domain territory. As another example, the trees owned by the villages were almost depleted as the result of a boom in charcoal making in Kamisago, a village under the vassal Toda clan's territory, and the villagers submitted applications to manage the *Ohayashi*.

A study of *Tokugawa Yoshikatsu's* six-month-visit to Kyōto and his experience in 1863

FUJITA Hideaki

This study examines the political activities of *Tokugawa Yoshikatsu* in Kyōto in 1863, who was the 14th head of Owari Tokugawa Family. Not limited to examine political history but to shed light on social and cultural histories, this thesis focused on not only his political stand points but also his psychological and emotional aspects during his first visit to Kyōto.

As the result of this study, the following facts were found. *Yoshikatsu* recognized that it was important to settle down the internal affairs, to develop industries and to strengthen the military power in order to deal with Western countries. He intended to put the expulsion of western foreigners into practice under the leadership of the shogun by uniting the Imperial Court and the shogunate.

In his political activity, he valued the wishes of the Imperial Court and at the same time as a member of Tokugawa family, he was also enthusiastic about raising the military prestige of the shogun. Therefore, the 14th Shogun Tokugawa *Iemochi's* visit to Kyōto and his long stay were important political agenda to *Yoshikatsu* and he eventually insisted that the Shogun should leave Edo castle and move to Kyōto. To realize his insistence on domestic and foreign issues, he went to Kyōto before Shogun *Iemochi's* arrival. It was found that the Imperial Court expected highly of *Yoshikatsu's* coming to Kyōto.

In those days the one that had the same opinion as *Yoshikatsu* was his younger brother

Matsudaira Katamori, the lord of Aizu clan and who served as *KyōtoShugosyoku* (military governor of Kyōto) at that time. *Katamori*, whose official rank was low was dependent on *Yoshikatsu* whose ranking was second to Shogun and who had relatives to imperial families; two brothers supported each other to be active in pursuit of Shogun's long stay in Kyōto and the transfer of government.

However, their arguments were not main stream in the shogunate at that time. In particular, they had policy confrontation against *Tokugawa Yoshinobu*, a member of the same Tokugawa family. *Yoshinobu*, who was in the position of assisting the shogun insisted that Shogun should return to Edo as soon as possible since Shogun's long stay in Kyōto would damage the prestige as a manager of the shogunate. *Yoshinobu*, in his position to manage politics, realized that it would be impossible to transfer the government nor to exclude westerners. *Yoshinobu*, whose political views were different, became aloof from *Yoshinobu* and management side of the shogunate.

Thus, *Yoshikatsu's* opinions, although he was the head of Tokugawa Three Major Families and had the highest official ranking second to the shogun, were not adopted in central politics in Kyōto in 1863 and he was ignored. Because of the situation, *Yoshikatsu's* experience in Kyōto was disappointing despite the fact that he was very impressed by his first visit to Kyōto.

This misfortune might be the reason he gave negative judgments on the people and sceneries in Kyōto, compared to those of Edo. His first experience in Kyōto left him such a great impact that he became less positive to go back thereafter.

Research Note

A study regarding the historical significance of *Tokugawa Yoshiakira's* profession of Unitarian after coming back to Japan from England

NAGANUMA Hideaki

This study examines *Tokugawa Yoshiakira's* deeds during his studying in England and after coming back to Japan. He was the 18th head of Owari Tokugawa family. His achievements and personality still remain obscure, but the recently founded documents, which tell us how he became a Unitarian, provide a hint to reveal his deeds.

This research especially focused on the article in which he gave a confession of faith and advocated the necessity of the Unitarian creed, which is based on 'the logic and experiment', for the inner improvements of the Japanese.

The first purpose of this report is to develop the study of *Tokugawa Yoshiakira* by introducing the newly discovered records and presenting the main previous studies about the characteristics of Unitarian in England that give us a clue to analyze those resources. The second is to show an outlook for his credit at the beginnings of the constitutional system in Japan.

Introduction of Historical Material

Shinshū *Tokugawa Ieyasu* monjo no kenkyū II Supplement

(the supplement of the book about the collection of the documents of *Tokugawa Ieyasu* and analyzation)

TOKUGAWA Yoshinobu

This article is the posthumous writings of Tokugawa Yoshinobu, who was the president

of the Tokugawa Reimeikai Foundation and the curator of the Tokugawa Art Museum, and passed away in 2005.

He studied under Nakamura Kōya, the researcher of the documents of *Tokugawa Ieyasu*, and took over his work. He kept on collecting and studying the documents, and made up the research results into some books including 'Shinshū Tokugawa Ieyasu monjo no kenkyū'. Their achievements of the documents established a foundation for the study of *Tokugawa Ieyasu* and the political history of the early Tokugawa shogunate, and have brought lasting benefits to the following researchers.

It takes lots of time and efforts to pick up such documents of historical importance as *Ieyasu's* one by one from all over the world. Tokugawa Yoshinobu devoted his life to collecting and studying those documents. It is said that he still gave great attention to the signature of some document just before his death. He had been planning to publish another book, of which manuscripts his family presented to the Tokugawa Institute for the History of Forestry. Now his posthumous writings get into print by Kawashima Kōichi, a researcher of the institute.