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**The Investigation and Collection of Old Manuscripts
in Kyûshû (before the 16th century)**

by R. Takeuchi

The investigation and collection of old manuscripts in Kyûshû was attempted for the first time at the end of *Edo* era. For example, Kagoshima prefecture has "*Kyûki-zatsuroku*" (旧記雜録 : miscellanea of old manuscripts), called also "*Sappan-kyûki*" (薩藩旧記 : old manuscripts of Satsuma clan), edited by Sueyasu Ichiji and his son Suemichi, Saga prefecture has "*Saga-monjo-san*" (佐賀文纂 : collected manuscripts of Saga), unknown the name of editor, and Ôita prefecture has "*Sekiden-sôshi*" (碩田叢史) by Sanemori Gotô. Being edited under the auspices of clan lords at the end of the *Edo* era or beginning of the *Meiji*, many of these collections were naturally limited to the manuscripts preserved in their own territories. The general investigation and collection all over Kyûshû was undertaken by Dr. Kunitake Kume in the 20th of *Meiji* (1887).

Among the manuscripts preserved in Kyûshû, we have now about thirty thousands ones before the sixteenth century, which may indicate that Kyûshû is the treasure-house of old manuscripts after Kinai district, and we expect that this number will increase by the future investigation.

**A Document on the Portuguese Embassy to Japan
in 1640.**

by K. Yanai

In 1639 the Tokugawa Shogunate issued the ordinance to prohibit the Portugese to trade with Japan, but the Portugese

authorities of Macao still intended to maintain the friendly relations with Japan and dispatched the embassies in 1640. The Shogunate punished severely and beheaded them.

I present here a document on this affair, which has been recently found in the Matsui Ms., preserved in the Kumamoto University Library, and consider the relation with the Siqueira Misson in 1647.

On Some Dwelling Sites Surrounded by Ditches (4)

by T. Kagamiyama

I have previously given examples of archeological investigations of ancient dwelling sites surrounded by ditches in northern Kyûshû, Yamaguchi prefecture, and the Kantô area. The present discussion deals only with such sites dating from the *Yayoi* period. The enclosures range in size from 10 square meters to one hectare. One cemetery might serve several enclosures, while a number of cemeteries were found dispersed throughout a large village. As in the case of large dolmens, which required considerable manpower, it appears that the members of the enclosures also must have banded together in cooperative efforts.

In the matter of cultivation of paddy fields, there seems to have been communal working of wet field surrounding the dwelling areas as well as communal working of dry field some distance away from the areas.

Myôshu 名主 in Nimi-no-shô 新見庄, Bichu 備中.

— In the 13 and 14th centuries —

by K. Masaki

After the formation of early *myô* in Nimi-no-shô, Bichû, new *myô* came into existence especially in newly laid-out lands. In the mountainous districts, into which the money economy strikingly permeated, annual land-tax was paid in money already in the *Bunei* 文永 period. By the development of the productive power peasants could increase their surplus products. *Myô-den* 名田, which had been managed by the patriarchal joint-family of *myô-shu*, was dissolved and *myô-shu* became *Kajishi myô-shu* 加地子名主, who based their income on the rent from the *sakushiki* 作職 peasants. As many of these peasants usually belonged to one *myô-shu*, the *myô* system dissolved only with slow tempo, I think. But there appeared also *sakushiki* peasants who surpassed *myô-shu* in their land managing scale. And among them *tô-myô-shu* 当名主, taking advantage of the money economy in *sho-en* 莊園 by the production of the commodities like *urushi* and others, and secondary *myô-shu*, through the dissolution of *myô-shu-shiki* 名主職, appeared.

The position of *kajishi myô-su* became unstable one relying on the collected rent only — this hastened the rise and fall of *myô*. On the other hand, *kajishi myô-shu* who took advantage of the money economy maintained their position and had the trend to become the *ryô-su* (land lords). But this trend caused the opposition of peasants against them.