The Process of Making the *Taiheiki* Picture Scrolls

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The *Taiheiki* is a war chronicle set in Japan's Namboku-cho period and consists of 40 volumes. The *Taiheiki Emaki* is an illustration of the *Taiheiki* and is known as the oldest set of picture scrolls of its kind. It was originally a set of twelve volumes drawn in the middle of the 17th century. Currently, only ten of those remain. The scrolls belonging to the collection of the National Museum of Japanese History are thought to be a part of this set (volumes 5, 11, and 12). The set also constitutes the scrolls belonging to the collection of the Saitama Prefectural Museum of History and Folklore (volumes 1, 2, 6, 7, and 10) and the Spencer Collection of New York Public Library (volumes 3 and 8). It has been pointed out that the compositions and motifs have been quoted from major picture scrolls of the previous age; there are many similarities with the picture scrolls of Tawara-no-Tota. *Taiheiki Emaki* is attributed to Kaihō Yūsetsu (1598–1677), but there is no proof.

This paper introduces instructional inscriptions about the colors and motifs across the ten volumes of *Taiheiki Emaki* and examines the process of making the scrolls. Specifically, the instructions with regard to colors such as "*roku*" (green), "*kon*" (blue), "*shu*" (red), and "*tan*" (orange) and indications of architectural components such as "*tatami*" (a Japanese mat) and "*heri*" (the edges of a tatami) are recognized. These careful inscriptions on the scrolls prove the existence of an earlier version of the painting, and several painters were involved in this production. Furthermore, the text, which is more important than the paintings, seems to have been disregarded, and there was a historical document written. Kaihō Yūsetsu made a thirty-volume *Taiheiki Emaki*, suggesting that the text and illustrations were independently present in the original version. The examined set of *Taiheiki Emaki* could be an abridged version of the original.

Key words : Kaihō Yūsetsu, Tawara-no-Tōta emaki, War chronicle