
Modernity in the Nara *Kourekisha* Yoshikawa Family : Loss of *Onmyōji* Status and Continuation of the Family Business of Calendar Making

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The “Materials of the Former Possessions of the Nara Rekishi Yoshikawa Family” (Collection of The National Museum of Japanese History) are valuable materials that make it possible to trace the modern trend of *kourekisha* that originated with the calendar masters (*rekishi*) of the early modern period, which had previously remained largely unknown, up until the final phase when it was no longer institutionally possible for them to distribute calendars. This paper focuses on materials in this collection that relate to the modern period that have not previously received much interest, and clarifies how the Yoshikawa family of *koureki* publicly continued the family business by engaging in the distribution of calendars in the period until the *Jingū-shichō*’s distribution of calendars began in earnest, while also paying attention to other *kourekisha* nationwide, and to their relationships with the government’s administrative measures. As a result, this paper clarifies how *kourekisha* across the country collaborated and formed organizations, how distribution was achieved nationwide, and the time schedule for the national distribution of calendars. In addition, this paper offers considerable clarity on the main human resources involved in the calendar distribution industry in the early Meiji period.

Key Words: Calendar distribution trading companies, Meiji era calendar reform, Tsuchimikado family calendar bureau, *Jingū-shichō*, Ise Grand Shrine