The Text of Doku-jin Saimon Used by The Local Onmyōji in Early Modern Era: from the Yoshikawa Family Documents of the Calendar Craftsmen in Nara

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This paper focuses on the Doku-jin saimon [H679 · 8 · 108] from the Yoshikawa Family Documents of the Calendar Craftsmen in Nara in the National Museum of Japanese History. The family was based in Inyocho, Nara in the Edo period. The family’s livelihood was creating calendars, distributing them throughout the Yamato region, and performing rituals as Onmyōji. Through the Yoshikawa’s documents, we can learn about the actual activities and the knowledge that they possessed as the local Onmyōji during the early modern period.

The purpose of this paper is to elucidate the characteristic of the documents as a ritual text of local Onmyōji through a recording detailed description of the bibliography of the Yoshikawa’s Doku-jin saimon, the overview of the book, how the book was copied and transmitted to the family, and the content features of the ritual text. In addition, I listed the print of the text at the end of this paper.

The Doku-jin saimon is one of the various ritualistic texts which the Yoshikawa family collected. The text was made in the southern capital at Nara in 1642, and later owned by the Yoshikawa family. In this text, there are some of the passages in which Buddhist expressions are revised to those of the Onmyō-do ritual texts. It suggests the family used the text in a ritual of Onmyō-do. In addition, Goryū-ou setsuwa which the main story of the Yoshikawa’s Doku-jin saimon, uses expressions common to the other Doku-jin saimon texts that was introduced to temples and shrines in the late medieval period. It is unique that the story of Yoshikawa’s describes the prince Goro as a “ferocious and evil dragon”. It needs to crear a connection between the Yoshikawa’s and the spread of Onmyō-do Knowledges in the southern capital in Nara during the medieval period.

Key words: Doku-jin saimon, Onmyōji, Rituals, Goryū-ou setsuwa, Knowledge