Interesting Aspects of *Rakuchurakugaizu*

— The Paintings of Machidabon and Uesugibon —

SUITÔ, Makoto

*Rakuchurakugaizu* are paintings on folding screens that presented the panorama of Kyoto during the *sengokujidai*, the age of civil wars. The meaning of the paintings is deciphered by comparing two kinds of *rakuchurakugaizu*. Machidabon and Uesugibon and from a statistical analysis of the objects painted.

In the Machidabon, there are 1390 people and 1099 buildings; in the Uesugibon there are 2479 people and 1264 buildings. First of all from an analysis of the professions of the people and the variety of buildings that are painted, it is proved that the theme of the paintings was a synthetic description of the aspects of life in Kyoto during the period of civil wars. It is also shown that Kyoto was a city composed of warriors, citizens and priests. Furthermore, after a study of some details of the paintings, the conclusion is presented that the paintings depicted in detail the various aspects of the life of the people living in Kyoto, and that the paintings particularly described the less overcast moments (*hare*) of their lives.