The Hōjōkeizu and the Otomokeizu owned by the Nozu Family

Tanaka, Minoru

The paper presents genealogies of two established families; the genealogy of the Hōjō family who held the office of shikken (shogunal regent), a major political figure of the Kamakura Bakufu and the genealogy of the Ōtomo family who were established gokenin (followers) of the Kamakura Bakufu and shugo (constables) of the Bungo district. The two genealogies were transcribed into one volume. The estimated date of transcription is 1304 (Kagen 2) according to the colophon of the Hōjōkeizu (The Genealogy of the Hōjō Family).

The genealogy of the Hōjō family is found in Sonpibunmyaku, Shōjūjibon Shokekeizu and another edition of Hōjōkeizu included in Zokugunshoruiju. All of these were written after “Nanbokucho” (northern and southern court) period (1334-1392). There is a possibility of later revision and errata. However the Hōjōkeizu of the Nozu family is an important historical material as it was written before 1304 during the late Kamakura period and must have been transcribed during the same period. Early genealogies such as this are rare. The value of this genealogy is self evident considering the date of the transcription and the fact that Hōjō was an important political family.

Ôtomokeizu (The Genealogy of the Ōtomo Family) was transcribed during the same period and the estimated date is almost the same as Hōjōkeizu. This is known to be the oldest remaining substantial genealogy of the Ōtomo family. It is a historical resource of great value for the study of the Ōtomo family during the Kamakura period. In this paper the complete genealogies of the two families are reprinted along with some medieval documents (after 1337) that were also transmitted by the Nozu family.