Shugosho, Shugo, Shugodai and Kokujin in
Awaji and Sanuki Province

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This paper studies several aspects concerning the shugosho (office of the shugo, military governor) in the two districts of Awaji and Sanuki province, in eastern Setouchi. The relationship between shugosho and shugo, shugodai (deputy military governor), and kokujin (provincial lords) in different districts is discussed and compared. Moreover, the common features as well as differences of the two districts are examined.

The common features of the shugosho of the two districts are as follows: 1) Both were located only a few kilometers from the kokufu (provincial capitals) of the Nara and Heian period. 2) Common features can be found in the shugosho built in the Kamakura period and those constructed after the Nanboku-cho period. The shugosho at Awaji province were built at the same place whereas at Sanuki province the office was transferred to a location very near the previous site. 3) After the time of the Nanboku-cho, due to the fact that the Hosokawas and other officers held naval supremacy, strongholds for defense such as mountain castles were not necessary for a long time. 4) Because the shugo stayed in the capital, the shugosho didn’t develop into a castle that changed the surrounding town into jōkamachi (a castle town), a change characteristic of the Sengoku period.

The differences between the two shugosho can be summarized as follows: 1) The locations are different. The Yagiyaakata of the shugosho at Awaji was located inland, at a distance of six to seven kilometers from the two harbors of Mihara and Fukura. The shugosho at Sanuki was built at the important harbor of Utazu. 2) The former was related to the city and harbor that were attached to the provincial capital. The latter had no direct relation to the facilities of the provincial capital. 3) At Awaji, the city and the harbor as well as the territory of the shugo and the temple Ankokuji were constructed a few kilometers from the shogosho and these made up a special territory. At Sanuki, the territory of the shugo was dispersed in districts in the territory, and other facilities related to the shugosho were concentrated near the narrow harbor. 4) At Awaji, the periphery of the shugosho took on the characteristics of the Kamakura period. This is assumed to be the result of the inactivity of the shugodai, the fact that the shugo and shugodai could not effectively control Mihara Harbor, and the fall of the shugo at quite an early period. At Sanuki, Utazu was a prosperous harbor which had the greatest amount of traffic with the Kinai area, among other districts, even after losing its function as shugosho during the middle of the Muromachi period.

The Yasutomis, one of the most powerful Uchishū (followers) of the Hosokawa
Keichoke family, and the shugodai of eastern Sanuki, held the right to control Utazu harbor and protected Toimaru (the shipping agent) who were in activity around the harbor. Moreover, due to the fact that a castle was built at Shōtsū-ziyama that suppressed the harbor, the popularity of the harbor must have continued until the Sengoku period.