"Hitotsumono" in the Wakasa Region  
— Paying Attention to the Relations with  
"Oh-no-Mai" (King's Dance) —

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Among the divine services being conducted in all over Japan, a child called "Hitotsumono" often appears. In the conventional studies, the Hitotsumono has been thought to be the embodiment of the god. However, it seems necessary to understand it as one of the styles of "Furyū" in the festivals that were popular in Kyōto and Nara during the Insei period.

In this paper, attempts are made to put in order the general ideas about the Hitotsumono based on the results of the bibliographical researches in order to rearrange the history of researches on the Hitotsumono that have been conducted mainly in the field of folklore. Also, the various cases of Hitotsumono spread all over Japan are surveyed to obtain a clue to elucidate the distinctive features of the Hitotsumono seen in the Wakasa region of Fukui Prefecture.

Hitotsumono in the Wakasa region is thought to be propagated from Kyōto and Nara together with "Oh-no-Mai" (King's Dance), "Shishi-Mai" (Lion's Dance), and so on. Especially, Hitotsumono is closely related to the transfiguration of King's Dance in the folkloric society. In this paper, through the work to examine the Hitotsumono in the Wakasa region and the related cases in details, it has become clear that a trace of the Hitotsumono is inherited in King's Dance performed by a child. By taking the Hitotsumono into account, a part of the quality of the folkloric imagination that transformed King's Dance may have been elucidated.

As a result, it has become clear that it is necessary not only to examine the Hitotsumono in the religious aspect but also to understand as one of the styles of "Furyū" in the festivals. It is assumed that this issue contains the important proposition that may lead to a major stream run through the Japanese performing art history.