Farm Land and Residence of Ōta-no-shō

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If the form of farm land possession by farmers and location of residential sites in the middle ages are made clear, the promising clues can be obtained in order elucidate the basic structure of the society in the middle ages such as their land development and domiciliation, farming method and village community, etc.

Ōta-no-shō has ideal conditions for the study and research of these questions. For example, in the whole area of this region, so-called "Hyakushō-myō" was organized under the manor system and a lot of historical data on the organization of "Hyakushō-myō" are available and, up until now, those names of "Hyakushō-myō" are still used for the family names, names of the valleys, names of the reservoirs, etc., and, until relatively recent times, this region was not subjected to the large-scaled development and, therefore, the traditional village environment has been preserved, etc.

We attempted to reconstruct the farm lands and residents in the middle ages mainly in the Nishi-Uehara district and the surrounding areas in Ōta-no-shō that satisfy well these conditions, referring to the bibliographs of the recent times, survey reports on the remains and record of interviews. At the same time, attention was given to the changes in the long period of time from Kanazakura period to Edo period.