Ancient Road in Ōta-no-shō, Bingo Country

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The land tax to be paid to Kōya-san, the lord of the manor, from Ōta-no-shō located in the inland area of Hiroshima Prefecture was first transported to Onomichi on the coast of the Inland Sea of Japan and then loaded on board a ship. In this survey report, attempt is made to restore the route of this ancient road of approx. 28km from the manor to the port.

Since the historical materials concerning Ōta-no-shō in the archives of Kōya-san does not mention of this route, the author walked the entire route of the old road, “Iwami ji”, that lead, in the Edo period, from Onomichi to Kōzan where the old area of Ōta-no-shō stood. Considering from the setting of the route, it can be judged that this Iwami ji almost coincides with the main road in the middle ages. Since the most part of the road is separated from the present Route 184, the traces of the old road are preserved well beyond the author’s expectation.