Labor for the Construction of the Kōra Shrine, and the Manors of Chikugo Province
—Presentation of Documents Newly Acquired by the National Museum of Japanese History—

Kudo Keiichi

Among the documents formerly owned by Mr. Tanaka Yuzuru, which have newly come into the possession of the National Museum of Japanese History, there are three related documents concerning labor for the construction of the Kōra Shrine, the principal shrine in Chikugo Province: [A] Order of Takatsukasa-in dated July 5; [B] Request by priests and officers of the Kōra Shrine dated July ?, Kangen 4 (1246); and [C] Documents dated January ?, Kennin 1 (1201) on the number of rice fields from which service was exacted for the construction of the Kōra Shrine. [C], in particular, belongs to the so-called “Ōtabumi” (the Oldal Land ledger of a province), and it is expected that examination of it will result in remarkable progress in the study of the manor system in Chikugo Province. As a preliminary work, this paper evaluates these three documents from the historical viewpoint.

[B] is a document, in which the priests and officers Kōra Shrine requested the Imperial Court not to allow exemption from service for the construction demanded by various manors in the Province, but to exact the equivalent service from the whole Province. [C] is clearly a attached paper to [B]. [A] is judged to have been a letter following these; and a clearly related letter of introduction bearing the seal of Tsūen dated the same July 5 has been found among the Daigo-ji Documents. An examination of this has shown that the letter of introduction by Tsūen was written to recommend and transmit (B) and (C) to Takatsukasa-in, and that Takatsukasa-in recommended and transmitted (A) to the Imperial Seretariat. In other words, [B] was prepared by the priests who came to their lord, Daigo-ji Temple, in Kyōto, in consultation with Tsūen and others; and was filed to the Imperial Court through their senior lord, Takatsukasa-in, on the occasion of the change of ownership in Kangen 4 (1246), when the Emperor Gosaga abdicated the throne to the Emperor Gofukakusa, and Takatsukasa-in succeeded to the Chōkōdo’s Manor which included the Kōra Shrine. It is judged that these documents were returned together to the lord, the Daigo-ji Temple, after this claim was accepted. Therefore, these three documents originally belong to the Daigo-ji Documents.