Several Problems regarding Rice Fields Given by Imperial Order

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When an Emperor abdicated the throne to become an ex-Emperor, *fuko* were assigned from the state to support the living of the ex-Emperor. From the early 9th century on, *chokushi-den* (rice fields given by Imperial order) came to be assigned to the ex-Emperor, in addition to the *fuko*. The *chokushi-den* given to an ex-Emperor was called "***-in chokushi-den" prefixed with the ex-Emperor’s name. "Gosanjō-in Chokushi-den" meant the *chokushi-den* given to the ex-Emperor Gosanjō-in by order of Emperor Shirakawa, after Emperor Gosanjō abdicated the throne to Emperor Shirakawa, and became ex-Emperor Gosanjō-in.

Studies on the *chokushi-den* have only just begun. The problems being cleared up, and the questions still to be answered regarding the *chokushi-den* are as follows:

1. of the *chokushi-den* given to ex-Emperors, some were called "***-shō" and some were called "***chokushi-den". "***-shō" were manors with their own territories. In the case of "***chokushi-den", the taxes imposed on the rice fields of the *chokushi-den* which lay scattered in the territory (land which was not a manor) of a province (such as Musashi Province, Harima Province, etc.) was given to the ex-Emperor by the Province.

2. In the Middle Ages, there existed a rice field called "Goichijō-in chokushi-den"; however, Emperor Goichijō died while he was still Emperor, so he never became ex-Emperor. Nevertheless, the "Goichijō-in chokushi-den" existed, because the Emperor Goichijō himself created the *chokushi-den* by Imperial order on April 16, 1036, just before his death. Why did the Emperor Goichijō create the *chokushi-den* for himself by Imperial order?

3. Until recently, it was thought that the first *chokushi-den* was that given to ex-Emperor Saga, in 834. However, it has been expounded that this *chokushi-den* was not given to ex-Emperor Saga for his living expenses. Proven cases of *chokushi-den* given to ex-Emperors can be found from 840 on. However, why did the *chokushi-den* come to be given to ex-Emperors for their living expenses, in addition to the *fuko*?