The Establishment of the *Teoi-chūmon*  
—A Reconsideration of *The Way of the Warrior*—  

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The gunchūjō, reports of battlefield exploits presented to the bakufu by individual warriors, have been the subject of substantial scholarly interest. They first appeared after the defense of Japan against the Mongols, as procedural documents to confirm samurai military exploits. Earlier, however, teoi chūmon (Battlefield exploit documents) and teoi jikkenjō (Battlefield exploit inspection reports), which were prepared on the basis of battlefield inspections by the gun bugyō (military prefect) or samurai-dokoro (the bakufu’s Board of Samurai Affairs). Inspection reports of battlefields were widely recognized in relation to private battles in local society of the Kamakura period, for example, in borders dispute and proceedings against Akutō (rascals). War Exploit Documents, as composite documents, had already come into being as part of this process. The procedure for battlefield inspection was a form of dispute settlement: private battles, such as border disputes, were brought into litigation to prove the groundness of the other’s claims. The forms of recognition of war exploits by samurai, which became apparent from the 14th century on, came into being as an extension of these local customs. In other words, *Gunchūjō* were originally filed for the purpose of identifying local disputes as official battles and to avoid military occupation; and War Exploit Documents seem to have been the documentary evidence for that.

In order to advance the study of medieval warfare, it is essential to generalize, and rearrange them in the context of studies on medieval society, instead of dealing with them independently as the “military history of samurai”. This paper is an attempt to do so.