A Study on the “Tanaka-Version Shunki”
—Presentation on the Articles of August and September, Chōryaku 2 (1038)—

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The “Shunki” is the diary written by a noble of the Middle Heian period, FUJIWARA/no-Sukefusa (Kankō 4 (1007) — Tengi 5 (1057)). Sukefusa was a grandson-in-law of Saneouske, the Minister of the Right, who wrote “Shōyūki”, and in the direct line of the Ononomiya clan in the Fujiwara Family. The diary was called “Shunki”, because Sukefusa was Sangi (Counselor of the State), and Toku Gon-no-daibu (Assistant Grand Master of the Crown Princes’ Household).

Mr. KANDA Shigeru and others have carried out detailed studies on the manuscript of the “Shunki”. It was published in the series of “Zōho-Shiryō-Taisei”. Manuscripts not included in the “Zōho-Shiryō-Taisei” and of which the importance has been pointed out, were the “Kujō-ke Version Shunki” (Article of January, Chōryaku 4) and the “Tanaka-Version Shunki” stored in this museum. The “Kujō-ke Version” was published by Kunaichō-Shyoryōbu (the Archives and Mausolea Department of the Imperial Household Agency) in 1975, in the form of a colotype copy. The “Tanaka Version” was formerly in the possession of Mr. TANAKA Kyōchū, then passed to his grandson, Minoru. Later, it was transferred to the Agency for Cultural Affairs, and in 1990, it was transferred to the National Museum of Japanese History. In this paper, the author presents the articles of August and September of Chōryaku 2 (1038) from the Tanaka manuscript, which are not included in any other manuscripts, using photographs as well as reproductions and a bibliographical introduction, to serve as a reference for researchers.

The “Tanaka Version” is considered to be a manuscript of the early Kamakura period; the document on the reverse side of the paper is a copy of the “Musō Daijōshū Niteigirinsho”, dated Kōan 10 (1287). After the copying of the “Musō Daijōshū Niteigirinsho”, the document was used as a folded book for a certain period of time. The document is designated as an important cultural property.

The “Tanaka Version” contains articles from the middle of August 17 to October 29 of Chōryaku 2 (1038). Very few historical documents remain from the early to middle 11th century, and in this sense, the “Shunki” is very precious. The contents just cover the transitional period from the Age of Regents and Chancellors, to the Age of Cloister Government, and it is interesting to be able to pick out the political and social changes which were taking place. In Chōryaku 2 (1038), Sukefusa, in his position of Kurōdono-kami (Chief Secretary of State), performed his duties of daily liaison between the Emperor and the Chancellor. In particular, on September 23, Princess Yoshiko went down to Ise as Saigū (princess consecrated to the deity of the Ise Shrine) with her retinue. Sukefusa accompanied her, and described, in detail, what happened in the journey, which is not found in any of the other diaries; thus these articles have a very high value.