The Later Middle Ages Kujo Family’s Servants and Kujo Family’s Shoen

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The house management mechanism centered on kaboku servants is one of the things that maintained the control over the keryo. The servants of the Kujo family in the later Middle Ages comprised shodaibu-class servants and samurai status servants known as gobanshuchu, keidai-satansin, etc. In the process where the keishi had been dropping off since the early Middle Ages, there remained kaboku servants in a stronger employer-employee relationship with the Kujo family, with the setup changing its nature so that the family chief had direct overall control over even servants with samurai status. The relationship between the family and the servants became more and more like a relationship between family and family, and the composition of the Kujo family servants in the later Middle Ages appeared to be firmly established in the times of kujo Masamoto and Hisatsune.

Of the Kujo-ke ryo shoen in the later Middle Ages, the Hineno-sho is particularly well known. However, that was not the family’s only interest. There were several others in the five Kinai provinces and Saigoku. The shoryo of temples related to the Kujo family also spread in the Kinai and Saigoku, and there was remaining reliance on the Kujo family for shoryo control. In particular, in the Higashi-Kujo-Goryo (inside the temple precincts) that complicates the temple shoryo, the Kujo family adopted a kon-yaku levy system, shifting the temple shoryo more towards being a kujo keryo.

The actual control of the keryo was left to shodaibu-class kaboku servants as the bugyo and samurai-status kaboku servants as joshi. During this period, the essence of shoen control was to take whatever steps could be taken to gain as much income as possible from the shoen. To achieve that, the bugyo and joshi frequently visited the keryo, preventing daikan and local powers from uprising, and used anajha to collaborate in the work of shoen administration. The servants themselves were in a dependency relationship to cover the costs of visiting the shoen to perform their administrative duties, and also to ensure their salaries, and this setup supported the parallel control of the different keryo. The kaboku servants were required to be capable of handling finances, and performing hikei and hiki-kae (finance). In cases like Hineno-sho where the kujo family chief visited the shoen and exerted jikimu direct control, there was a control mechanism including the family and a number of servants (bugyo and joshi). kujo Masamoto’s Hineno-sho control was based on a number of servants, and the family-servant employer-employee relationship was extended to others such as priests within the
shoen. Masamoto's approach to controlling Hineno-sho was not a lone affair, it was also related to the control of other kerryo, with the summit being Hisatsune of Kyoto Higashi Kujo. The Kujo family in the late Middle Ages reinforced the employer-employee system with their kaboku servant setup, but instead of shifting to regional ryoshu, their aim was to function as a noble family, maintaining an income from a number of shoryo on the basis of shoen administration kaboku servants.