Etnològic de Museu Barcelona and Sella Collection

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This study is an analysis of public museums in Barcelona, Spain, in view of the social context and the representation, especially focusing on Etnològic de Museu Barcelona and the collection related with Japan.

The collection of Japanese materials is tentatively named Sella Collection from the collector's name, Eudald Sella Güell.

The collection dose not consisted of old treasures, but so called mingeihin (folkloric arts for tourists) in around 1960, therefore if it is evaluated from the strict point of aesthetic view, it could be regarded as cheap miscellaneous collection, but on the other hand, if changed the point of view, the Japanese tourism culture at that time and the popular westerner's view for Japan could be seen in the collection. The latter view can be thought to connect with today's popular Japan oriented booms.

Moreover, studying the intention and the process to collect the materials showed the relations between the bourgeois people and the artists in Barcelona after the World War 2nd, and very complicated human relations between European and Japanese in from Meiji through Taisho to Showa era.

Sella's profile on this paper shows to one more additional fact that a granddaughter of Teigo Iba who was the famous general manager of Sumitomo Zaibatsu, married Sella, and her parents (one of Iba’s son and a French woman) lived with them for a long time in Barcelona and died there. So the collection presents us one of aspects of a Japanese bourgeois family related with European for about 100 years.

As the result of the research, it can be said that Etnològic de Museu Barcelona has many collections, but mainly not systematically collected. And Sella Collection is collected by the bourgeois taste in Barcelona mixed with the viewpoint of related Japanese at the time. So, the Collection dose not present Japanese authentic material culture, but it is very valuable for focusing on the aesthetic tastes of both Barcelona and Japan after the World War 2nd.