The Structure of Castle Towns and Religion in the Sengoku Period: the Case of the Miyazaki Castle Town of Uwai Kakuken

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Miyazaki castle dates from the Sengoku period and was built on a site in present-day Ikeuchi-cho in Miyazaki city. Although all that remains are mostly castle ruins a detailed diary left behind by *Uwai Kakuken* (1545–1589), the lord of the castle from 1580 to 1587, is an extremely precious diary (*Uwai kakuken Nikki*) as it tells of the castle’s structure, buildings contained within its fortress, the basic beliefs and lifestyles of the warrior class who were considered an upper class during the Sengoku period. The study described in this paper adopts a newly established method of investigating the Medieval period that combines all disciplines (中世総合資料学) and in so doing makes an historical examination through integrating numerous physical materials related to Miyazaki castle.

The following facts and information have come to light as a result of this study. 1) Miyazaki castle is a castle from the Sengoku period that is representative of castles in southern Kyushu which were designed to stand side by side baileys with In-turned and Out-turned entrances. As such, it illustrates the unique features and sophistication of the layouts of southern Kyushu castles from the Sengoku period. 2) More than 20 warrior residences were built within the castle baileys, and in the center was Kakuken’s mansion which consisted of the main living quarters, a gathering place, garden and tea room. 3) *Uwai Kakuken*, the lord of the castle, intentionally and continuously believed a number of Buddhist and Shinto beliefs and devoted an inordinate amount of time to his beliefs. 4) There was a scattering of temples and shrines that served as bases for promoting such beliefs and these formed the outer perimeter of the quiet castle town of Miyazaki. 5) The low concentration of urban functions of the castle town of Miyazaki symbolized by a concentration of religious functions can be seen as a structure in which urban functions were dispersed over a wide area. With the castle at its core and the combination of these functions gave rise to a castle town that had an urban atmosphere. 6) This produced a new kind of castle town in the Sengoku period that was different from the castle towns of the Kinai and Tokai regions (the main island of Japan) which were characterized by the agglomeration of very distinguishable urban spaces. 7) One factor that hindered an urban concentration in the castle town of Miyazaki was the scattering of temples and shrines. The beliefs of *Kakuken* were largely prescribed by the structure of this kind of medieval society.