Drinking in the Educational Environment in the Toso Region:
a Study Based on the Fudekozuka

KAWASAKI Fumihiko

The focus of this paper is drinking, something that appears as a problem in an educational environment. It pays particular attention to a transformation in awareness concerning drinking during the nineteenth century. Previous research has pointed out that drinking was regulated owing to its relationship with war during the Meiji period. To verify responses to drinking prior to this war, I chose the Toso region, where there are many historical materials on everyday life easy to come in contact with drinking, and undertook this study using the inscription on the Fudekozuka (a monument dedicated to teachers by their students) and materials related to Yugaku's disciples.

The first section contains a reorganization of accounts of historical materials used in previous research and demonstrates that there were also some responses that involved a disdain for drinking precisely because of coming into contact with drinking in the Toso region. The second section is an examination of particular features of accounts concerning drinking from both side of teachers and students, including a comparison between the Toso region and the other regions of Bosso. It confirms that in the Toso region in particular, there are incidents dating from the first half of the eighteenth century onward in which drinking is seen to be the source of uncontrolled behavior. Examples exist dating from the second half of the nineteenth century that also show instances of violence and prohibition following drinking. Instances of stopping drinking related to war and patriotism are also observed. The third section is a study of the lives of those who received education in the Toso region. There were many disciples who also spoke of drinking. It also shows that students who had indirectly condoned drinking by their teachers changed their attitude whereby they adopted a negative attitude toward drinking due to factors such as having become a Yugaku disciple or out of conformity with the national trend. Instances were also observed where people did not drink alcohol owing to their vocation after they had become a Yugaku disciple. Furthermore, among Yugaku disciples there was a mixture of those who held either attitude toward drinking.

From examination of these aspects, we may confirm that there was a stand aimed at controlling drinking in the Toso region. In the first half of the eighteenth century, prior to the period of war during the Meiji era when there were attempts to implement a fair number of regulations pertaining to drinking, there is the instance of the Fudekozuka inscription that shows a belief in the necessity for moderation when drinking. Accounts of the control of drinking become more obvious from the second half of the nineteenth century. That is to say, we may conclude that based on the precondition of a position that disdains drinking, it was from this course of events that the opposition toward drinking in the Meiji period was born.