Viewpoints of Magazines and History of Folklore Studies: "Minzoku" by Gaha Ishibashi and "Minkan-densho" by Kizen Sasaki

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This article pursues viewpoints to understand the characteristics of the formation of Japanese folklore studies through magazines. Magazines are an important media for Japanese folklore studies, which have not been studied sufficiently in universities, but have been used for registering research subjects and collecting materials and also for sharing themes and deepening discussions.

This article reports that a magazine "Minzoku (Folklore)" published by Gaha Ishibashi and others in 1913 stated the importance of "folklore" studies in the beginning of the Taisho period and was operated mainly by researchers of Japanese literature, historical studies, and anthropology. The magazine was different from "Kyodo-kenkyu (Local Studies)" by Toshio Takagi and Kunio Yanagita in the same period in the consciousness of the method of understanding folklore.

Furthermore, this article deals with the magazine "Minkan-densho (Folk Tradition)" published in 1932 to study the situation of Kizen Sasaki in its publication, research themes, and his personal support of its publication. Here, the attitude of sharing the accumulation of case examples and discussions focusing on oral literature in Tohoku as a base is read not only in the published discussions but also in the structure of the magazine including the Q&A and reports on materials.

In magazines, the power of imagination toward research of people who were engaged in publication is crystallized. These two magazines are not exceptions. It is important to consider this when thinking about the historic development of folklore studies. Conventionally, magazines that were successful in the long run attracted attention. However, both of the above magazines, which did not last long, covered important issues. From now on, it is necessary to position magazines in the history of folklore studies in consideration of modern characteristics of communication with readers who supported magazines, and the relationship with technologies that produce media like mimeographs.

Key words: Local studies, Toshio Takagi, Yaichi Haga, mimeograph, media