The Imperial Palace and its Events as Seen in the Rekihaku Kohon
“Folding Screens of Scenes In and Around Kyoto”

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Screens five and six of the Rekihaku Kohon “Folding Screens of Scenes In and Around Kyoto” (hereinafter referred to as “Kohon”), which are owned by the National Museum of Japanese History and whose production recent research has clarified to date from 1525, show the Imperial Palace of the time – the Imperial Palace of Emperor Tsuchimikado – and, standing before the hall for state ceremonies, a young man thought to be a court noble dressed in full sokutai ceremonial court dress. This suggests the scene of some kinds of events.

Screens five and six of the “Folding Screens of Scenes In and Around Kyoto” show scenes from New Year to February, and there is no doubt that screen five depicts New Year events. Up until now, however, there had been no research conducted into what these events were, and there had been hardly any research conducted into the Imperial Palace of Kohon itself.

Therefore, this paper has performed detailed analysis of three factors – namely the sokutai ceremonial court dress worn by the man depicted, his position within the Imperial Palace, and the fact that he stands alone – according a dedicated chapter to each of these factors, and has made an inquiry into the notion that the New Year events of the Kohon depict the scene of a New Year seasonal court banquet (and in particular, a seasonal court banquet held on New Year’s Day) for an Naiben Shaza. Accordingly, we attempted a detailed examination and comparison of the buildings and facilities drawn in the Imperial Palace of the Kohon, identified from books and instructions as being the Imperial Palace of Emperor Tsuchimikado, as well as the buildings and facilities of the Imperial Palace depicted in the Tohaku reproduction /Uesugi-bon, which are bundled together with the same early “Folding Screens of Scenes In and Around Kyoto” as the Kohon.

Key words: Folding Screens of Scenes In and Around Kyoto, sokutai ceremonial court dress, Imperial Palace of Emperor Tsuchimikado, New Year seasonal court banquet