A Study on the Constructing Process of the Takamatsu-no-miya Library Collection

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This paper clarifies the process by which the compilations of Emperor Gosai, who copied various good manuscripts and compiled old manuscripts in early modern times, were passed on to Emperor Reigen, Emperor Nakamikado and Imperial Prince Arisugawa-no-miya Yorihito. Upon receiving the order from Cloistered Emperor Gonizanoo in 1666, the Retired Emperor Gosai presented 70 boxes of various newly manuscripts to Emperor Reigen, not including old manuscripts or literatures, which were left to Retired Emperor Gosai. The Library Collection of Retired Emperor Gosai, which also included these manuscripts, was confiscated by Emperor Reigen after the death of Retired Emperor Gosai in 1685, and Emperor Reigen further rearranged the manuscripts before incorporating them into his own library. Moreover, parts of the Library Collection of Retired Emperor Gosai were given to people such as Imperial Prince Yukihiyo and Konoe Motohiko. As for the reason why Emperor Gosai produced copies of Imperial Palace books, up until now it had been thought that copies were made as a precaution in case of fire at the Imperial Palace. Now, however, we understand that Emperor Gosai made these copies to increase his own personal library for preservation even after his abdication, and books other than those which were presented to Emperor Reigen were, with some exceptions, ultimately intended to be handed over to Imperial Prince Yukihiyo (or Imperial Prince Hachijo-no-miya Naohito). After confiscating the Old Library Collection of Retired Emperor Gosai, Emperor Reigen classified historical books in addition to the books presented to the Retired Emperor Gosai in 1666, but this was then handed over to Emperor Higashiyama five years after Emperor Gosai’s abdication without the work having been completed (incomplete parts were left out). Even after that, however, boxes were returned from the Imperial Palace and books were recovered as necessary. On the other hand, literature books continued to be managed at the Sento (the Imperial Palace Retired Emperor Reigen) without change even after the abdication. Following the death of Cloistered Emperor Reigen, a huge quantity of historical and literature books were conferred to Emperor Nakamikado, including items that had been separated from the Old Library Collection of Retired Emperor Gosai as well as newly acquired books from Emperor Reigen, among which were also items that had been presented to Emperor Nakamikado after having been temporarily distributed as mementos to Imperial Princes and Princesses. Books were given to Imperial Prince Arisugawa-no-miya Yorihito between 1727 and 1729, and again after his death. These books included items intentionally selected by Cloistered Emperor Reigen as gifts for Imperial Prince Yorihiyo, and, after his death, items that came into the hands of Imperial Prince Yorihiyo by chance.

Key words: Takamatsu-no-miya Library Collection, Higashiyama Library Collection, Emperor Gosai, Emperor Reigen, book catalogs