There have been several studies on honorary official posts arisen during the Nara and Heian period. These studies, however, focused mainly on the investigation of institutions covering relevant historical materials and a true picture of “yomei no suke”, neglecting the analysis of its developmental process. Therefore, this article clarifies the development of relevant studies on Japanese aristocratic society during the Middle Ages by focusing on the case of the Hirohashi family whose relevant materials are left in large numbers. Several studies conducted by Kanehide Hirohashi (1506–1567) were addressed. I unraveled the Hirohashi family’s accumulation of information and research development which had been not explored by detecting and analyzing relevant materials of old book collection of the Hirohashi family collected by Kanehide which are kept in the National Museum of Japanese History. The analysis revealed that materials collected by Kanehide were not only the ones of the Hirohashi family but also the ones brought by other aristocratic families nearby. Therefore, I examined the research development on other nearby families such as Ichijyo family and Sanjonishi family in order to compare the study on the Hirohashi family with the one on other nearby families. The analysis of developmental process of other relevant studies on aristocratic society during the Middle Ages confirmed that researches on several families were related to one another systematically and the studies of Kanehide Hirohashi drew significant influence from the research on Ichijo family. This analysis confirmed that the interpretation handed down to the retired emperor Gomizunoo in the early modern period was formed through these endeavors during the Middle Ages.

Key words: Hirohashi Kanehide, Hirohasi Family, Yomei no Suke, Gyohisyo, Ichijyo Kanera