

## Kijimun's Monologue —No.2— (2013/05/01)

**Topic:** Here comes a Chinese Envoy!

**Keywords:** *Kansen, Fūshū, Sakuhō, Ryukyu Ōoku*

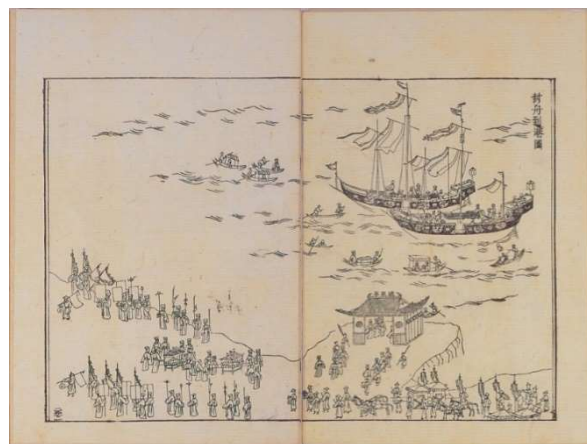
*Haisai*, Kijimun *yaibīn!* Freshers, have you already gotten used to *Ryūdai*? I think you will soon have to write a report. I am a supporter of hardworking students, do not hesitate to ask library staff if you have any question about the library.

In this month, I'm going to talk about "*Sakuhōshi*," an envoy who came to Ryukyu from China with a southerly monsoon in summer.

### ●What is *Sakuhōshi*?

The Ryukyu Kingdom periodically dispatched an envoy to China through Ming to Qing era to maintain a tributary relation. "*Sakuhō*" means that Chinese Emperor appoints someone to an empress, a crown prince, and feudal lords. In Ryukyu, when a king passed away, a successor to the throne dispatched an envoy to China and petitioned to be appointed him to "A king of *Chūzan*, Ryukyu State." Following the petition from Ryukyu, Chinese Emperor dispatched officers to Ryukyu to hold a memorial service for the former King (called *Yusai*) and a ceremony of *Sakuhō* for the new King. *Sakuhōshi* was an envoy who was dispatched by Chinese Emperor to bring a letter of appointment to a king of the tributary country. To the Ryukyu Kingdom, there were fifteen times of dispatches of *Sakuhōshi* in Ming era, eight times in Qing era. There were about 400 people, as many as more than 600 people in the delegation from China, including servants and sailors, they came to Naha port on two vessels on May or June of the lunar calendar.

\*Digital Archive, Ryukyu/Okinawa Special Collection  
Nakahara Zenchū collection, No.113, *Jūkoku Chūzan Denshiroku maki ni*, A scene of arrival of *Kansen/Fūshū* (a ship of *Sakuhōshi*) at Naha port



### ●Here comes *Sakuhōshi*!

After 1609, as Ryukyu was dominated by Satsuma clan (it was Edo *Bakufu*, a Japanese government at that time who ordered to Satsuma clan), the officers from Satsuma clan stationed at Naha. At the same time, however, Ryukyu Kingdom continued the tributary relation with China. It was necessary to cover up from China that Ryukyu was under Japanese governance. The officers from Satsuma clan holding Katana and ting a topknot (appearance of *Samurai, Bushi*) had to hide up from

*Sakuhōshi*. Thus, there was a rule that the officers from Satsuma clan needed to move to Gusukuma *mura*, Urasoe *magiri* (Gusukuma, Urasoe city, present-day) from Naha during *Sakuhōshi* stayed in Ryukyu. But, it seems that they secretly looked at the ceremony of *Sakuhō*, because there is a description in “*Kansen Haryūshūhō Nikki*” (*Shōke Monjo*), the direction to guide the officers to where the ceremony was held.

It might be the biggest event that people could not miss at any cost because the ceremony of *Sakuhō* was held only once every tens of years.

\*“*Kansen Haryūshūhō Nikki*”  
(*Shōke Monjo*: from paper edition, the original is owned by Naha City Museum of History)

<p>冊封御規式為後見物御奉行 并定式 唐物方御役々衆御登城且 勅使御行列為御見物大美御 殿江御出 被成候時御通跡筋爬龍舟漕</p>	<p>冊封御規式為後見物御奉行 唐物方御役々衆御登城且 勅使御行列為御見物大美御 殿江御出 被成候時御通跡筋爬龍舟漕 沙塵白 冊封御規式為後見物御奉行 唐物方御役々衆御登城且 勅使御行列為御見物大美御 殿江御出 被成候時御通跡筋爬龍舟漕 沙塵白</p>
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