

Kijimun' s Monologue No.4

Historical sites near Senbaru pond, a tomb of Itokama *Noro*

Haisai! Kijimun yaibin! (Hi! I'm Kijimun!)

I'm going to introduce some historical sites near Senbaru pond situated in a middle of *Ryūdai* Senbaru campus!

In the Senbaru pond, there is an old tomb of *Noro* of Ryukyu under the water. It is a tomb of *Noro* who lived in Itokama, an ancient *makyo* in Tsuha village. In ancient Ryukyu, people lived in a colony called "*Makyo*," it was a very small village to which only same clan belonged.

In the old days, the place where *Ryūdai* currently situates was a colony of Tsuha (Tsuha, Nakagusuku village present-day), and there was a *Noro* in the clan. One day, they fought with a clan of Tanabaru, a colony next to them, the clan of Tsuha was all perished near Senbaru pond, and the *Noro* of Tsuha also got drowned in the deep water of *Nābigumui* (Look at a picture below.) It is said that *Nābigumui* was a pond like a bottom of a pot (in Okinawan dialect, *Nābi* means a pot and *Gumui* means a pool.) The *Noro* was buried near the pond, and that place became a place of worship named *Shijimatana Utaki*. According to *Ryukyukoku yuraiki*, the clan of Tanabaru has already worshiped it as a sacred place in 1713. The tomb got under the water of Senbaru pond when the University of the Ryukyus was founded, only the place of worship was removed to near the pond (Look at a picture upper-right.) Even now, the clan of Tanabaru or Tsuha offer a prayer several times a year.



Shijimatana Utaki



Nābigumui

The Senbaru pond is an artificial pond which was made when *Ryūdai* moved to Senbaru campus in 1977, and Faculty of Agriculture uses it as an irrigation dam for their farm. It used to be a natural river and shape of the river was different from the current one. Down the *Nābigumui*, there was another pond called *Ufutachigumui*. The width of the pond was 99 m², and the depth was 13 m, but it went below the water. There also was a well called *Shijimatana ukā*, but now it can't be located where it was.

Besides, *Munnu* River and *Ofuchū* River flow nearby *Ryūdai*.

Near the surface of the water at northern Senbaru pond, there is a plant colony of *Irukanda* (*Mucuna macrocarpa*, pea family), in spring, at the time of its flowering, we can see hundreds of big reddish brown flowers. (Look at a picture at right.)

There are still more historical spots of Ryukyu *Ōfu* era around *Ryūdai*. I will show you them in next column, don't miss it!



Irukanda