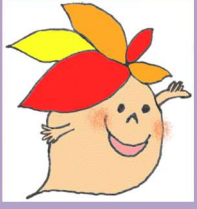


No.12 人面獣身 (a beast with human face)



Hi everyone, the stories of *Majimun* (Okinawan monster) ends with this number 12. Thank you for your support so far!

In this month, I will introduce a monster named "Heiroppā"! This monster can be found in *Ryukyu kitan* (HW464-C1 p.11, from Sakamaki/Hawley Collection of University of Hawaii at Mānoa Library). This monster lives in the Sea of Kikai Island, it has a human head and a tiger's body. It runs around on the sea and it eats sea snakes. It laughs uproariously at a human being but it harms no one. Though its appearance is terrible, it doesn't seem to be an evil being.



In a topography and a folk material of early modern period, this type of monster, a beast with human face sometimes appears. In 40th volume of *Wakan sansai zue* which was edited by Terajima Ryōan, a medical doctor of Edo period, a similar type of monster comes out.

Its name is "Sankai". Its body is like a dog, it has a human face, it runs around like the wind and it gets a laugh out of a human being. It is quite similar to Heiroppā, isn't it?!

"Sankai" Tōyō bunko 466
Wakan Sansai zue 6, P151



At the end, let me introduce "Hakutaku"! It is a sacred beast speaking like a human being and it appears during the reign of a virtuous king. It has 3 eyes on its face and 6 eyes on its body. "Hakutaku zu" of Gusukuma Seihō (Pen name: Jiryō) is famous. We, people nowadays can't imagine such a curious monster like this, we have to take our hat off to people in the past for their imagination!

Well, are you wondering where you can see the monsters introduced here?

You will find them on the web site of the University of the Ryukyus Library, in the Sakamaki/Hawley collection of Digital Archive or in the references below (Sorry, Japanese only.)

Let's check them out!

Hi, I'm today's hero, Heiroppā!

In this picture, there is a description of my appearance and my habits. Am I like a hybrid of human and tiger?!

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Hakutaku zu

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