



No.10 Shimabukuro Genshichi Collection

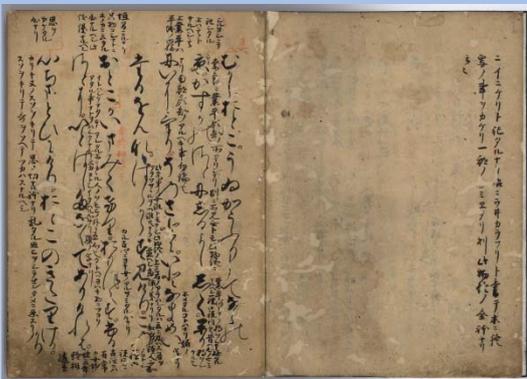
Summary

Wishing all of you a happy new year!

I' m going to introduce Shimabukuro Genshichi, a folklorist of Yanbaru.

• Brief History of Shimabukuro Genshichi(1897.6-1953.1)

Shimabukuro was born in present-day Serikyaku, Nakijin village in July 1897. He graduated from an Okinawa Normal School in March 1917, and worked as an elementary school teacher from April 1917 during 10 years. He went to Tokyo in 1927 and he continued to teach at elementary school. At the same time, he studied geography and history at Rissho University Higher Normal School Course and graduated from the school in 1931. After the graduation, he became a teacher of Rissho Junior High school in 1934, and then, from 1947, he served concurrently as a High school teacher. At 57 years old, he died of heart failure due to the bronchial asthma on 15th January 1953.



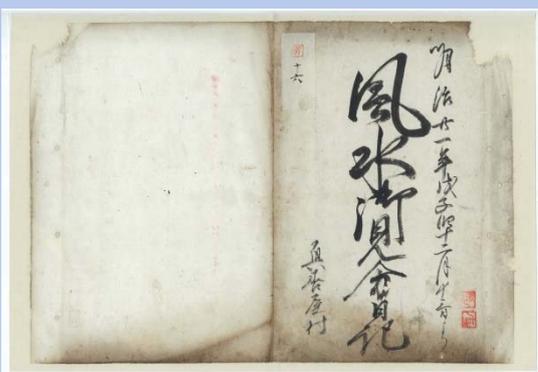
“The tales of Ise, a manuscript from the Urasoe Family”

• Becoming a folklorist after encountering Orikuchi Shinobu

Shimabukuro guided in the region of Kunigami when Orikuchi Shinobu visited Okinawa for folkloric investigation in 1921. This encounter made Shimabukuro a folklorist too. “Yanbaru no Dozoku” (Kyōdo Kenkyusha, 1929), a representative work of Shimabukuro, is the first full-scale literary work which was written about the Annual Rituals & Feasts, and also about the Folk religion in the northern part of Okinawa Island. Later, this book became an example of the folk religious service study.

• About Shimabukuro Genshichi Collection

After his death, 115 documents, a part of his reference materials, were stocked in University of the Ryukyus Library in 1957. This collection is mainly composed of the documents of Yanbaru. Its representative documents are “An account of Feng Shui (Fū sui Gokembun Nikki)”, a group of records which has been made by a Feng Shui master in 19th century. It is very valuable that documents about Okinawan Feng Shui of 19th century are unifying. Also, “Urasoekebon Isemonogatari” is one of manuscripts which were transmitted in Ryukyu. This book was one of the authority documents of the archaic word dictionary, “Konkoukenshū” which Royal government of Shuri edited in 1711. In October 1974, the “Urasoekebon Isemonogatari” was designated Okinawa tangible cultural property.



“An account of feng shui”

You can link to our “Ryukyu/Okinawa Special Collection Digital Archives” by scanning the QR code on the right, and you can check the material images of Shimabukuro Genshichi Collection. (CT)

