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Some shapes of *Komonjo*

Haisai, Kijimun yaibin! In this month, I am going to introduce some shapes of *Komonjo* (ancient documents) owned by our library!

There are several patterns of book binding design of *Komonjo* which University of the Ryūkyūs Library owns.

1. *Makimono*(*Kansusō*) : A handscroll

It is said that this is the oldest form of book binding with paper. There are a cord attached at the beginning and an axis attached at the end of a paper which is long horizontally joined in sequence, then the paper is wound around the axis and it is tied up with the cord.



1. *Makimono*(*Kansusō*)

2. *Orihon* : An accordion book

Because *Makimono* needed to be wound back into the form of scroll after reading and it was troublesome, another form of book appeared, *Orihon*, an accordion book. It was made from a piece of paper or several pieces of paper pasted edge-to-edge, folded in bellows shape from the end of paper with constant width.



2. *Orihon*

3. *Tecchōsō* (*Retsujōsō*, *Tetsujōsō*) : A multisection binding

It is a book binding design that a number of papers were stacked and folded in half to form a section, then several of these sections were sewn from outside of the fold.



3. *Tecchōsō*

4. *Fukurotoji* : A pouch binding

It is a book binding form in which pages are folded in half from the center of the paper turning the face of the paper right side out, then stacked and stitched together along the unfolded edge. There are several methods according to the way of stitching of front cover or according to a type of front cover.

- *Minchōtoji* (*Yotsumetoji*/*Watoji*) : Chinese-style binding (Four-hole binding/Japanese-style binding)
- *Kōkitoji* : Kangxi binding
- *Chōsen toji* (*Itsutsumetoji*) : Korean-style binding (Five-hole binding)



4. *Minchōtoji*



4. *Kōkitoji*



4. *Chōsen toji*

5. *Tatamimono* : A folder

It is a piece of paper folded up which is too large to keep as it is. For example, a map or a sugoroku (Japanese variety of Parcheesi).



5. *Tatamimono*



The back of this red frame corresponds a front cover of the folder.

References ;

- Greenfield, Jane (1998). *ABC of bookbinding: a unique glossary with over 700 illustrations for collectors & librarians*. New Castle Del.: Oak Knoll Press.
- Ikegami Kōjirō; adapted by Stephan, Barbara B. (1986). *Japanese bookbinding: instructions from a Master craftsman, 1sted.* New York and Tokyo: John Weatherhill, Inc.