

No.9 Kijimun' s Monologue, December 2017

-Fabrics (*Bingata*) and Costumes from Digital Archives

Keywords : *Kanpuku* • *Bingata*



Hi, everyone! In this month, I am going to talk about fabrics from *Komonjo*.

● *Kanpuku* of Ryukyu

The images ① and ② at the right side are illustrations of *Kanpuku* (a ceremonial costume of the Ryukyu Kingdom, it was reserved only for the royal family and for upper-class) which were published in *Ryukyu banashi* of Morishima Chūryō (issued on 1790, Nakahara Zenchū collection). There is an image of some *Satonushi* (one of court rank of the Ryukyu Kingdom) who wear the ceremonial costume of *Gakudōji* (young men who played music or danced) at the time of *Edotate* (Edo procession) (image ①).



Some *Gakudōji* tie *Katakashira* (a hairstyle of men in the era of Ryukyu Kingdom, a kind of topknot) and use *Kanzashi* (an ornamental hairpin), they also wear a long robe with wide sleeves. King of Ryukyu wears *Usanmō* (Chinese style headpiece), *Twūishō* (Chinese style clothes) with an image of a dragon, a belt, and shoes (image ②). According to *Ryukyukoku raiheiki* (issued in about 1832, Iha Fuyū collection), the costumes were called as “Kin” or “Chin” in Ryukyuan dialect (image ③).



● Textile fabrics (*Bingata*: one of the traditional dyeing technique in Okinawa)



The images ④ and ⑤ at the left side are materials from “*Bingata Ko Ryukyu*” (issued in

1928, Iha Fuyū collection). The image ④ is *Jitsubutsu Kireji* (a real cloth which is attached to a book page) of *Bingata*. Its brightly colored pattern is called *Kotengara*, which created by using a technique of *Katazome* (paste-resist dyeing). The image ⑤ is a costume of which motifs are paulownia, peony, and Chinese phoenix. Both ④ and ⑤ are made of cotton cloths with patterns.



It is said that *Bingata* became the current style in the about 18th century, it was used as a formal costume of the royal family and *Shizoku* (officials working for the royal government) or as a costume of *Okansenodori* which was played at a reception held for welcoming *Sakuhōshi* (Chinese envoy). Its patterns and colors were varied according to the positions or ages of whom wear the costume.

On the website of University of the Ryukyus Library, you can see the images introduced above with Digital Archives, let's check them out!

* The images ① and ② are from No.129 of Nakahara Zenchū collection, PP.13-14.

The image ③ is from No.036 of Iha Fuyū collection, P.21.

The images ④ and ⑤ are from No.009 of Iha Fuyū collection, P.6, and P.9. University of the Ryukyus Library owns both collections.

