



## No.2 Uma (a horse)

Keywords: *Uma* (a horse), an equestrian skill, *Nmasūbu* (a horse race), *Shintōryū*

*Haisai & Haitai, Kijimun yaibin!* (Hi, I'm Kijimun!) "The Golden Week" has come! Have you already set a schedule? I hope you will have a great holiday! Well, in this month, I am going to talk about "a horse," here we go!

- The relationship between Ryukyuan people and a horse

A horse is one of the animals which have bound up with human being since a long time ago. Especially, in the era of *Min*, Ryukyuan horses were dedicated to *Min* Dynasty along with sulfurs. Besides, a horse race called "*Nmasūbu*" was held as an annual event in every village. In the ground of the University of the Ryukyus, a part of a circular road near parking of the Faculty of Agriculture, there is a historic site of a riding ground called *Senbaru baba*.



The site of *Senbaru baba*, in the University of the Ryukyus

- Some materials regarding an equestrian skill



Miyara Douchi/Dunchi collection No.136, "A picture of a horse"



Miyara Douchi/Dunchi collection No.209, "Seven reins"

It is said that an equestrian skill was one of the essential disciplines of *Samurē* (Ryukyuan officials) in the early modern period of Ryukyu. When 向象賢 *Shō Jōken* (羽地按司朝秀 *Haneji Aji* (a regional administrator) *Chōshū*) was *Sessei* (a Chief Councillor of the Ryukyu Kingdom), he proclaimed *Haneji Shioki* in which the equestrian skill was listed as one of the essential arts which young men should learn. According to an article of "Horse-riding" in Volume 4 of *Ryukyukoku yuraiki*, the equestrian skill in Ryukyu has been brought from Japan. In the Miyara Douchi/Dunchi collection owned by the University of the Ryukyus Library, there are materials like "A picture of a horse," a portrait of a black or chestnut-colored horse and a retainer of Satsuma clan, or "Seven reins" in which a list of terms of equitation is enumerated. There is a more detailed explanation of "Seven reins" in *Umakeiko kikigaki*, one of Ishigaki family documents in Yaeyama. According to that, the seven reins indicate some techniques of *Shintōryū*, which is one of the schools of Japanese equitation, known for its special skills of correcting unmanageable horses. It shows techniques of horse riding according to habits or natures of a horse.

Let's see the dashing *Samurai* of Satsuma clan riding a horse with Digital Archives of the Library!

