

No.3 Hitsuji (a sheep)

Keywords: a lamb, a sheep, a goat, a goat monster

Haitai&Haisai!! How are you doing, everyone? In this month, I'm going to talk about a Sheep, here we go!

A sheep or a lamb among the Oriental Zodiac

In ancient China, people used a duodecimal system likening hours, orientations and months to twelve animals. It was called "Jūnishi (Twelve branches)," and spread out in various places with being influenced by Onmyōdō (the philosophy of Yin and Yang). "未 (Hitsuji)" is the 8th animal of the Oriental Zodiac, it points south-southwest as a direction, and as a time, it indicates between 1 pm to 3 pm. The origin of the character of "未" is a tree with young branches, it means "young" and "not yet." Besides, "未" can also be read "Mi," like "味 (means "taste")," the character of "未" also signifies a fruit ripen.

The character of "羊 (Hitsuji)" signifies a sheep with horns and it means "good" or "joyous." Also, a sheep was considered a god of mountains, "未" and "羊" were used at the same time afterward. (Image ①)

① Terajima Ryōan (Edited by Shōjun)

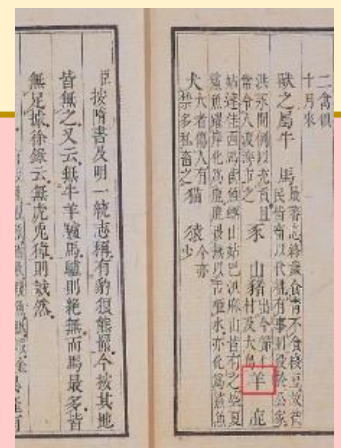
"Wakan sansei zue"



●A sheep and a goat

As the Kanji of "未" and "羊" were simultaneously used, a sheep and a goat were also mixed up through the ages. The "Sheep" sketched in the picture ① appears as a "Goat." The oldest account of a goat is "Chōsen'ōchōjitsuroku" of 1477 ("Shōtōsho'oku shiryō sōsho, 30 volumes in total, Richō Jitsuroku".) According to this material, a horse and a "sheep" (a goat) lived in the main island of Okinawa only. And also, we can find a word "羊: a sheep" (山羊: a goat) on the page 29th of volume 14th, *Bussan* in "Ryukyukokushiryaku"6, written and edited by Shūkō (②).

This book is a record of 1757. You can check the Word "羊" in the image ② through the QR code below!



②the page 29th of volume 14th, *Bussan* in "Ryukyu kokushiryaku" 6



●A goat monster

There are some stories about a goat monster in every place on the main island of Okinawa. It is said that the monster appears in the middle of the night, and it makes a mad dash for the human. If the human manages to get away from it, it does nothing, but if it passes the human, he/she will die... How scaring!

We would like to introduce you to a goat of Fujukan, the University Museum, in the end. The goat at left is called "Poko-chan (male, one year and six months)," we can see him at "Biotope" of Fujukan. Why don't you go there and see him!



Jump to
the image
②!