



Column Kijimun's Monologue - Series of the Oriental Zodiac -

No.5; *Tori* (a cock) A cock of the dawn -summary-

Keywords: *Tori* (a cock), a cock of the dawn, a parting of lovers in the morning, *Yakabi Chōki*, "Yakabi Kunkunshi"

Haisai! Kijimun *yaibin* (Hi! I'm Kijimun)! August is a month of cock with the Oriental Zodiac. The character of “酉 (*tori*)” means a cock, not a bird.

A cock starts to crow from about 3 a.m.; its first crow is called “*Ichiban Dori* (the first cock) in Japan. And this crow is a grieving alarm for the lovers who have stayed together all night long; they have to say good-bye in the morning. Many poems have been composed about the first crow which announces “後朝の別れ (= a parting of lovers in the morning).”

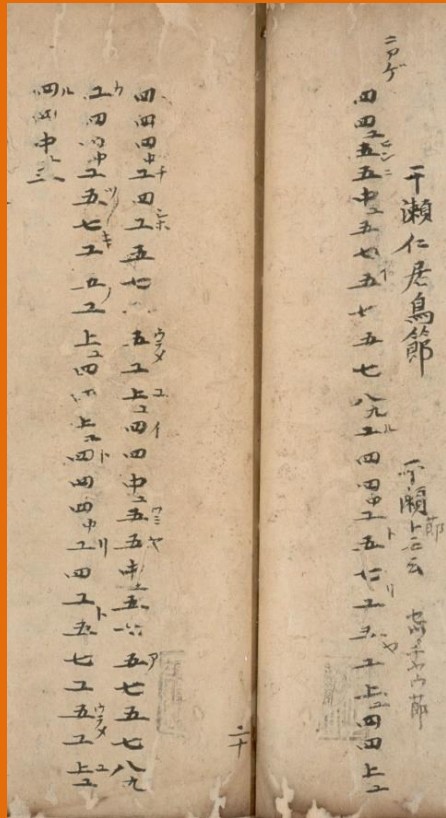


Image) “Yakabi Chōki Kunkunshi”

Here is a representative sample of *Ryūka* (a Ryukyuan poem).

The title: 干瀬に居鳥節 *Hishi ni uru tui bushi*

干瀬に居る鳥や満潮うらみゆい *Hishi ni uru tui ya michishu uramiyui*
我身や暁の鳥ど恨みゆる *Wami ya akachichi nu tui du ramyuru*

The meaning: A cock on a reef flat hates a high-tide, I hate a cock of the dawn. This *Ryūka* is included in “Yakabi Kunkunshi,” a famous anthology of *Ryūka*.

This anthology is a musical score of Ryukyuan classical music, edited by Yakabi Chōki (1716-1775), and it includes 117 tunes. Its completed year is unknown. Yakabi invented *Ryūgakufu* (a Ryukyuan musical score) by contriving a musical notation of a scale of *Sanshin* with using an original sign of Chinese character referring to Chinese musical notation. His invention was epoch-making.

It was Majikina Ankō who owned this book, later it was acquired by Iha Fuyū, and now

our library own it as one of Iha Fuyū collection. Also, it was designated as tangible cultural property by Okinawa Prefecture in 1955.



Image) (QR code of the Digital Archive)

As many cocks interrupted many sweet rendezvous, they may be eaten by the resenting lovers in Ryukyu?!

We recommend you to look for more poems with cocks in an anthology of *Ryūka* through the Digital Archive of the library; we are sure you can find your favorite poem!