



Column Kijimun's Monologue - Series of the Oriental Zodiac – No.7: *Inoshishi* (=a boar or a pig)

Keywords: a boar, a pig, a pig transforming a beautiful woman

Haisai & Haitai! Kijimun *yaibin* (Hi, I'm Kijimun)!!

The last animal of the Oriental Zodiac is a boar! In Japan, 亥 means a boar (猪), but there are some countries where 猪 means a pig. You know, in Okinawa, we eat every part of a pig except its cry “Oink-oink.” As this shows, a pig is a long-familiar face for Okinawan people, let's talk about “the pig” in this month!

- A folktale of a pig which takes a beautiful woman

A long, long ago, there was a gorgeous woman wearing Japanese leather sandals, and she seduced young men in a village every night. They asked her name and her address, but she only smiled and did not even utter a word. One night, they divested her of her sandals, she escaped somewhere dragging her feet. In next morning, they felt astonished at seeing the sandals. The nails of a pig they were!

Then, they looked into pigpens of each family in the village, and they found that there was an old pig without its nails falling in one of the pigpens. At that time, they realized the beautiful woman was a disguise of the pig. From then, it is said that pigs are not for keeping for long.



Image ①



Image ②



Image ③

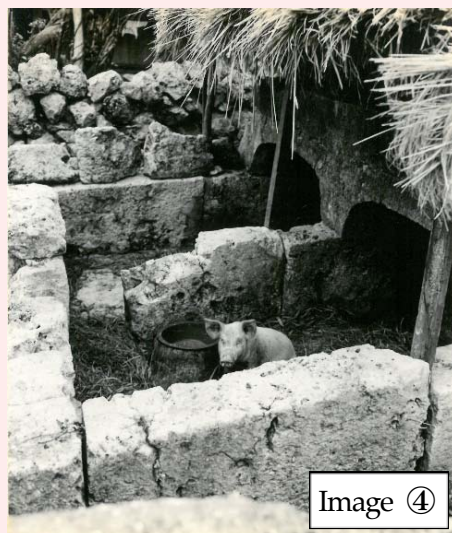


Image ④

- Ryukyuan people and a pig

A pig is an essential foodstuff

for Okinawan cuisine, like **Sōki-jiru*, *Rafutē*, *Nakami-jiru*,

Mimigā, *Chī-irichī*, etc. For the fest of an annual event, like the New Year's day or *Obon* festival, there must be pork dishes, we can confidently say that a pig is typical Okinawan livestock.

In painted pictures depicting the Okinawan customs, there are often vendors of piglets, who put the piglets on their head (Image ① & ②.) The Okinawan native pig was called *Shima buta* (an Okinawan pig), it was black, it had a curved back and a drooping paunch (Image ③.) In Naha and Shuri, until about the beginning of Taishō era, people bought piglets in a neighboring farm and had them in a pigpen (*Uwā fūru* = a lavatory with pigs) (Image ④.) In a red-light district, buying up peels of sweet potatoes for pig's feed was the first job for the girls who had been sold from farming villages. Besides, in liquor stores in Shuri, a hog raising utilizing the sake lees was very popular, in *Naha no minzoku* (from *Nahashi shi*), there is a record telling all of the liquor stores had hundreds of pigs.

Let's look for the images with piglets on vendor's head on Digital Archive of our library!

Image① *Butauri* (a pig vendor) (from Sakamaki/Hawley collection No.HW747 *Okinawa Fūzokunozu*)

Image② *Butauri* (from the Material ID: 0020040092768 *Ryukyū Fūzokuzū*)

Image③ An Okinawan native black pig (a postcard)

Imafe④ A pigpen (*Uwā fūru*) in Takamine village (Itoyan city, present-day) [around 1960] (from George H. Kerr pictures No.9)

