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SUMMARIES

Postal System in the Early Yi Dynasty

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In Korea, postal system had been adopted since the 5th century, and its institutional outline was accomplished during the Koryŏ dynasty. In the Yi dynasty it still remained to be the main facility of public transportation and communication.

Each post station was practically a village, and was subordinate to specific higher rank administrative unit. Its inhabitants were called to be post station attendants (yŏngni) and post station slaves (yŏngnobi), who hereditarily took over the social position and postal labour. They cultivated yŏkjon, puddy fields which belonged to post station, and were provided expenses needed to buy horses and treat official travellers.

In the early Yi dynasty, some noteworthy phenomena were perceived. Some post stations were newly established and some were combined and moved. Subordinate relation also changed. And yŏkdo consisting of some stations were renovated. Through these processes the dynasty tried to strengthen its influence over stations and establish effective traffic-communication network which were indispensable for the centralization of administration.

The Female Workers under the Early Haxāmaniš- Dynasty

KAWASE Toyoko

Persepolis Fortification Tablets (PFT) provide extremely valuable information on kurtaš, workers of the royal household, in the years 509-494 B.C., i.e., the 13th-28th of Dārayavau-I. It is obvious that female workers numbered about half the total kurtaš-personel. The main purpose of this essay is

to reconstruct the royal management of female workers described as Pašap through investigation of PFT.

37 Pašap-texts were extracted: 23 texts in PFT where Pašap was explicitly referred to. 13 texts in PFT which were identified as Pašap-records by the present writer. PT 6 that was published by G. G. Cameron. The following facts emerged from the detailed analysis of these texts.

- (1) Females and children supplied main working power to the Pašap-groups.
- (2) Pašap can be regarded as kurtaš engaged in woolen textile production, whose work groups were organized under the female leaders.
- (3) Exceptionally high rations were given to the adult female Pašap, especially to the female leaders.
- (4) The royal household showed positive concern about the level of Pašap's skill and the quality of their product.
- (5) Female Pašap were permitted exemption from work for a month when they were in childbed, as well as most other female workers.

Historical Materials: Matsuura Takeshiro's Letters Writtin in the Last Years of Tokugawa Regime and Related Documents (*Matsuura Takeshiro-oh Sekitoku* Owned by Takao Yoshinaga)

KOBORI Kazumasa

Historical materials introduced here consist of four letters written by Matsuura Takeshiro (1818-1888, known as an explorer in the Ezo region in Northern Japan in the last years of the Tokugawa Shogunate) and nine documents which describe the trend in the central and local governments. Three of Matsuura's letters were written in the first year of Ansei period (1854) and one in the third (1856). All were addressed to Ajiro Hironori, a priest of the Ise shrine (1784-1856). They described the busy and confused situation of the society and administration before and after the opening of the country to foreigners. The letters also reveal some of Matsuura's political activities which have been little known. Nine documents attached to the letters are a collection of Furegaki, or public announcements, and Kikigaki, or records, of the Tokugawa and local governments.