

旅日記・紀行文と地方社会
(重近啓樹先生追悼記念号)

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Travel Diaries and Travel Narratives of Local Society

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Travel accounts written by ancient and medieval people are embedded in ‘Utamakura’ (歌枕) and historical landmarks: ancient and medieval travellers seem to have realised their noble, sophisticated identity through these experiences.

Since the Tenma-sei (伝馬制) of Tokaido (東海道) was introduced by Tokugawa Ieyasu (徳川家康) in 1601, the traffic of Tokaido was much improved, as a result of which travel became a less difficult enterprise. In addition, as guides for tourist attraction and hot springs were widely circulated in Edo society, people were increasingly interested in making a trip.

Kaibara Ekken (貝原益軒), a Confucianist philosopher of Fukuoka Domain (福岡藩), is known to have had tremendous pleasure in making a trip and reading books. Moreover, as he made various trips to do research, he embarked on creating a new style of travel narrative, based on field work.

Travels after the latter half of the eighteenth century are different from the classic and medieval travels in that they provide a traveller with an opportunity to appreciate the reality with his/her eyes, which indeed anticipates the coming of a new age.