

A Study of the Diary *Konpirasankeidochunikki*
—“A Journey to the Konpira”—

YAMAMOTO, Mitsumasa

Konpirasankeidochunikki was a diary written by the people of the Kakegawa post (*shukuba*) located along the Tokaido, when they travelled to the Konpira (“devil god”). The diary will be included in the museum’s collection.

The party consisted of 16 members; their social status is not known but they seemed to rich farmers. On the 20th of February in 1856 (Ansei 3), the party gathered together at Kakegawa post and departed the next day. The main trips that were made were, a visit to Nagoya (Feb. 24th), sightseeing in Kyoto (Feb. 24th-Mar. 2nd), worship of the Konpira (Mar. 10th) sightseeing Sakai (Mar. 18th), worship at Ise Shrine (Mar. 26th); on the 5th of April they returned home.

The feature of the diary is that the expenditure required during the trip, the actual items and furthermore, the conduct of the party were described in detail. From the details of the expenditure, the prices of commodities, souvenirs and food of that day can be worked out. Most of the diary consists of impressions of the famous sites visited during the trip, and from this diary, we can understand aspects of the behaviour early modern people observed during their travels.

To early modern people, travelling meant to be released from the constricting rules of their villages. If people acted audaciously they were punished in some way but when people travelled, this kind of conduct was tolerated. Meanwhile, *shukuba* (posts) accepted this tendency and welcomed travelers. In this diary, there are some passages describing how the party enjoyed themselves during their trip.

The characteristics of traveling by modern Japanese were formed in the early modern period and this diary is of value as it reflects a typical trip by such people.