

“Edo for the people in the province” by YAMAMOTO Mitsumasa

Edo, the biggest castle town of the nation, was inevitably the place to be visited and was actually visited by people from the province. Those who came to Edo to bring a legal action, etc represented the former while the sight seeing tourists represented the latter. According to the diaries recorded by those people during their journey (except for those by warriors), he tried to study how these people from the province saw and commented on Edo. Most of the tourists stayed in Edo for a short period of time and their action radius were never beyond the area surrounding ;

- i) Ueno, Asakusa, Ryōgoku and Sumida or
 - ii) Nihonbashi, Daimyō-kōji and Zōjōji
- as the result of their hiring guides for tourists.

The above area include some of the districts constantly thronged with people. Congestion could be said to be the typical Edo scene. Those who stayed in Edo for a long period of time walked around various places in intervals of their work and recorded comments or information on the diary or wrote to their home in the province. As their sojourn in Edo got longer, they tended to have made comparison of Edo with their lives in the province. For those living in the neighbouring areas of Edo, Edo was an easily accessible and convenient tourist resort, and was the place where quality articles were available. Edobashi Hirokōji was their haunts and

was strongly tied with rest stations of boat also. Edobashi Hirokōji was often quoted in Senryū (poem) as a bustling spot but was a contrast to Ryōgoku where rows of amusement tent were pitched. Edobashi Hirokōji was a spot for Edoites or people from Bōsō (Chiba) and Miura Peninsula rather than for tourists. The diaries on the journey shown here are mainly by the easterners. Almost every tourist who had a chance to visit Edo was on his way to Ise Shrine to worship and it was naturally meaningless for westerners to visit Edo. People who came to Edo can be categorised according to their province rather than to their class. No matter how short their stay in Edo might have been, their judgement on the Government would have been more or less influenced by the experience of seeing the City of Edo physically.