

17. Coin trove excavated in Fussa

17.1 Coins excavated in Fussa

A lot of buried coins were found 1 meter underground during the work of landscape gardening in the Kumagawa area in March 1995 (Heisei 7). They total 5,075 coins mainly *Kochusen* (Coins made by Governors) of the Northern Song in China. The excavated coins are sorted into 62 types. The oldest one is Kaigen Tsuho, first minted in 621. The latest one is Seko Tsuho coin of Ryukyu, first minted in 1461. The buried coins are mainly Chinese coins of the Tang, Song and Ming periods. The coins of the Northern Song account for 70.2%.

17.2 Coin circulation in Medieval Times

The most circulated copper coins in Japan by the end of 16th century were imported from China after the middle 12th century. Large quantities of Chinese coins were circulated not only in Japan. They were widely used in the Korean Peninsula, Japan, Ryukyu to the east, Java, Vietnam to the south and the Islamic world to the west.

The world order centering on China was known as *Kaichitsujo* (Order between China and the around countries). The center of the trade with China at that time was to supply coins from China after bringing tribute. That is why the entire Asian trade was settled in Chinese copper coins. At the same time, large quantities of coins were minted in Japan in imitating of Chinese coins. Coin burial customs have been found from many places in Japan. The discovered total of buried coins exceeds 300 million. Therefore the number of undiscovered coins is estimated to several times exceed the discovered coins.

17.3 When were the coins buried

The burial period of the discovered vast coin deposits of Fussa is estimated as the latter 16th century because the newest discovered coin dates to Seko Tsuho. In that period the Hojo family took Kawagoe Castle and Musashi Province, however, the Oishi and Mita families domination continued in the Fussa area and the Hojo family domination had not reached Fussa.

Later in 1561 (Eiroku 4), UESUGI Kenshin of Echigo (Nagano Prefecture) invaded the Kanto region and the Mita family assisted the Uesugi family. Then after Uesugi evacuated Kanto, the Hojo family overpowered the Mita family. Because the Fussa area was the boundary of the Mita and Hojo families' military tension increased

| COIN NAME | NATION | YEAR OF MINTING | NUMBER OF COINS EXCAVATED |
|----------------|----------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Kaigen Tsuho | Tang | 621 | 381 |
| Kengen Juho | Tang | 758 | 17 |
| Kantoku Genpo | Qian Shu | 919 | 1 |
| Shutsu Genpo | Hou Zhou | 955 | 2 |
| Togoku Tsuho | Nan Tang | 959 | 4 |
| Kaigen Tsuho | Nan Tang | 960 | 4 |
| Soutsu Genpo | Bei Song | 960 | 13 |
| Taihei Tsuho | Bei Song | 976 | 36 |
| Junka Genpo | Bei Song | 990 | 32 |
| Shidou Genpo | Bei Song | 995 | 57 |
| Kanpei Genpo | Bei Song | 998 | 70 |
| Keitoku Genpo | Bei Song | 1004 | 87 |
| Shofu Genpo | Bei Song | 1009 | 108 |
| Shofu Tsuho | Bei Song | 1009 | 58 |
| Tenki Tsuho | Bei Song | 1017 | 84 |
| Tensei Genpo | Bei Song | 1023 | 191 |
| Meidou Genpo | Bei Song | 1032 | 21 |
| Keiyu Genpo | Bei Song | 1034 | 50 |
| Koso Tsuho | Bei Song | 1038 | 519 |
| Keireki Juho | Bei Song | 1045 | 1 |
| Shiwa Genpo | Bei Song | 1054 | 62 |
| Shiwa Tsuho | Bei Song | 1054 | 8 |
| Kayu Genpo | Bei Song | 1056 | 63 |
| Kayu Tsuho | Bei Song | 1056 | 103 |
| Jihei Genpo | Bei Song | 1064 | 81 |
| Jihei Tsuho | Bei Song | 1064 | 11 |
| Kinei Genpo | Bei Song | 1068 | 409 |
| Genpou Tsuho | Bei Song | 1078 | 471 |
| Genyu Tsuho | Bei Song | 1086 | 354 |
| Shosei Genpo | Bei Song | 1094 | 163 |
| Genpu Tsuho | Bei Song | 1098 | 66 |
| Seiso Genpo | Bei Song | 1101 | 181 |
| Taikan Tsuho | Bei Song | 1107 | 55 |
| Seiwa Tsuho | Bei Song | 1111 | 161 |
| Senna Tsuho | Bei Song | 1119 | 23 |
| Shoko Genpo | Nan Song | 1131 | 1 |
| Shoko Tsuho | Nan Song | 1131 | 1 |
| Seiryu Genpo | Jin | 1157 | 19 |
| Junki Genpo | Nan Song | 1174 | 28 |
| Taitei Tsuho | Jin | 1178 | 3 |
| Shoki Genpo | Nan Song | 1190 | 7 |
| Keigen Tsuho | Nan Song | 1195 | 9 |
| Katai Tsuho | Nan Song | 1201 | 7 |
| Kaiki Tsuho | Nan Song | 1205 | 1 |
| Katei Tsuho | Nan Song | 1208 | 12 |
| Taisou Genpo | Nan Song | 1225 | 3 |
| Shotei Tsuho | Nan Song | 1228 | 6 |
| Tanpei Genpo | Nan Song | 1234 | 2 |
| Kaki Tsuho | Nan Song | 1237 | 3 |
| Junyu Genpo | Nan Song | 1241 | 7 |
| Koso Genpo | Nan Song | 1253 | 2 |
| Keitei Genpo | Nan Song | 1260 | 6 |
| Kanjun Genpo | Nan Song | 1265 | 10 |
| Shidai Tsuho | Yuan | 1310 | 2 |
| Daichu Tsuho | Ming | 1361 | 2 |
| Kobu Tsuho | Ming | 1368 | 248 |
| Eiraku Tsuho | Ming | 1408 | 681 |
| Chosen Tsuho | Yi | 1423 | 20 |
| Sentoku Tsuho | Ming | 1433 | 33 |
| Seko Tsuho | Ryukyu | 1461 | 1 |
| Indistinctness | | | 14 |

Fig. 114 Coin list excavated from Fussa City.

there. After Fussa became the Hojo family's territory, military tension still continued because the Takeda family of Kai Province attacked Takiyama Castle in 1569 (Eiroku12) and Hachioji Castle fell in 1590 (Tensho 18). Vast coin troves were buried in such upheavals of the Sengoku Period.

17.4 Who buried the coins

What kind of people buried such vast coins? The key might remain in the remained records.

According to the "Shinkobutsugonyumemonogatari", a record of Fussa Village's establishment, SHIMIZU Tajima established the village, OSADA Shogen established Kawasaki Village and NOJIMA Hyogo established Kumagawa Village. NOJIMA Hyogo also established Raihaidaimyojin Shine (present Kumagawajinja Shrine). Because the coin troves were excavated from a place near Kumagawajinja Shrine, and NOJIMA Hyogo developed the village, so there is a possibility that NOJIMA Hyogo buried the coins.

Hanzawa Kakuenbo, a mountain ascetic of Honzan sect, actively performed under Shinpukuji Temple of the Shingonshu sect in Kumagawa Uchide. It is considered that he solely held the precursors' interests in Tasai-gun. Because the coin excavation site is close to Shinpukuji Temple, it becomes a focus that Hanzawa Kakuenbo and the temple were related with burying the coins.

Furthermore, *Choja* (rich man) folklore remains in Kumagawa. Actually Chojabori Aqueduct Ruin is confirmed. A total of 53 coins have



Fig.115 NOJIMA Hyogo (Doho Zenjomon, died in October 28, 1615 (Genna 1), Daihiganji Temple, Akiruno City).NOJIMA Hyogo is recorded as father of NOJIMA Shinzaburo in the Kakoreibo (Family register of deaths).

been excavated from the Choja residence (Matsubaracho, Akishima City). The oldest coin is Kaigen Tsuho and the newest Eiraku Tsuho. It is considered that these excavated coins have little connection with the coin troves. However, the burial periods must be close because the coins' minting year distributions are similar.

The history of the Haijima's Dainichido Temple in neighboring Akishima City records that ISHIKAWA Tosanokami, HOJO Ujinao's subordinate, buried the coins of *Issenkan* (1,000-kan) in order to prepare for the future restoration costs when Dainichido Temple was constructed. Haijima Village neighbors Kumagawa Village, and the buried coins are Eiraku Tsuho type, similarly attractive to those excavated from the Choja residence.

17.5 Fukujin belief fashionable in the Muromachi Period

A Fukujin is a god to bring happiness and virtue. Originally it was believed that this god brought products to the sea and countryside. However, as time elapsed, the Fukujin belief transformed into the god granting requests. Then the *Shichifukujin* (Seven Fukujin Gods) belief was formed. Various Fukujin Gods are combined into seven gods because seven is a holy number. The belief in a god to bring charity, happiness and virtue became popular among merchants in Mediaeval to Early Modern Times. The Shichifukujin was expressed as an appropriate material to show a happy augury symbol in painting and sculpture. People decorated and worshiped that image in their homes. Also they visited Shichifukujin shrines and further customs such as *Takarabume* for the *Hatsuyume* (Treasure ship in the first dream of the New Year) proliferated. The "*Fuku*" and "*Sho*" kanjis (Chinese characters) of Fussa-go might be assigned to that period against the background of Fukujin belief. Therefore the kanji "*Fussa*" might have appeared in the Muromachi Period of the 15th and 16th centuries.

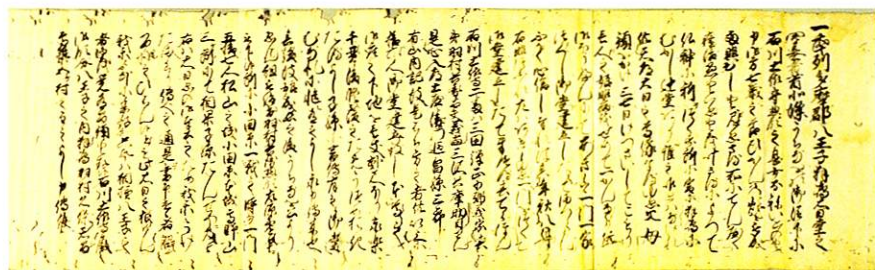


Fig.116 "Haijimamura Dainichido Engi" (The Oppata family, Musashimurayama City). It is recorded in this booklet that Ishikawa Tosanokami, vassal of HOJO Ujinao, established Dainichido Temple and buried 1000 kan of the Eiraku Tsuho coins under the principal image of Buddha to prepare for future restoration.