著者別名 | 古谷 美也子
---|---
書籍名 | 『東京国立博物館蔵『ęb・ëŽ–¼ ŒÃ'J "ü–çŽq』』』
| | 著者別名: 古谷 美也子
| | 著者: 古谷 美也子
| | 編集: N.T.
| | 発行: 2017年3月1日
| | URL: http://hdl.handle.net/2241/00147337
The *Bugaku* Scroll by Tosa Mitsunobu in the Tokyo National Museum Collection

FURUYA Miyako

**Keywords:**
*bugaku-zu*, Tosa Mitsunobu, Saisōrō

**Introduction**

*Bugaku*, a form of music now more commonly known as *gagaku*, was played at imperial and shogunate court rituals until the Edo era, and at Buddhist temple services. Its origins were in music that came from China and down through the Korean peninsula around the fifth century.¹

*Bugaku-zu* is a genre of painting that uses *bugaku* as its theme. It is often painted on scrolls, fans and folding screens. In the 17th century, encyclopedic *bugaku* screens were especially fashionable. They are generally considered to have first appeared in the time that the painter Tosa Mitsunobu (1434?-1525?) was active, however there are no extant works from that period.²

In this paper I’d like to look at Mitsunobu and *bugaku-zu*, present a hypothesis that Mitsunobu was responsible for the style of *bugaku* screens in the 17th century.

1. Encyclopedic *Bugaku* Screens in the 17th century

The most popular format of *bugaku* screens in the 17th century were pairs of six-panel folding screens. On the far left and right there are musicians’ booths and filling the screens between them are twenty-four groups of *bugaku* dancers, painted on a gold-leaf background. In fact, this composition does not realistically portray an actual *bugaku* performance as it is usually performed by only one group at a time. For this reason, these compositions are called decorative or encyclopedic.³

Encyclopedic *bugaku* screens from this period can be divided into three groups, according to the school of painting to which they belong. The Tosa school which started in the 14th century, followed the style of *Yamato-e*, the painting of things Japanese, the Kanō school which started in the 15th century, combined elements of ink-painting and *Yamato-e*, Tawaraya Sotatsu (1570?–1641?) did not belong to any ‘school’ and developed his own style. While all three types have their own characteristics, the basic composition and the form of dancers are same.

2. *Bugaku-zu* up to the beginning of the 15th century

The oldest-known *bugaku-zu* is the ink-painting “shinzei-kogaku-zu” from the 12th century. Beside *bugaku* this scroll features illustrations of things such as musical instruments and acrobatics.⁴ An example from the 13th century is the single-panel screen “*bugaku-zu*” in the Kitano Tenmangū Shrine in Kyoto. We can see some musicians, three groups of child dancers and a lot of monks looking on as spectators.⁵ An example from the 14th century is the “*bu-zu* of the Yachi Hachimangū Shrine in Yamagata prefecture. On this scroll there are some of the same pictorial elements that later appear in *bugaku* screens of the 17th century. As an example from the early 15th century, there is the “*bugaku* scroll” copied by a *bugaku* musician.⁶

Three of the four works are scroll paintings and have significance both as historical artifacts and as works of art. *Bugaku-zu* designs have been copied many times and some of the imagery was stylized.

3. Tosa Mitsunobu and *Bugaku-zu*

There are no known examples of *bugaku-zu* that show how they transitioned from the scroll format to encyclopedic *bugaku* screen. I’d like to look at the “*bugaku* scroll” by Tosa Mitsunobu in the Tokyo National Museum Collection.

Tosa Mitsunobu, a painter of the Tosa school, worked for the court for over fifty years after taking over as official head of imperial court artists in 1469. We can see in the scroll four musicians and thirty dancers, and at the end it says that Kanō Osanobu (1796–1846) copied in the scroll a version by Mitsunobu in 1838. This scroll has not been mentioned in detail to date, and it has been debated whether the so-called original is in fact by Mitsunobu at all. There is evidence that supports the idea that original was by Mitsunobu, and this comes in the form of some historical references about one element of the scroll, the character of Saisōrō. Saisōrō is an old man who wandered in search of a medicinal herb that would prolong his life and he is the titular subject of a *bugaku* performance.

Art historian Takagishi Akira has discussed the *bugaku-zu* by Mitsunobu with reference to some historical texts.⁷ According to these documents, in 1462 Mitsunobu painted the *bugaku-zu* on a sliding door in the residence of Ashikaga Yoshimasa, the eighth shogun in the Muromachi period. Mitsunobu consulted the records of previous *bugaku* performances, costumes, and choreography. However he couldn’t paint the character “Saisōrō”, as no one knew the part in its entirety. Therefore a dancer was sent to Osaka by...
Yoshimasa to learn the dance of “Saisorō”. After coming back the dancer performed the role and Mitsunobu was able to paint the character “Saisorō” at Yoshimasa’s residence. Takagishi therefore suggests that the bugaku-zu design by Mitsunobu became the model of 17th century bugaku-zu.

What is particularly interesting here is that the addition of the character “Saisorō” in bugaku-zu started with Mitsunobu. So, I would like to compare Mitsunobu’s Saisorō with bugaku-zu up to the 15th century. Their depiction of characters differ from Mitsunobu’s. However, the 17th century Saisorō is same as Mitsunobu’s. In other words, the Mitsunobu’s Saisorō was used in 17th century bugaku screens. Since the existence of the Mitsunobu’s bugaku screen is recorded in historical material of the 19th century, his screen seems to have been known up to that time.

With these points in mind, it seems quite possible that elements of Mitsunobu’s rendition of bugaku at Yoshimasa’s residence were taken up by the Tosa school and used as a model when the encyclopedic bugaku screens of the 17th century were made.

Conclusion

From considering the depiction of the character “Saisorō” in “bugaku scroll” painting by Tosa Mitsunobu, It can be hypothesized that Mitsunobu was responsible for changing the content of bugaku-zu. However it’s difficult to say that encyclopedic bugaku screens were an extension of bugaku-zu that had been painted up to the 15th century. This is because bugaku-zu up to the 15th century were used as a form of documentation, whereas encyclopedic bugaku screens in the 17th century were meant to be decorative and appreciated as art objects.

This suggests that there was a new kind of art patron in this period, shogun or feudal lords, who were interested in bugaku-zu being fashionable and not just following tradition.

3 Tsuji, op.cit.: 74.