

## **Last books edited by the late Professor Karashima Noboru**

HAMASHITA Takeshi

The late Professor Karashima Noboru 辛島昇, who passed away in 2016, was a research fellow of the Toyo Bunko and was also in charge of research projects of its Indian Studies Group for many years. During his last years, he edited two books, one of which was entitled *Medieval Religious Movements and Social Change: A Report of a Project on the Indian Epigraphical Study*, and published by the Toyo Bunko in 2016 through a special subvention from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the year 2015.

In the Forward of the book Professor Y. Subbarayalu, former Professor of Tamil University of Thanjavur and Researcher at the French Institute of Pondicherry, characterized and emphasized the importance of the works accomplished by the late Professor Karashima:

Professor Karashima was one of the few outstanding Japanese historians who contributed to the enrichment of Indian historiography. In his long academic career, spread over half a century, he undertook several research projects in South Indian history, with particular emphasis on the medieval history of Tamil Nadu, mainly using the epigraphical sources. Several of the projects were international collaborations, thereby making the studies quite broad based. By introducing for the first time a rigorous quantitative methodology to study the data from inscriptions, he gave a new direction to South Indian studies. He put on a firm basis the study of the economic and social organization during the Chola and Vijayanagara times, particularly that relating to the agrarian structure and revenue system. But at the same time he took a wholesome approach by trying to understand all the related aspects in the society and polity.

This book, I believe, is one of the most memorable books for the Toyo Bunko, which reveals the long tradition of Asian studies based on intensive field research, provides insight into local history, and at the same time introduces broad perspectives of historical context of the wider regions.

In 2017, the Toyo Bunko also published another memorable book which the late Professor Karashima edited in cooperation with the Indian Studies

Group and Professor Hirosue Masashi 弘末雅士 of the Southeast Asian Studies Group, through a special subvention from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for the year 2016. The book was entitled *State Formation and Social Integration in Pre-modern South and Southeast Asia: A Comparative Study of Asian Society*.

According to the editors' introduction:

The volume is to present a record of the symposium 'State Formation and Social integration in Pre-modern South and Southeast Asia: A Comparative Study of Asian Society' through comparisons of state formation and social integration during the pre-modern period in two regions of Asia. ...and the two topics on focus were: (a) a re-examination of the concept of 'Indianization' of Southeast Asia during the ancient and medieval periods, and (b) an examination of the concept of 'Islamicization' and its application to medieval society in South and Southeast Asia.

This volume also uncovers completely the late Professor Karashima's wider perspective of comparative historical research and his way of international discussion to establish a new stage of international academic research.

We will continue intensive research and international discussion on Asia based on the late Professor Karashima's great accomplishments. The above-mentioned two books produced by him are the most memorable records of his long academic career on the history of India.

Hamashita Takeshi  
Research Department Head  
December 2018