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Chinese Turmoil in Tsushima So Family documents

Abstract:

In Japanese historiography it is widely known, that foreign people, goods, and information were exchanged with Japan exclusively via "four portals" (*yottsu no kuchi*) during the *Edo* period (1603–1868). Among these “four portals”, *Tsushima* domain was main source of Chinese and continental intelligence, but incoming reports were imprecise and riddled with mistakes. Main reason for this was distrust of Koreans towards the Japanese. On the other hand, *Joseon* Korea, a key member in the tributary system of *Qing* China, excelled at collecting intelligence from North China. Therefore *Joseon* Korea- *Busan*- *Tsushima*- *Edo* route in general this route enabled collecting and analysis of information on Chinese dynastic change, provided Korean side was cooperative.

This paper deals with the *Tsusima* domain’s collection of Chinese information via *Joseon* Korea, with a focus on continental turmoil intelligence.