

Doctoral Dissertation
A Comprehensive Study of Kyokusui-en in Japan

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This dissertation discusses how Kyokusui-en has been appreciated since the time of its introduction to Japan up to the modern time. It examines this even in three parts. Part 1 of the dissertation (Rituals) points out differences between the written protocol of Kyokusui-en and its actual functions, while Part 2 (Literature) discusses poems composed at the event, using the following three anthologies.

The first anthology this author focused on is *Kinoshisho Kyokusui-en waka*, composed in the early 10th century. When it was introduced to the academic community, scholars at first regarded it as a fake. The dissertation focuses on how effective this anthology was in the subsequent times and how significant as well as legitimate it was.

The second anthology *Eiroku 5th Ichijo-Dani Kyokusui-en shika* was based on poems composed in Echizen Ichijo-Dani where the Asakura family was based. While Kyokusui-en is usually held in spring, this particular one was held in autumn 1562. The dissertation examines how people held this event in autumn and understood it, as well as how this date shift functioned.

In 1732, Shogun Yoshimune Tokugawa held a Kyokusui-en, based on which *Kyoho 17th ryuei Kyokusui-en shika* was compiled. Although over a dozen of books were compiled, we still cannot understand the whole picture. The dissertation researches all the books known today, examining their differences. In addition, it also explains how Dochiku Narushima, a Confucian for the shogun, prepared for this event.

As Kyokusui-en also provided many side stories and legends, Part 3 (Kyokusui-en as Yoriai) discusses how Kyokusui-en had become accepted as *renga-yoriai*. What the author found out is that the event has also been deeply connected to Buddhist texts, introduced to Japan in the ancient times.

In short, examining Kyokusui-en in three parts, the dissertation focuses on not only revealing how the event was conducted and accepted in Japan, but also providing the foundation for its further research.