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岩下 哲典 いわした てつなり

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Profile

東洋大学文学部史学科・大学院文学研究科史学専攻教授。博士（歴史学）。徳川黎明会総務部学芸員、明海大学教授などを経て現職。日本近世・近代史、特に明治維新が専門。著書は『江戸のナポレオン伝説』『江戸の海外情報ネットワーク』をはじめ、『日本のインテリジェンス』『東アジアのボーダーを考える』など多数。近刊『江戸無血開城—本当の功労者は誰か?—』。

Tetsunori Iwashita, a Ph.D. in history, is currently a professor in the Department of History, Faculty of Letters / Course of History, Graduate School of Letters, Toyo University. Before joining Toyo University, he served as a curator in the General Affairs Department, Tokugawa Reimeikai, and a professor at Meikai University, as well as working in other positions. He specializes in the early-modern and modern history of Japan, especially the Meiji Restoration. He has authored and coauthored many books, including *Legends of Napoleon in Edo*; *Overseas Information Networks in Edo*; *Japanese Intelligence*; and *Consider Borders in East Asia*. His latest book, *Bloodless Surrender of Edo Castle: Who Really Played the Most Important Role?*, is coming out shortly.

真実を掘り起こす面白さ

私が歴史研究者になったきっかけは、大学生のころ史跡見学で龍巖寺（東京都渋谷区）にある小関三英のお墓を訪れたことでした。その碑文には、彼が江戸時代に、西洋のナポレオン伝を翻訳していたとありました。「鎖国中の江戸時代に外国の伝記が?!」と興味をもって調査を始め、最終的に『江戸のナポレオン伝説』という著書にまとめました。かつて、ナポレオン伝が吉田松陰を突き動かしていたり、佐久間象山もナポレオンを詠った漢詩を書いたり。西郷隆盛もナポレオンが大好きで小関三英のナポレオン伝を大事にしていたなど、そんな真実を調べ、掘り起こしています。知れば知るほどワクワクしませんか。江戸時代には現代にも通じるような情報戦もあったわけで、まさに事実は小説より奇なりです。

あらゆる学問に歴史がある

とはいえ、史学研究がどんな役に立つのでしょうか？ まず歴史の勉強には、時系列の事実、本物の史料に基づいた的確な考え方が必須で、その素養が磨かれます。そして、例えば数学には数学の、物理には物理の歴史があり、その歴史を学べばさらに理解が深まるはず。歴史とは基礎となる学問でもあるわけです。

Excitement we feel when uncovering the truth

What inspired me to become a historian was my experience of visiting the grave of KOSEKI SAN'EI at Ryugan-ji Temple (Shibuya-ku, Tokyo) when I participated in a historic-site study tour as a university student. I noticed the epitaph on his grave saying that he had translated a biography of Napoleon during the Edo period. Surprised and interested to learn that a foreign biography was available in Japan, which at that time was almost closed to the rest of the world, I began to research the situation and ended up compiling my findings into a book, *Legends of Napoleon in Edo*. While YOSHIDA SHOIN was inspired by Napoleon's biography, SAKUMA SHOZAN composed a Chinese poem about the Western hero. SAIGO TAKAMORI was also a big fan of Napoleon, and cherished his biography by KOSEKI SAN'EI. I discovered such facts as a result of my research. The more you know about the truth, the more excited you feel, don't you agree? Just as there is these days, there was information warfare in the Edo period too. Truth is stranger than fiction, in the true sense of the word.

Every academic discipline has a history

However, what uses does history have? First of all, learning history requires precision of thought based on facts set in chronological order as well as genuine historical sources. That is why history helps you build a foundation for developing such precision of thought. In addition, any academic discipline, mathematics or physics, for example, has its own history, so learning its history undoubtedly helps deepen your knowledge about the discipline itself. In this sense, history is a discipline

グローバル化が進む現代では、日本の歴史や文化を発信できることが素養として必要とされますし、作家の仕事として歴史を描いてもいいし、例えば「ペリーが来たときの供応の料理」を調べて現代の観光に活用してもいい。応用範囲が本当に広い、それが歴史です。

ヒストリーはストーリー

東洋大学に関わる史実では、例えば、勝海舟は本学創立者の井上円了先生を気骨がある人物として評価し、私立哲学館の開設や運営のためにお金や仏像を寄付したり、自分で揮毫した書を与えたりしました。円了先生は「海舟先生の書を寄贈します」と、資金集めにも活用しています。その際に、円了先生が勝海舟のことをどのように評していたのか、私はとても気になります。もう少し研究が必要ですが、いま世間で定着している勝海舟の人物像がゆらいているのです。例えば江戸城無血開城も、勝海舟と西郷隆盛だけでなく、そこに山岡鉄舟という重要人物の働きがあったなど、知られざる真実は数多くあります。海舟は自身で業績を「盛っていた」ふしもあるようです。円了先生は海舟から何を聞いて何を話したのか。現代の私たちにつながるストーリーを探る、これも歴史の面白さに他なりません。皆さんもぜひ、身近な「歴史の入口」を見つけて楽しんでいただきたいと思います。

that underpins academic study. The currently ongoing process of globalization requires us to have the ability to share Japanese history and culture with people outside Japan. Novelists may write historical works as their profession, and you may use history for contemporary tourism by examining what dishes were served to Commodore Perry to entertain him when he visited Japan, for example. History really has a wide range of applications.

A history is a story

One of the historical facts relating to Toyo University is that KATSU KAISHU recognized the university's founder, Dr. Inoue, as a person with a moral backbone, and donated money and Buddhist statues to help Dr. Inoue to found and run the Philosophy Academy, as well as presenting Dr. Inoue with his own calligraphic works. Dr. Inoue used these gifts to raise money, saying, "I will donate calligraphic works made by Mr. KATSU." I am very interested in how Dr. Inoue rated KATSU KAISHU at that time. I need to conduct further investigations to answer this question, but the established public image of KATSU KAISHU has recently been questioned. For example, the bloodless surrender of Edo Castle has long been credited to KATSU KAISHU and SAIGO TAKAMORI, but there were many unknown factors behind the historical event, including the very important role that YAMAOKA TESSHU played. It seems that KATSU KAISHU exaggerated his own achievements. What did Dr. Inoue hear from KATSU KAISHU, and what did they talk about? Exploring a story about unknown events that are still relevant to us today is part of the attraction of history. I hope that you will discover a gateway to an aspect of history that means something to you.