

北谷歴史人物伝

Historical Figures of Chatan
 ~語り継がれる故郷の先人たち~
 ~Stories of Our Pioneers~

世界で語り継がれる北谷の民の隣人愛

道光20年(1840年)、中国を含む東アジアでは西欧諸国の進出によって激動の時代を迎えていました。そんな時、英国東インド会社の輸送船インディアン・オーク号が、台風のために難破。琉球王国北谷間切の海岸(ウランダー干瀬)に漂着したのです。当時はアジアでもヨーロッパでも、難破船は略奪されるのが普通の時代でした。ところが北谷の人々は身の危険を顧みず乗組員67名を救助し、積み荷も確保、さらには再び出航するまでの45日間、衣食住す

べてを賄ってあげたのです。本国に帰った乗組員はこの話を英国誌に伝え称賛し、イエスが説いた隣人愛の例え話に出てくるサマリア人(苦しむ人々に惜しめない援助と同情を与える人)のようだと深く感謝しました。インディアン・オーク号の航海日誌は、現在も大英博物館の「海事記及び海事誌」に保管されています。この北谷村民の博愛の精神は琉球王国を世界に知らしめ、ペリーの黒船を呼ぶきっかけにもなりました。



The people of Chatan's love and generosity towards their neighbors

In 1840, East Asia, including China, was entering a period of upheaval due to the expansion of Western countries. At that time, the British East India Company transport ship Indian Oak was wrecked by a typhoon. It washed ashore on the coast of the then Ryukyu Kingdom's Chatan Magiri (Ulanda Hiji). At that time, looting of shipwrecks was common in both Asia and Europe. However, the people of Chatan rescued the 67 crew members while putting their own lives in danger, secured their cargo and even provided food, clothing and shelter for the 45 days before the ship was able to sail again. When the crew returned home, they told the story to an English magazine and praised it, describing it as being like the Good Samaritans in Jesus' parable of love for one's neighbor. The Indian Oak's logbook is still preserved in the British Museum's Nautical Records and Logbooks. This philanthropic spirit of the Chatan villagers made the Ryukyu Kingdom known to the world and became the impetus for Perry's Black Ship to sail to Okinawa.

琉球随一の名僧 北谷長老(?~1652)

琉球に初めて臨済宗妙心寺派の禅宗を伝えたと言われる名僧、北谷長老「南陽紹弘禅師」。幼い頃から聡明で、13歳で出家した後19歳で本土に渡り各地を遍歴しました。その後首里建善寺住職となり、隠居した後も民衆と交流をもって仏の道を説きました。社会福祉に尽力し民衆から広く慕われていた北谷長老は、没後も長老山と呼ばれる小高い丘(霊地)に手厚く葬られました。現在も毎年旧暦9月15日は、キャンプ瑞慶覧内にある長老山で慰霊祭が行われています。

Ryukyu's Most Famous Monk Chatan Choro (?~1652),

The Zen monk Nanyoshokou was a famous monk who is said to have introduced Zen Buddhism of the Myoshinji school of the Rinzai sect to Ryukyu for the first time. He was intelligent from an early age, and after entering the priesthood at the age of 13, he went to the mainland at the age of 19 and traveled around the country. After that, he became the chief priest of Shuri Kenzenji Temple, and even after retiring, he preached the way of Buddhism through interaction with the common people. Chatan Choro (Elder), who devoted himself to social welfare and was widely admired by the people, was buried with dignity on a sacred small hill called Mt. Choro after his death. Even now, on September 15th of the lunar calendar, a memorial service is held at Mt. Choro in Camp Zukeran in his honour.



多芸多才の文化人 渡嘉敷ペークー(1750~1844)

渡嘉敷ペークーは、頓智などに優れた才能を持ち、能書家(文字が上手な人)としても知られています。ペークーが主人公となった笑い話は数多くあり、戦前には芝居の演題にもなるほど人気がありました。ペークーは1750年首里赤田村に生まれ、彼が91歳の時に北谷間切真栄城の名島を賜り「渡嘉敷」姓を「真栄城」に改めました。そして95歳の時、一世の奇人ペークーは桑江以前の庵でその生涯を終えました。

Multi-Talented Man of Culture Tokashiki Peku (1750-1844)

Tokashiki Peku was known as a calligrapher (a person who is good at writing) with excellent talent and witty intellect. There are many funny stories in which Peku is the protagonist and they were so popular that they even became the subject of plays before the war. Peku was born in Akada Village, Shuri in 1750, and when he was 91 years old, he was given the name island of Chatan Magiri Maeshiro and changed his surname from 'Tokashiki' to 'Maeshiro'. And at the age of 95, the eccentric Paeku ended his life at Kuwae no Mae's hermitage.



伝説の女流歌人 北谷モーシ(真牛)(生没年未詳)

琉球の三大女流歌人の一人として知られる北谷モーシ。琉歌百控によると、「北谷真牛金が、歌声打ち出せば、中辺飛ぶ鳥や、淀で聞きよさ(真牛が歌い出すと、その美声に聞き惚れて、飛んでいる鳥もしばし羽を休めて聞き入る)」とまで謳われた絶世の美声を持つ伝説の女性です。北谷の出身で北谷城の中腹にある墓に葬られていると伝えられています。また、本部町伊野波の北谷屋(屋号)出身という説もあります。

Legendary Female Singer Chatan Moshi (date of birth and death unknown)

Moshi Chatan is known as one of the three major female poets of Ryukyu. According to Ryuka Hyakurei, "If Chatan Moshi sings, it will be good to hear the birds flying in the middle stop midflight to listen to her beautiful voice." She is a legendary woman with a peerless beautiful voice. It is said that she was born in Chatan and is buried in a grave halfway up Chatan Castle. There is also a theory that she was from Chatanya (a trade name) in Inoha, Motobu-cho.

