

Research into Nishiki-e (full color woodblock printing) in Keigi-jyuku

– From the Viewpoint of Audio Visual Education –

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This research is a historical study that analyzes *nishiki-e* (full-color woodblock printing) in the Meiji era from the viewpoint of audio visual education. The study covers the *nishiki-e* used in a private school from the Meiji era to the early Taisho era. *Nishiki-e*, which are full colored woodblock printing, are one representative example of *ukiyo-e*. This paper focuses on the media side of *nishiki-e* and analyzes them from the viewpoint of audio visual education.

About 140 *Nishiki-e* of a private school, Keigi-jyuku, located in western Tokyo are investigated in the study. Keigi-jyuku was open between 1880-1913 (from the Meiji era to the early Taisho era), and the school, which had its root in the Saitama area (western Tokyo area) had an educational influence on its area and neighborhoods.

The *nishiki-e* at Keigi-jyuku collected by Zenryo Kubo, who was a founder of the school, were not only *bijin-ga* (*nishiki-e* of beautiful women) and *meisho-e* (*nishiki-e* of beautiful places). A specific feature of the *nishiki-e* at Keigi-jyuku is the broad number of genres in the collection, including educational themes. For example, Japan's history, geography, social situation and social enlightenment in the Meiji era were chosen as themes of the *nishiki-e* collection. Such *nishiki-e* made it possible for students of Keigi-jyuku at the time to study many things visually. For that reason, this paper classifies trends in *nishiki-e* in Keigi-jyuku and compares them with other common *nishiki-e*. One of this paper's objectives is to reveal a side of contemporary audio visual education in the *nishiki-e*.

The result of the research is that it has been realized that *nishiki-e* in Keigi-jyuku are different from common *nishiki-e* collections. They are educational pictures and have a role of acting as information media at the same time. *Nishiki-e* in Keigi-jyuku had an important meaning that expanded the possibilities for students of Keigi-jyuku to have new knowledge in their role as visual aids.