
The early 1970s museum debate between Toshiro Ito and Tomoji Ogawa

Kiwamu KURIYAMA

This paper reveals that there was a debate regarding museums between Toshiro Ito and Tomoji Ogawa at the time that the former was developing Ito's museum theory. This debate can be found in the records of the activities of a cultural study group established by a society examining museum-related problems at the beginning of the 1970s. And this paper has pointed out the following two things from their arguments in this record.

Firstly, the basic framework of the ideological issues at museum entities raised in "*Note on the Central National Museum of Manchoukuo and the educational activities*, Yasuhiro Inuzuka, 1993" – namely, that there was a continuity over time in the form of Japanese museums before and during World War II – was first brought to light in an embryonic form by Ito and Tomoji Ogawa in the early 1970s.

Secondly, Ito, while incorporating into his own theories the structure of the activities of Japanese museums that had been identified during his debates with Tomoji Ogawa, carried out theoretical work that identified that a new epoch in the form of new activities arose during the post-war period. The background to this was the roots of Toshio Ogawa's concept of "The Rights to Learn." But Tomoji Ogawa criticized Ito's arguments regarding Japanese museums as "fantasy." After that point, their arguments developed in parallel.

Ito's museum theory was put into practice by Hiroyoshi Kojima and Tetsuichi Hamaguchi of Hiratsuka City Museum and was investigated as a viewpoint on "public-oriented and self-governed museums". On the other hand, Tomoji Ogawa's arguments were overshadowed by Ito's theory until the beginning of the 1990s, when Inuzuka's research "*Note on the Central National Museum of Manchoukuo and the educational activities*" was published.