Ōmi Shōnin and the Growth of a Trading Diaspora Across the Early Modern Japanese Archipelago
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A Glossary of Terms and Names

Ōmi shōnin (merchant) = merchant from Ōmi

Ōmi province (present-day Shiga prefecture)

tenbinbō (a balance pole)

Lake Biwa (Japan’s largest lake located in Ōmi/Shiga)

Kinai region (provinces near the imperial capital of Kyoto; the Kyoto-Osaka region)

Tōkaidō, Nakasendō, and Hokkoku Kaidō – three major highways

Obama and Tsuruga - port cities on the Japan Sea coast

markets (ichi) and guild-like trade associations (za) in the medieval era (ca. late 12th-14th c.)

daimyō (feudal warlords)

Tokugawa period (1603-1868)

Hikone – largest domain in Ōmi province

Hachiman, Gokashō, and Hino – major birthplaces of Ōmi shōnin

Nishikawa Jingorō I (1549-1644)

East Lake merchants (kotō shōnin), aka. Gokashō merchants.

Itō Chūbē I (1842-1903) – founder of Itōchū Co.

a store (demise), a branch (edamise)

mochikudari akinai - efficient wholesale-style peddling of local products to and from commercial destinations

shokoku sanbutsu mawashi (“distributing products of provinces around the country”)

noriai akinai or kumiai akinai - a prototype of the joint-stock venture
5 Juin, 2018 (Gipouloux-Kobiljski seminar)

*hōkōnin* (domestic servant; apprentice)

*zaishō nobori* – the Ōmi merchants’ system of apprenticeship

Nakai Genzaemon (1716-1805), a pawnshop owner from Hino

*Shin Buddhism* / Pure land Buddhism (Jōdo Shinshū)

*sanpō yoshi* (“three-way satisfaction for the seller, the buyer, and the community”)

*takokusha ishiki* – Ōmi merchants’ mindset as “outsiders”

Nakamura Jihee (1684-1757), a hemp merchant from Kanzaki District

*hakuri tabai* (low profit, large return)

Matsui Kyūzaemon III (1770-1855), a dry-goods merchant from Gokashō

*intoku zenji* (“secret acts of charity [are good]”)

Nishikawa Riemon (1591-1646), a merchant from Hachiman

Ezo (present-day Hokkaidō), *Ainu* people

Matsumae domain