

Belief in wooden effigies used for malevolent purposes between the Asuka and Heian period

飛鳥時代から平安時代における呪詛としての
木製人形代の信仰

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Content

- Definition for „figurine”
- The *enmi*
- The Chinese origin of *enmi*
- Japanese sources and artefacts
 - Asuka period, Nara period, Heian period
- Conclusion

Figurine

- 人形 *ningyō* (doll)
- *Hitokata, hitogata*
- *Katashiro* 形代 (substitutional object)

Usage:

1. space to occupy by spirits (*kami* 神)
2. object of purification (*nademono* 撫物)
3. substitution of a certain person
 - a) prayer
 - b) curse

Healing and „exorcism”

- Late Asuka period (694–710)



Source: Mokki shūsei zuroku – Kinki kodaihen
木器集成図録 近畿古代篇

- Nara period (710–794)



- 左目痛作今日
(hidarime yamai okoru kyō)

Source: Mokki shūsei zuroku – Kinki kodaihen
木器集成図録 近畿古代篇

Enmi 厭魅

En 厭

- Carving images
- Drawing likenesses
- Stabbing the heart
- Piercing nails through the eyes
- Tying the hands and feet

Mi 魅

- Summoning demons
- Practicing the „Ways of the left”
- Using spells



...to harm/kill
a person

Ancient China

- Six Secret Teachings (*Liù Tāo* 六韜)
- Comprehensive Mirror for Aid in Governance (*Zìzhì Tōngjiàn* 資治通鑑)

Asuka period (538-710)

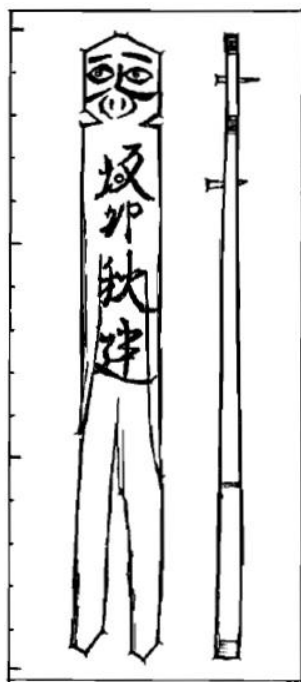
- The Chronicles of Japan (*Nihon Shoki* 日本書紀)
 - Figures of cursed princes

Nara period (710-794)

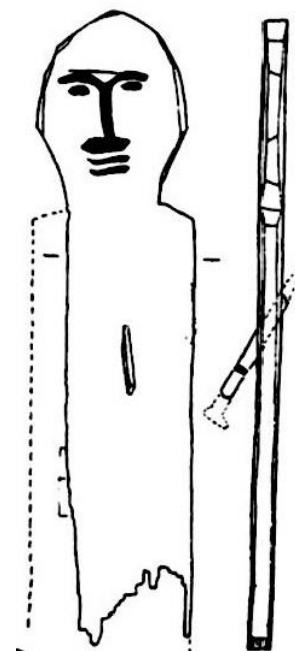
- Continued Annals of Japan (*Shoku Nihongi* 続日本紀)
 - Emperor Shōmu's decree
 - Prince Nagaya's suicide and his „vengeful spirit”

Nara period - Heijō palace

- „Sakabe Shūken” 坂部
秋建
- Cursed figure



Source: Mizuno 1982: 33.



Source: Mokki shūsei zuroku – Kinki kodaihen
木器集成図録 近畿古代篇

Princess Inoue 井上内親王

- Crime of *fuko* 巫蠱
- Crime of *enmi*
- *Ryōanji goryō daimyōjin engi*
- 靈安寺御靈大明神縁起 (accursed figure)
- *Kugyō bunin* 公卿補任 (coup d'état?)
- Deaths in prison
- Princess Inoue, Prince Osabe and their „vengeful spirit”

Heian period (794-1185)

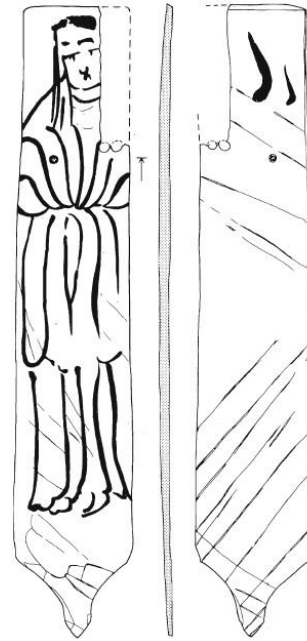
- Cursed „couple”



- Fujii Fukumaro 葛井福万呂
- Hinokuma Ako.. 檜前阿古□□

Source: Minami – Harayama 2005: 2.

- Cursed noble(wo)man



Source: Miyake – Yanaura 1990: 316.

Late Heian period

- *Shihōhai* 四方拝 Emperor's ritual on New Year's day

Conclusion

- Imperial court – maintaining the order
- Intentional human deed – punishment
- Unintentional human error – appeasement of the supernatural power
- Tools of secular intents
- Coming to a full circle

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Thank you for your kind attention!