

WAKE Koreyuki (1760-1826)

WAKE Koreyuki was a medical doctor born in Kyoto, Japan in 1760, the latter half of the Edo period, and died in 1826. He called himself SHIGEN. He had also been in the Ministry of Medicine and served as governor of Echigo and later Nagato. He also called himself AZAI Koreyuki and AZAI Nankō as he inherited the AZAI family in Kyoto.

Originally he was a man of the YAMADA Atsumune family, YAMADA Genrin. His works include "Meika-hōsen" ("名家方選"), 1781, Baisō-yakugen ("徽瘡約言"), 2 volumes, 1802, Baisō-hiroku-hyōki ("徽瘡秘録標記"), 2 volumes, the original was written by CHENG Sicheng (陳司成) in Ming Dynasty, the notes were written by AZAI Koreyuki, 1808, and Yōjō-roku ("養生録"), 3 volumes, 1817. He also wrote "Meika-kyūsen" ("名家灸選") concerning acupuncture and moxibustion. "Meika-kyūsen" was corrected and prefaced by his student HIRAI Yōshin who compiled the sequel of it "Zoku-meika-kyūsen" ("続名家灸選") and the part 3 "Meika-kyūsen-sanpen" ("名家灸選三編") for both of which WAKE Koreyuki wrote the preface.

The Eastern and Western AZAI Families and AZAI Koreyuki

One of the top four students of AJIOKA Sampaku, AZAI Shūhaku's (1643-1705) heir Shūteki (1672-1753), who had practiced medicine in Kyoto was invited to a feudal clan, Owari-han where he became the province doctor. Tonan (1706-1782) became the successor to the Kyoto AZAI family, however, with the death of Shūteki, Tonan took over his post on Owari and AZAI Nanmei (1734-1781) became heir to the Kyoto AZAI house (family).

At this point both houses were settled with heirs apparent. AZAI Seihō (1770-1829), grandson of Tonan became heir to the Owari AZAI house. However with the untimely death of the heir Yūrin in AZAI house in Kyoto, Nanmei's student, Yamada Genrin was designated successor.

The Formation and Contents of "Meika Kyūsen"

"Meika Kyūsen" is a small book about moxibustion published in 1813 with the preface written in 1805. It contains lists of upper, central and lower body diseases, chronic diseases, acute diseases, dermatology, gynecological diseases, pediatric diseases as well as

miscellaneous diseases and supplements (about indirect moxibustion methods) for a total of 10 types, 40 diseases and 133 moxibustion methods.

Disregarding old or new, internal or external, it adopted effective measures from writings, legend and civilian traditions. Methods for which the sources were recorded and “Effectivness confirmed” was noted when the treatment effectiveness was confirmed. In some cases, “Moxibustion chart” was attached. It is also believed that the sequels to this writing, "Zoku-meika-kyūsen " (prefaced in 1807) and "Meika Kyūsen, Third Compilation" (the part 3 of it “Meika-kyūsen-sanpen”) (prefaced in 1813) were published about the same time as "Meika Kyūsen" was published.

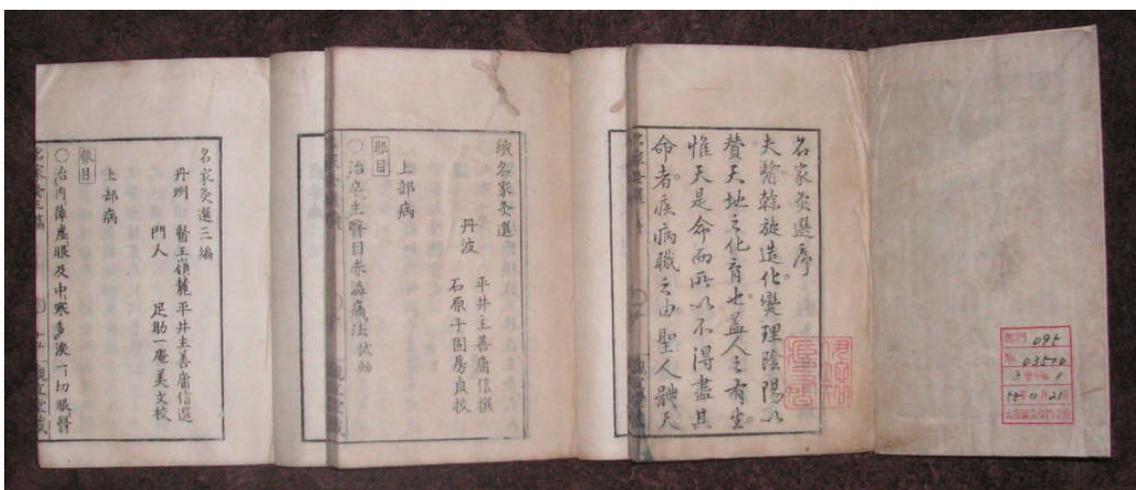


Figure 1

“Meika-kyūsen Part 1-2-3” (“名家灸選 正・続・三編”) Prefaced in 1805-1813

The Collection of Harikyū museum

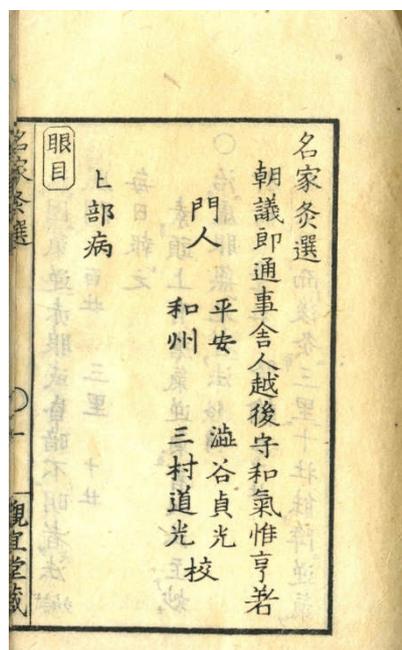


Figure 2

“Meika-kyūsen” (“名家灸選”)

The Collection of Harikyū museum

Figure 3

Female "Effectiveness confirmed"
The Collection of Harikyū museum

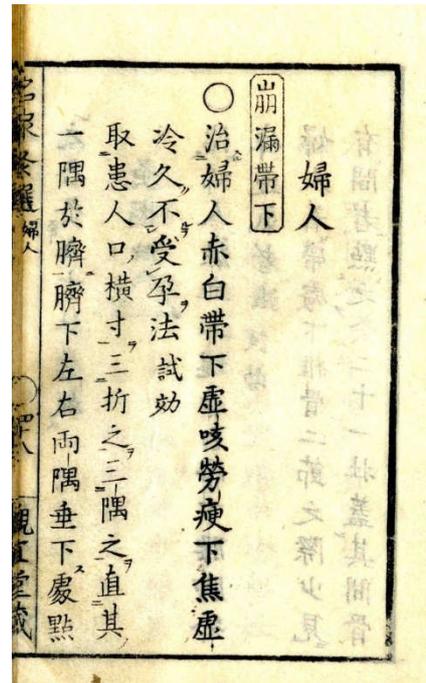
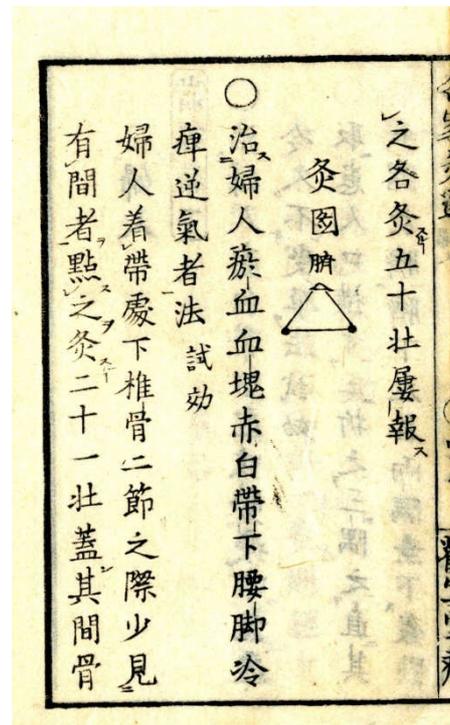


Figure 4

Female "Moxibustion chart"
The Collection of Harikyū museum



The position of “Meika-kyūsen” and its influence on the modern Japanese acupuncture and moxibustion

“Meika-kyūsen” belongs to the series of “Aze-yōketsu” by OKAMOTO Ippo (“阿是要穴”) and “Kyūzetsu-endoden” by MITAKA Ian (“灸炳塩土伝”) as books to revive the practice of moxibustion which then flourished from the middle of Edo era. The compilation followed the indexes as follows: (1) Japanese moxibustion methods and (2) effectiveness confirmed by trials. From the historical point of view of meridian points study, they revive the ancient moxibustion points.

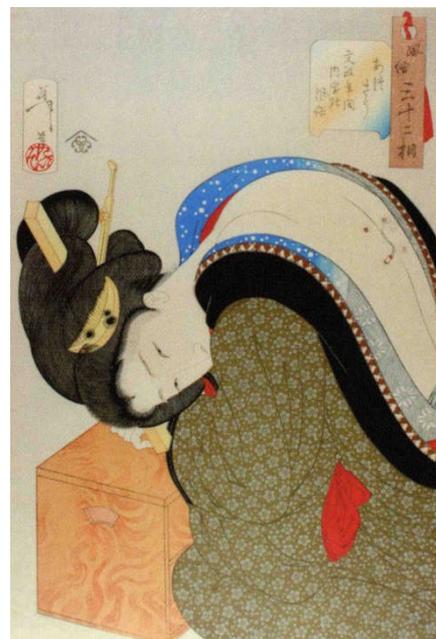
Yet, empirical and evidence based attitudes of “Effectiveness confirmed” indicate denial of the framework of Traditional Chinese Medicine that was the tendency in latter Edo period medicine. One of the reasons “Meika-kyūsen” is appreciated in the modern Japanese world of acupuncture and moxibustion is the empirical validity of its contents and the characteristic that there is little sense of Chinese medical theory. Treatments could be formed without Chinese medical diagnosis.

Figure 5

Ukiyoe illustration of moxibustion

It Looks Hot by TSUKIOKA Yoshitoshi, 1888

The collection of Harikyū museum.



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