

█ え、江戸時代、海に生きる漁師たちの間で、大 漁を祝う「萬祝」という文化が生まれました。今回は、 祖父の代からその伝統と技法を受け継ぐ萬祝染元「鈴 染」の三代目鈴木幸祐さんにお話を伺いました。

回萬祝の歴史を教えてください。

もともと「大漁祝い」のことを萬 祝と言ったんですけど、それが次第 に桁外れの大漁のとき、船主が漁師 さんにお祝いの品として配った着物の ことを指すようになりました。着物と言っ ても配られたのは反物で、それを漁師さ んの奥さんたちが長着や半纏に仕立て、 お祝いのときに祝着としてみんなそ ろって着ていました。

萬祝発祥の地は、千葉県房総半島 と考えられていて、青森から静岡 までの太平洋沿岸に広く普及していきまし た。文献によると、1800年ごろにはすでに萬 祝の着物を作る風習があったそうですが、昭和30年代 には大漁のときに萬祝を配ることも着ることもなくなり、 時代とともにお祝いとして配られる品は、ジャンパーな ど実用品や現金支給(ボーナス)へと変わっていきました。

□ この道を志したきっかけや経緯をお聞かせください。

生まれたときから祖父や父が染物をやっていたのでそ の姿を見て育ちましたが、私は数学や物理が得意で、大 学では化学を専攻し教師になろうと思った時期もありま した。しかし萬祝のまるで江戸時代の火消し装束のよう な、男性的な派手やかさが好きで、次第に自分でも染め てみたいと思うようになりました。そして、大学を卒業 後、本格的に家業を継ぐことを決めました。

Mr. Kosuke Suzuki of Suzusen

Specializing in Dyeing Technique for Maiwai Festive Kimono

he fishing industry has long flourished along the coast of the Boso Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture. During the Edo period (1603-1868) the culture of maiwai (festive kimonos to celebrate a good catch) developed among the fishermen who lived by the sea in this area. In this article, IHCSA Café talks with Mr. Kosuke Suzuki, the third-generation owner of Suzusen, who inherited the tradition and technique of *maiwai* dyeing from his grandfather's generation.

Please tell us about the history of *maiwai*.

Originally maiwai meant just celebrating a good catch, but over time it came to mean the kimonos that ship owners would distribute to fishermen for the celebration of an especially good catch. Actually it was not kimonos but cloth that was distributed, and the fishermen's wives used to make this cloth into long or short kimonos. Then everyone would wear the same kimono for the celebration.

The Boso Peninsula in Chiba Prefecture is said to have been the birthplace of maiwai. From there the custom spread along the Pacific coast from Aomori to Shizuoka. According

to literature, there seems to already have been a custom of making maiwai around 1800, but then in the 1950s and 1960s the practice of distributing and wearing maiwai at times of a good catch died out. As times changed, the reward for a good catch shifted to more practical items, such as jumpers, and cash bonuses.

What made you follow this path as your career?

I grew up watching my grandfather and father engaged in dyeing, but I was good at mathematics and physics and went on to study chemistry at university. For a time I thought of becoming a teacher. However, I liked the masculine flamboyance of the *maiwai*, like the Edo-period firefighters' costumes, and gradually I came to want to do the dyeing myself. So after graduating from university, I decided to devote myself to continuing the family business.

回萬祝の魅力をお聞かせください。

萬祝の図柄は、一般的に背と裾の部分に描かれています。背には家紋、船印や船名を入れ、裾には鶴亀や松、宝船など縁起の良い題材や大量に捕れた魚などが描かれます。色付けには、5原色の顔料に大豆のしぼり汁を混ぜて、一色一色刷毛を使って行うのですが、色と色の境をぼかしてグラデーションをかけることで立体感を出します。そうやって染め上げた萬祝を漁師さんが羽織ることで背中と裾に描かれた柄が力強く映えて、周囲の人に「豊漁」だったことを誇るんです。そんな男性的な華麗さに萬祝の魅力を感じます。

□江戸時代からどのようにして萬祝染めを守って来たのですか?



千葉県指定伝統的工芸品 に指定される。 *Maiwai* is a designated traditional craft prod-

uct of Chiba Prefecture

回 一人前になるにはどの程度かかるのですか?

1反を仕上げるのに、型紙作成、色差し、地染めなど、12の工程がありますが、その一通りの作業ができるようになるまでにはやはり10年ぐらいかかります。萬祝の需要は減りつつありますが、自分が作った作品を喜んで着ていただいたり、修理や複製に携わった作品を博物館などに長い間大事に飾っていただいたりすると、やっぱり職人になって良かったと思います。

回今後の取り組みや目標についてお聞かせください。

これまでは長着とか半纏とか着物形式ばかり作ってきましたけど、今は萬祝の技法を応用して、アロハシャツや帽子、かばんなど身近な商品も製作しています。将来的には、これらの作品が外国の人にも受け入れてもらえればと思っています。



「色差し」の工程。もち米や米ぬか<mark>を練っ</mark>て作った「のり」の上に顔料で色付けする In the coloring process, colors are applied with paints above a paste made of glutinous rice and rice bran.

Please tell us about the attractions of maiwai.

Usually the patterns of the *maiwai* are drawn on the back and lower part. The family crest, ship's insignia, and ship's name are put on the back, and such things as auspicious motifs, like a crane and tortoise, pine tree, or treasure boat, or the fish that was caught in abundance are drawn on the bottom. In coloring, you mix squeezed soybean juice into five primary colors and then apply each color using a paint brush. A three-dimensional sense is created by shading off the borders between the colors to add gradation. When the fishermen wore the *maiwai* dyed in this way, the patterns drawn on the back and lower part stood out strongly, so they were able to boast to people around them of their bountiful catch. I think this masculine splendor is the attraction of *maiwai*.

How has maiwai dyeing been preserved since the Edo period?

My grandfather trained in a dyeing factory that had continued since the Edo period and then founded the Suzuki Somemonoten in 1925. Almost all of the old materials had been lost at the time of the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923, but the dyeing technique was unfailingly handed down from my grandfather to my father and then to me. Unfortunately there is no artisan to inherit the *maiwai* dyeing technique as the fourth-generation owner of Suzusen, but we are making efforts to transmit the method to the next generation. Since about 10 years ago, for example, we have been holding dyeing workshops for local students and others in our studio and museum.

How long does it take to master the technique?

There are 12 processes involved in preparing a single cloth, such as compiling the pattern on paper, coloring, and ground dyeing, so it takes around 10 years before you are able to do the whole procedure. The demand for *maiwai* is declining, but when I see people happily wearing kimono that I have made or carefully displaying kimonos that I have helped repair or reproduce in their museums or somewhere, I feel glad that I chose to become a craftsman.

Please tell us about your activities and objectives from now on.

So far I have only been involved in making long or short kimonos, but now I am also applying the *maiwai* technique for making more familiar items, such as aloha shirts, hats, and bags. In the future I would like to see these products become popular among foreigners.





萬祝の技法を応用して作ったアロハシャツや帽子 This aloha shirt and hat were made by applying the *maiwai* technique.



1954年千葉県鴨川市生まれ。東京理科大学理工学部卒業後、家業である萬祝染めの三代目を継承。1997年萬祝が千葉県指定伝統的工芸品に指定。色彩検定1級、クリーニング師、危険物取扱者、ボイラー技士など資格取得が趣味。

Born in Kamogawa, Chiba Prefecture, in 1954. After graduating from the Faculty of Science and Technology at the Tokyo University of Science, became the third-generation owner of the family business specializing in maiwai dyeing. In 1997 maiwai became a designed traditional craft product of Chiba Prefecture. His hobby is acquiring qualifications (level 1 coloring license, cleaning license, hazardous materials officer license, boiler engineer license, etc.).

萬祝染元「鈴染」 SUZUSEN MAIWAI DYEING SHOP http://www.awa.or.jp/home/suzusen/ (JAPANESE ONLY)