

On Edo Reprinting (Ⅱ)

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In the previous paper I indicated that in the early Edo period there existed in Edo a notable publisher of various books, Shokai, and analysed how Shokai conducted their enterprise. Following my findings in this research, I pointed out that their business methods could be divided into three terms: before 1655, 1657-1671, and 1673-1684.

I have continued to investigate these findings, and am now quite sure that Shokai worked out a system for collaboration with other publishers. Furthermore, this collaboration was carried out not only with other Edo publishers, but also with publishers in Kyoto and Osaka during these three terms. I hope that in these two papers I have helped to clarify the hitherto vague early history of Edo publishing practices.