"Bankoku Shinryo"- Ryukyu as a Bridge Over the World

“Ryukyu Kingdom” was an independent Japanese kingdom from the 15th to the 19th century. The Ryukyu Era is the golden age that prospered through international trades in Asia working as an important relay point of the world. Ryukyu accepted different cultures that made up the basis of Okinawan unique culture and the foundation of its social structure. This paper will seek to trace the origin of the name of Ryukyu, discuss trade relations in the Ryukyu Era, and the “Bankoku Shinryo,” the policy of the nation as Ryukyu Kingdom is the bridge over the world. Furthermore, the “Shima Kutuba” and “Kugani Kutuba,” its language and proverbs for human relations will also be looked at, as well as the identity of the Okinawan people (“Uchinanchu”). Ryukyu was praised as the nation of “足称守礼之邦” Shurei No Kuni. People observed the proprieties. The history of Ryukyu is the history of the people’s independent spirit and self-respect, which could be a suggestive idea in this current world.