

OBSERVATIONS ABOUT RASHOMON'S KANAZAWA TAKEHIRO (María José González Muñoz)

The name: 金沢の武弘

Notice the 武, as in 武士 (bushi) and 弘 from 弘まる (spread, expand) and containing the radical for 弓 (arrow).

The police/military nature of his occupation is clearly established in his name.

He must be a 武官 (Bukan- public servant engaged in military / defense affairs).

Information about Kanazawa in the story:

(From Penguin's edition of "In a Bamboo Grove", translated by Jay Rubin. 2006)

Testimony of a woodcutter:

"Tha man was lying on his back in his pale blue robe with the sleeves tied up and one of those fancy Kyoto-style black hats with sharp creases".

Original:

死骸は縹の水干に、都風みやこふうのさび烏帽子をかぶったまま

縹(はなだ) Hanada: One of the colours of the Heian Court dress code indicating a low rank.

The woodcutter referring to the hat as *fancy Kyoto* indicates that even a person like him can often see this fashionable item in the capital. A commoner would only be able to get glimpses of court life and fashion through lower ranks.



Testimony of a travelling priest:

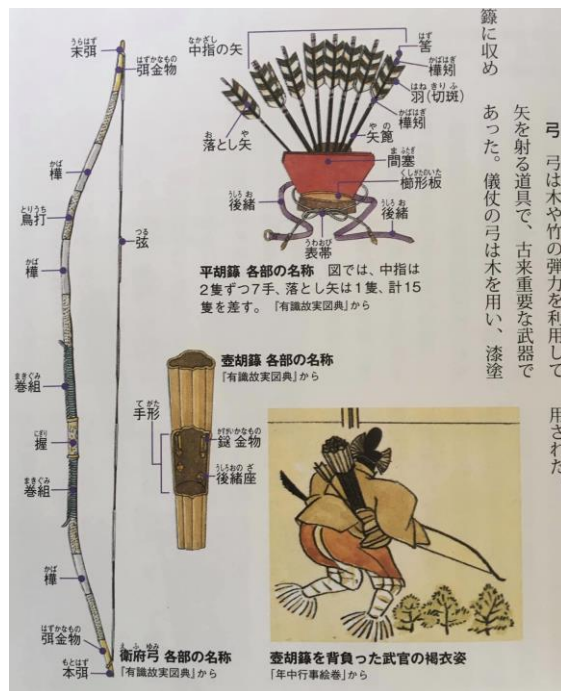
"... he had a good-sized sword, and he was equipped with a bow and arrows. I can still see that black-lacquered quiver of his... twenty arrows"

Original:

太刀も帯て居れば、弓矢も携えて居りました。殊に黒い塗り箆へ、二十あまり征矢

Arrows were one of the characteristic accessories/ weapons worn by 武官.

Images from "The Heian Enciclopedia" (Asahi Shinbun Publications, 2015)



Testimony of an old woman:

He is not from the capital, though. He was a samurai serving in the Wakasa province... he was twenty-six years old...was a very kind man...Takahiro left for Wakasa with my daughter yesterday.

片附いた男でございます。が、都のものではございません。若狭の国府の侍でございます。名は金沢の武弘、年は二十六歳でございました。いえ、優しい気立きだてでございますから。。

武弘は昨日きのう娘と一しょに、若狭へ立ったのでございますが、

He is referred to as *samurai*, which here must be closer to the meaning originally pointed out in the original message in the KineJapan list of “public servant” (although engaged in military affairs as 武官).

Wakasa no Kuni, currently the southern area of Fukui Prefecture around Obama City, was Kyoto’s outer harbour in the Heian period and continued to be so until Edo times.

It would clearly require a number of officials coming back and forth from Miyako and the port, which had already become a somewhat prosperous town.

Kurosawa’s Takahiro is portrayed as somebody used to brandishing a sword and a fierce, unafraid look, more 武官 than 文官.





The choice for the pattern in his hakama-like garment is also very interesting.

The 三つ巴 (Mitsu domoe) often appears in Shinto symbolism associated to Hachiman, the god of war and... archery.

Hachiman was also a god revered by the samurai clans.

