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K. Maruyama and S. Imamiya: the First Researchers of the Early German-Japanese Diplomatic Relations and the Time They Lived

This paper aims to shed light on two relatively unknown Japanese scholars, who for the first time in Japan researched the early German-Japanese diplomatic relations which started with the so-called "Eulenburg Mission (1860-62)": Maruyama Kunio (丸山國雄) and Imamiya Shin (今宮新). Both born in the end years of the Meiji Era (Maruyama in 1905 and Imamiya in 1901), Maruyama and Imamiya engaged themselves with the study of the topic in the 1930s, under the shadow of the more and more deepening German-Japanese political relations at that time, assumedly without knowing of each other.
During their engagement with this theme, Maruyama was a young editorial member of the Committee for Compiling Historical Sources of the Meiji Restoration (維新史料編纂会), which had been run by the Japanese Imperial Government since 1911; while Imamiya was a young docent of the Keio University, and went to Germany as one of the Keio Scholarship students sent to Western countries, where he then in Berlin collected and investigated historical sources relating with the above-mentioned topic. This paper will introduce the works and contributions which they made with respect to the study of the early German-Japanese Relations, and examine how their activities were – or were not – connected with the contemporary political and cultural circumstances which surrounded the German-Japanese relations during the pre-war and the war period.

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