



Chōsei

One of the Twelve Divine Generals by Chōsei, 1064. Wood, lacquered and painted. Height 121.5 cm. Kōryūji, Kyōto. National Treasure.

of financial success. In the 18th century, when the townsmen began to question and redefine their role in Tokugawa feudal society, quasi-religious schools of popular philosophy such as Sekimon Shingaku (see SHINGAKU), founded by ISHIDA BAIGAN, and others led by such scholars as NISHIKAWA JOKEN appeared and fostered a sense of pride and collective identity in the merchant class. See also CHŌNIN KŌKEN ROKU.

IMAI Jun

Chōnin kōken roku

Set of instructions completed by Mitsui Takafusa (1684–1748) in 1728 to explain the MITSUI house laws to his descendants and to ensure the family's continued prosperity. Takafusa, a third-generation Mitsui, set down his father Takahira's oral account of the vicissitudes of over 40 Kyōto merchant houses in his lifetime. He intersperses the narrative with appropriate morals and lessons on the behavior befitting a merchant, especially vis-à-vis members of the ruling samurai class, and points out the dangers of extravagance, lending to daimyō, and purveying goods to the shogunate. It is an invaluable source of information on the life of merchants during the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

Chōri Co., Ltd

Trading firm specializing in textiles which also handles chemical products, machinery, and other commodities. The majority of its products are made by TŌRAY INDUSTRIES, INC; ASAHI CHEMICAL INDUSTRY CO, LTD; and TEIJIN, LTD. Established in 1861, it is the largest handler among Japanese trading firms of synthetic yarns and textiles, and it has become a market leader and systems organizer in the domestic textile industry. It has a total of 22 overseas branches and is involved in 14 joint ventures overseas engaged in the import and export of synthetic fibers and chemical products. Sales for the fiscal year ending March 1982 totaled ¥589.8 billion (US \$2.5 billion), of which 71 percent consisted of textiles. In the same year foreign trade accounted for 25 percent of the company's activity and the firm was capitalized at ¥7.8 billion (US \$32.4 million). Corporate headquarters are located in Ōsaka.

chōsan

(literally, "flight"). Abandonment of land by tenant farmers in order to avoid payment of annual taxes (NENGU) and compulsory labor service (BUYAKU). The term came into use late in the Heian period (794–1185), replacing the earlier term chōbō, to describe the ab-

scording of peasants under the pressures of the HANDEN SHŪJU SYSTEM of land allocation. Peasants unable to meet their obligations usually fled to neighboring estates (SHŌEN) or simply became vagrants. In the Kamakura period (1185–1333) tenants often defected en masse to demand the lightening of tax and labor burdens or to protest the corrupt practices of shōen officials; they would hide in the mountains while negotiations took place and afterward return to the land. Early in the Muromachi period (1333–1568) these protests developed into shows of force (GŌSŌ) and even violent uprisings (IKKI); and from the Sengoku period (1467–1568) onward, growing numbers of peasants abandoned their land permanently and moved to the cities. During the Edo period (1600–1868), in spite of shogunate interdictions, peasants continued to abscond; indeed it was not uncommon for entire villages to flee to neighboring domains, which would then help negotiate conditions for their return. As late as 1850, for example, several thousand peasants of the Morioka domain (now part of Iwate Prefecture) ran away to avoid their obligations.

Chōsei (1010–1091)

Heian-period (794–1185) Buddhist sculptor; leading disciple of the well-known sculptor JŌCHŌ. Founder of the Sanjō BUSSHŌ (workshop), which came to be known as the EN SCHOOL of Buddhist sculpture. In 1065 he was awarded the Buddhist rank of hokkyō in appreciation of the statues he made for the Kyōto temple Hōjōji. He attained the rank of hōgen in 1070 and hōin, the highest Buddhist rank, in 1077. Among his surviving works are the Nikkō Bosatsu (Suryaprabha), the Gakkō Bosatsu (Candraprabha), and the Twelve Divine Generals at the temple Kōryūji in Kyōto.

chōsen

Official documents regarding local affairs; issued from around the middle of the Heian period (794–1185) through the 14th century. Many of these were sent to local subordinates by provincial governors (KOKUSHI) or by the top officials of the government headquarters in Kyūshū (DAZAFU), who often stayed in Kyōto and administered their provinces without moving to their assignments. The documents took their name from the two characters chō (provincial governor) and sen (decree) with which they usually began. In format they followed the style of KUDASHIBUMI and up to the 12th century bore a provincial seal (kokuin). See also DIPLOMATICS.

Chōsen Ginkō

(Bank of Korea). The central bank of Korea during the period of Japanese colonial control (1910–45). Established by the Japanese in 1909 as the Kankoku Ginkō, the bank took the place of the Japanese Daiichi Kokuritsu Ginkō (First National Bank), which had established a Korean branch in 1878 and had operated as the central bank of Korea after the conclusion of the Russo-Japanese War of 1904–05. The bank was reorganized in 1911 after the annexation of Korea by Japan, and the name was changed to Chōsen Ginkō to reflect the Japanese colonial name for Korea. It was managed by the Government-General of Korea until 1924, when the Japanese Ministry of Finance assumed supervision. The Japanese government appointed the board of governors, but the bank's stock was owned by private Japanese banks and corporations. The bank issued the Korean currency, controlled domestic prices, and serviced international trade through branches in Manchuria, the major ports of China and Japan, London, and New York. The bank was dissolved by order of the Allied forces at the end of World War II. C. Kenneth QUINONES

Chōsen Kaikyō → Korea Strait

Chōsen tsūshinshi

Delegations from the Korean YI DYNASTY to the TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE during the Edo period (1600–1868). Relations between Japan and Korea had been broken off with the INVASIONS OF KOREA IN 1592 AND 1597. However, after the establishment of the Tokugawa shogunate the strong desire of the SŌ FAMILY of Tsushima, an island in the Korean Strait, for the restoration of trade with Korea led to the resumption of friendly relations between the two countries.