

八戸の芸能「駒踊」

大下由宮子・平山玄九

Folk Performing Arts in Hachinohe

— Koma-odori —

Yumiko ŌSHITA* and Genkyu HIRAYAMA**

1. Current Performances

The Koma-odori (Horse Formation Dance), as its written characters say, literally means a dance of horses. Tōkuro, a main player of the Enburi (a harvest festival) performs a dance resembling the movement of a horse tilling the soil and it's called a solo-dance of a horse. The Koma-odori, however, is a dance which mimics a herd of horses making a circle, putting their heads close to each other, and resembling the movement of horses' jumping and racing. The dancers attach a model of a wooden horse to their hips and hold the reins, and it looks like the dancer is riding a horse. The lie of hair of the wooden horse's mane is made to look a real one using the appropriate colors. Wearing the Jimbaori (costume of the feudal lord) and the Kasa (hat) to look more refined with the traditional ritual, the dancers make the performance brighter and nimbler.

In the first part of the Koma-odori seven riders (warriors riding on the artificial horses) make a circle and dance around. In the second part, Seko, using traditional equipment, collects the horses in the pasture. In the third part, everybody (fourteen dancers) comes out and dances together.

I saw performances of the Koma-odori three times in September this year. They were three typical types of the Folk Performing Arts. One of them was at the convention of the Folk Performing Arts in Hachinohe, the second one was in the festival of the Shinto shrine, and the third one was performed at a hotel party.

The annual convention of the Folk Performing Arts of Hokkaido and Tōhoku areas was held at the Hachinohe Civic Hall in 8 September 1986, and the Koma-odori was performed by Takadate local members in Hachinohe. Seven players used artificial horses of three shades of blue, plus dark, brown, grey and white. The seven horses made a circle of varying sizes and danced around, using the full stage to show the movement of horses. The lighting was very effective and when the riders held the reins, the attached bells tinkled like Shan-Shan (sounds

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