

## Yôan UDAGAWA

—A Pioneer Scientist of Early 19th Century Feudalistic Japan—

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### Preface

Until now the only biographical studies on Yôan UDAGAWA (1798–1846)<sup>1</sup> are a booklet<sup>2</sup> written by Yoshiaki YOSHIKAWA (1933) and a treatise<sup>3</sup> written by Gôichi FUJINAMI (1936). Though their publication date is fairly old, these two works have not yet been superseded by any biography of a later date with a broader view of Yôan's life. They have laid a valuable foundation in this specific field even if they have made limited use of historical materials and documents.

In the 1930's, the man who had particularly large collection of books and manuscripts by Yôan was, besides Gôichi FUJINAMI, Chibiki OKAMURA a scholar whose possessions included "UDAGAWA YÔAN Jijo Nenpu"<sup>4</sup> (Chronological Autobiography of Yôan UDAGAWA) which no doubt gives us the best although simple version of his life history. There are two versions of the original of this valuable material, both written in Chinese on 8–9 sheets of common Japanese paper. OKAMURA put them in order, added the correct punctuation to the text, and published it as a supplement to his book "Kômô Bunka Shiwa" (A Cultural History of Western People).

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<sup>1</sup> 宇田川榕菴(緑紡). Biographical papers on Yôan UDAGAWA except the notes (2)–(4).

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Shôjirô MIZUTA, "A study of Yôan UDAGAWA (I)", *Kagakushi Kenkyû*, No. 14, p.p. 18–26 (1950) (J).

———, "A Study of Yôan UDAGAWA (II)", *ibid.*, No. 15, p.p. 18–28 (1950) (J).

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———, "Yôan UDAGAWA in the History of Western Learning", *Kikan Geijutsu*, No. 23, p.p. 88–106 (1972).

<sup>2</sup> Yoshiaki YOSHIKAWA, "UDAGAWA YÔAN, A Pioneer in Japanese Science" (1933) (J).

<sup>3</sup> Gôichi FUJINAMI, "UDAGAWA YÔAN," *Chûgai Iji Shinpô*, No. 1230, April 28 (1936) (J).

<sup>4</sup> Chibiki OKAMURA, "UDAGAWA YÔAN Jijo Nenpu (宇田川榕菴自叙年譜)", *Kômô Bunka Shiwa* (Sôgen-sha, 1953) (J). (→38).