Preface

Until now the only biographical studies on Yoan Udagawa (1798–1846) are a booklet written by Yoshiaki Yoshikawa (1933) and a treatise written by Goichi 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 Though their publication date is fairly old, these two works have not yet been superseded by any biography of a later date with a broader view of Yoan's life.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 Yoan was, besides Goichi Fujinami, Chibiki Okamura a scholar whose possessions included "UDAGAWA YōAN JIJO NENPU" (Chronological Autobiography of Yoan 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 "Kōmō Bunka Shiwa" (A Cultural History of Western People).