



The Role of the Women in the Masque of Learning

Tomoko KURODA, Mukogawa Women's University, Japan
tomokokr@mukogawa-u.ac.jp

Patrick Geddes (1854-1934) expected the potential talents of the women as the citizens to participate in creating their own city with their sense of the quality of living environments. He thought that their sense was much more superior than the one of the professionals like as the politician, the city planner or the architect. He tried to cultivate the women's talents with the many educational activities, which he directed mainly as the city reformer, organizing Out Look Tower in Edinburgh. The Masque of Learning produced by him is unique, sharing the concept with the summer school programs and the city exhibitions as the activities.

The aim of this paper is to exam the role of the women in the Masque of Learning, focusing the first and the very successful one realized by more than three hundred volunteers including many women in Edinburgh in 1912. The materials of the research are "Cities in Evolution" (1914) and the pamphlets, the papers and the books mainly published by Out Look Tower since 1900 until 1915. Geddes as also the poet, wrote the story of the Masque of Learning by himself, of which he selected and composed the elements from the past events which happened in the historical cities in the Occident. He might hope for the citizens to get the vision of the life of the city to their inner lives, taking parts in his drama each other. On the other hand, he as the evolutionist, hoped for the women's better lives free from their own prejudice about the way of the house keeping. He said that the women as the citizens could do more not only for their families but also for their society, turning to advantage the change of the energy from coal to electric.

First, I will draw how Geddes thought the evolution of the women's ordinary life should proceed from the present stage to the future one. Second, I will exam the ideal image of the women in the story of the Masque of Learning. He gave this drama the interdependent relation to the Life of Temple as the architecture, artistically representing the citizen's spirits, which he put great deal of respects in the city planning. Next, I will observe how the women worked for the drama not only as the amateur actress but also playing the other roles in the back stage. It was popular in the United of Kingdom since nineteenth century for the citizens to enjoy playing the masque by themselves. Geddes might make use of this city culture to enlighten the women not only in Edinburgh but also in London, in Dublin and in the other cities. On the other hand, almost all of them were introduced to him in the rather personal society consisting of his and his wife's friendship network.

KEY WORDS: Patrick Geddes, Out Look Tower, the Mask of Learning, city planning, organic city model, analogy of living thing.