

8. Proof of Absence of Plays - Alfonso el Sabio “Seven Codes” Alfonso X. Siete Partidas (around 1265)

There are many posters for recycling with recycle-boxes set up on the street corners of Madrid (picture 1). The poster reads as follows: Por un futuro más limpio, Madrid recicla sus pilas usadas. “For a cleaner future, Madrid recycles your used batteries”. As a matter of course, recycling is necessary for society. In the days when there were not many batteries, glass, bottles and paper, such posters were not necessary. In former ages, there were no serious pollution problems. In the Edo era, in Japan, when people were materially poor, everything was recycled, and there was no garbage (Recycling Circumstances in Edo era, [Oedo Risaikuru Jijo] Eisuke Ishikawa, Kodansha).



【Picture 1】

In Chapter 4, I have mentioned that there are hardly any manuscripts of the plays from Medieval Castilla remaining today. This makes us wonder if there was any tradition of plays in Castilla in those days, especially since many plays were held in neighboring Cataluña and Francia. In fact, even though we cannot find the proof of manuscripts, it is not as if there is not any indirect evidence that implies the existence of plays, just as the posters for recycling imply the existence of objects to be recycled.