

## **Culture and Science of the Acorn VIII**

### **- Acorns in Europe and America 1 -**

Toshio Mitsunaga

Professor Emeritus of Kinki University

101-3, Kashiwabe-cho, Shimogamo, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-0815

#### **Summary**

In the pre-cultivation period, the acorn was a very important food stuff in Europe. When and barley became the dietary staples in place of the acorn with the beginning of cultivation, it continued to be utilized as an emergency food and as feed for livestock, especially pigs. The trees providing acorn's in the family Fagaceae, the beech and oak, were thus strongly bound up with European peoples lives from ancient times. Consequently, they entered and played major roles in European religions, literature, myths, folk stories, traditions and proverbs.