

The Monograph about the Daily Life Concerning Water in the Kochinda Village Yaese Town Okinawa Prefecture : Focusing around 1945~1960s

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People living in the Ryukyu Islands have suffered chronically from water shortages. During the Ryukyu Kingdom era, because drought led to famine and many deaths, when there was no rain for a month or two or more, the Ryukyu Kingdom held the ritual to pray for rain. The natural environment, which caused chronic water shortages, had a great impact on how people in the Ryukyu Islands got water, how they used it, and their attitudes toward water.

The Kochinda area of Yaese Town, located in the southern region of Okinawa Island, is one of the water scarce areas on the island. So, the inhabitants have traditionally had difficulty in gaining water for agriculture and daily use. The purpose of this paper is to make a monograph about the daily life concerning water in this area through interviews with a family who lived in Kochinda village from 1945 just after World War II to 1960s, before the modern water supply system was established on Okinawa Island. For the aim, I detailed the reality of water use by the inhabitants, dividing it into the following categories: ① use of river water, ② use of well water, ③ use of rainwater, and ④ use of kumui(reservoir) water. And the process of installation of water works, which would later bring huge changes to the inhabitant's lives, was also detailed.

The results of this survey revealed that inhabitants in Kochinda village during the period were involved with others in a variety of using water and watering places. The inhabitants exchanged information, interacted, and reaffirmed emotional ties through the use of common wells and the sharing of water resources. In addition, there was ingenuity in the use of precious water resources over several times. Such a situation changed drastically with the installation of water works. Water became a convenient substance that came out at the turn on a faucet and was flushed down to the drain along with the waste from the pigsty. The inhabitants no longer gathered at common well, and watering places such as common wells gradually disappeared from the memories of the inhabitants. Since the installation of water works, there has been an obvious change in attitudes toward water and watering places.

As for future issue, the following tasks remain: ① to make monographs about the daily life concerning water in each region of the Ryukyu Islands, ② to further clarify the social functions of water, ③ to carefully survey the changes in people's lives after the installation of water works.

Key words: Ryukyu Islands, Kochinda, water resources, water use, after World War II
