Nineteenth Century Canvas Manufacturers
in England

KAMBA Nobuyuki

Previous investigations into materials used in the grounds of Japanese oil paintings in the late 19th century had shown that the grounds could be classified into 1) chalk type, 2) lead white type, and 3) others according to their elements and structures. It was also found that chalk type grounds were found in the paintings produced in Japan and England and that lead white type grounds were found in the paintings produced in France and Italy.

In this paper, 1125 nineteenth century English oil paintings in the Tate gallery were examined to find for stamp marks, to determine the number of worf and weft per square centimeter of fabric as a support, and to check the condition of the surface of the grounds. The result was compared with nineteenth century canvas manufacturers in England, which had been investigated using directories of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries published in England. It was revealed that less than 10 percent of paintings had stamp marks, and the most popular numbers for worf and weft were about 15 respectively. These two results figures were very similar to those found in Japanese paintings.