An Attempt at Utilizing Visual Materials: Traditional Tasks and Physical Activities

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This report aims to introduce one of attempts to use visual documents including pictures and movies for studying cultural factors printed in human bodies.

For making the attempt useful, the resource should be set properly into the servers to use freely, and examined the general characters, including the definition of the eye of the mechanical camera and what the people could see through it. After that, the resource can be studied as cultural documents.

During Meiji period, Japan hastily took the industrial revolution and replaced their traditional methods of producing daily things to modern ways, and simultaneously the working postures in the modernized factories were chosen Western style. After this, almost all workers can be seen standing in modern factories in Japan.

This change was fundamental and the influence was great, but, nevertheless, the various works which the traditional artisan engaged in until now, take not standing postures but others like squatting, sitting on one's knees, on the ground, cross legged or a knee drawn up, so on.

And, if you carefully watch some present working postures of artisan, you can see not only traditional ways but also partly transfigured. Therefore, it is valuable to collect those documents for studying the relation of cultural tradition in human bodies and the change in the modern age.

This is an attempt to make the specific posture collection today in order to show that distinction, choosing from digital scenes of an ethnographical movie named Blacksmiths in Sanjyo-city (Kanamono-no-machi-Sanjyo) and other working scenes (weaving, needle-work, quilting-work) produced by Rekihaku (National Museum of Japanese History).