Changing a Military Port Landscape into Cultural Resources in Sasebo City

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This article aims to clarify how the movement regarding “modern heritage” has changed so many objects into cultural resources recently in Japan, based on the case example of military facilities. This article, focusing attention on the conflict between the secrecy of military facilities and the openness of cultural heritage, analyzes from the perspective of how the conflict is obscured to develop changing military facilities into cultural heritage. For the target area, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture, housing the military facilities of the US Navy and the Marine Self Defense Force is chosen.

The following two points are clarified. First, the secrecy of military facilities is connected to the protection of cultural properties by private development bodies, prompting the evaluation of the military as an “excellent conservator.” Second, buildings using the waste material of brick buildings dismantled by the military are constructed outside the military bases, which represents the principal movement regarding the application of modern heritage. Both indicate that the creation of cultural heritage unfolds without damaging the secrecy of the military. In conclusion, the article captures a movement that insatiably creates cultural resources from modern heritage and changes military facilities into cultural heritage while managing to avoid conflict with the secrecy of the military.

Key words: Modern heritage, military base, creation of cultural resources, Sasebo City, Nagasaki Prefecture