Radiocarbon Dating and Research on Historical Buildings in the Middle Ages and the Early Modern Times: Case Studies of the Daizenji Temple Main Hall, the Former Head and Branch Doi Houses, and the Miki House

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Radiocarbon dating was applied to culturally significant historical buildings and its effectiveness was made clear. The results of the dating for the main hall of the Daizenji temple (National Treasure), the former head and branch houses of the Doi family, and the Miki house (Important Cultural Property) were reported as case studies. The methods for selecting materials to measure and extracting samples when dating culturally significant historical buildings were shown. This suggested the necessity of developing research into dating buildings from measuring the age of their materials in order to get the age information of the building from the outermost age layer of the material.

Key words: Culturally significant historical buildings, Radiocarbon dating, Daizenji temple main hall (National Treasure), Doi Houses in Hitachi Seaside Park, Miki House (Important Cultural Property)