14C-Dating of Architectural Members of the Founder’s Hall Gate, Honganji Temple

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The authors have focused not just on the importance of old lumber sourced from historical buildings as simple objects of architectural history, but as having value as historical wooden objects of known provenance, and worked on assessing the ages of old timber as an attempt to obtain the history of this lumber necessary to be able to treat it as materials engineering samples.

To that end, the results of 14C-dating using the AMS was done on architectural members of the Founder’s Gate (Goeido-mon) of the Honganji (usually known as the Nishi Honganji), and the results were reported as not conflicting with the information from the historical materials about the original creation of the Founder’s Gate from the temple history, or from the reign-period stamped on the lead tiles discovered when the gate was dismantled for full restoration.

Key words: AMS, 14C-dating, Honganji, Culturally significant historical buildings, Keyaki (Zelkova serrata)