Reconstruction of Folk Cultural Studies Focused on Data-base of Monuments Made of Stone: A Case Study of Shishiori District in Kesen-numa City, Miyagi Prefecture

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This report is positioned as an essay considering the comprehensive archiving of stone artifacts in regions affected by the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster. Our intention below is to rectify the interest concentrated on a monument commemorating the earthquake disaster, to reconsider stone artifacts in general at a phase with higher affinity to the lifeworld, and to re-break and reset the resources and the research environment which had been fragmented by the earthquake disaster, recovering and realigning their bases. This report specifically considers resources used in investigating metal and stone steles in the process of compiling the history of Kesen-numa City. Although resources related to compiling the city history were spared damage by the tsunami, they remain unorganized to this day.

As for all the metal and stone steles, honorary steles, and other stone artifacts remaining in the region, many of them have not even had their current state confirmed. While some have been reconstructed by volunteers in the area, many remain weather-beaten and neglected. Though damage by the earthquake disaster needs no mention, there are cases of rapid changes in the surroundings or threats to the existence of the stele itself due to large-scale recovery work. The pressing issue is to get an overview of the current state of these stone artifacts. What follows is an examination of digitally archiving stone artifacts and the issues involved by means of the Shishiori District of Kesen-numa City as a case study.

Key words: stone artifacts, metal and stone steles, archives, digitization, Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster