

Newly Discovered records of Five Historical Tsunamis of Bonin Archipelago

Yoshinobu Tsuji[1]

[1] ERI, Univ. Tokyo

Bonin archipelago is located in the sea region about 1,000 kilometers south of Tokyo. Western People began to settle in 1830. It was in 1876 that Japanese people began to settle permanently on these islands. In the final stage of the second world war(1944) , all residents were expelled from the archipelago except solders. After the finishing of the war, the archipelago was occupied by US navy. It was in 1946 that western residents were permitted to return the archipelago. The archipelago was returned to Japan in 1971, and after that the previous residents of Japanese race were permitted to return to the islands. Hatori(1985) introduced ten tsunamis hit the archipelago on the bases of Japanese side documents, but he did not mentioned on the tsunamis in the period when no Japanese settled there.

In the present study we visited Chichijima and Hahajima Islands, and newly found out records of five tsunamis hit the archipelago: tsunamis of 1826, 1872, 1944(the Tonankai Earthquake), 1946 (the Nankai earthquake) and 1960 (Chilean tsunami).