

Building stone marbles in Japan: the historic buildings in Japan and the marble localities

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The complex geological setting of Japan has resulted in the occurrence of the diverse marbles in our islands. Some of them were qualified as building stone resource: their products have been applied to the historic buildings in Japan around 1930's, when the House of Councillors was built exclusively using domestic building stones. However, due to the economical reasons and also due to the difficulty of quality control, the production of building stone marbles in Japan have decreased. There are little Japanese marbles being produced as building stones nowadays. Furthermore, it is being more and more difficult to identify the localities of the domestic marbles used in the historic buildings. This study first shows the history of the Japanese building stone (marble) industry. Then it points out how the information such as the marble localities have been undervalued, not being recorded in the construction plan, making the information ever more sparse. It is clear that the localities of the marbles and other building stones should be identified and described immediately, to help keep and restore our social heritage.