

## History and present of the building stones and the quarries around the Seto Inland Sea, southwest Japan

Mutsuko Inui<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Science and Engineering, Kokushikan University

Building stones, mainly granite and marble, mined in the area around the Seto Inland Sea was mapped along with the information of historic buildings in which those stones are used. Seto Inland Sea lies in the southwest Japan. Cretaceous to Paleogene granite intrusive bodies are exposed in the area which have provided many granite quarries on the islands and along the coast of the Seto Inland Sea. Some of the historically largest marble (limestone) localities also lie near the Seto Inland Sea. Granites and marbles are the two major rock types used for building stones. Many of the historic buildings in the Tokyo capital built before the world war II have used the stones mined in Japan. The provenance, however, have not always been recorded. As many provenance information as possible was mapped in this study.

Interview survey in some of the stone quarries around the Seto Inland Sea revealed that the stone industry have changed its structure in response to the increase of the import of finished stone materials. Some granite quarry had mainly produced building quarries until about 1970's, but all of the surviving granite quarry presently produce tombstone and religious products. Many factors are found to mark the difference between quarries in different area: quarrying technique, site location, or the ownership of the site.

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