

Archaeomagnetism in Japan: a historical review and new perspectives

*Tadahiro Hatakeyama¹, Hidetoshi Shibuya²

1.Information Processing Center, Okayama University of Science, 2.Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Graduate School of Science and Technology, Kumamoto University

Archaeomagnetism, a branch of paleomagnetism aimed at archaeological relics and antiquities, provides the highest-precision geomagnetic data in all paleomagnetic targets. In Japan, researches of archaeomagnetism for paleodirection and paleointensity would begin in 1940s and have achieved a certain goal in 1970s and 1980s. Although for a quarter century after that a lot of measurements of archaeomagnetic direction have been conducted to give date estimates to few thousand baked earth sites such as old kilns, archaeomagnetic results in Japan brought out almost no new contribution and feedback to geomagnetic secular variation study. Here we refer the history and the current status of archaeomagnetism in Japan, and we also introduce our recent efforts to build a new archaeomagnetic database and secular variation curve in Japan and recent measurements carried out by the Japanese paleomagnetic community.

Keywords: Archaeomagnetism, Paleomagnetism, Geomagnetic Secular Variation, Geochronology