

Transition of the use of building stones through the age in Chiba Prefecture

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Cenozoic sedimentary strata are dominant in the Chiba Prefecture, so productions of hard rocks are poor in the area. But various kinds of rocks produce in and out of the area are used as tools, building stones, and stone cultural properties, and differences of the kinds of rocks through the age are recognized. They are reflected by the difference of the purpose of use, means of transport and technique of taking out from the ground. In the early modern period, rocks produced at the coast area of the Izu Peninsula such as andesites of the Hakone Volcano and tuffs of the Shirahama Group were used as tombstones and stone cultural properties by common peoples. They were transported by ships. In the modern age, rocks produced at the inland areas such as 'Oya-ishi' (green tuff), 'Ashino-ishi' (welded tuff), 'Inada-ishi' (granite) were transported by trains and trucks. After the Heisei era, rocks produced at the foreign countries are overwhelmingly dominant for economic reasons.

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