

English Summaries

The Origins of Culture and Civilization, and the Capability of Japanese Culture to Construct the Future Civilization

Yoshimichi Someya

The culture as a whole was created at the era when the stone tools began to be made about 2,600,000 years ago. This is evidenced by the culture of Bonobo that can make stone tools and live in their self-made culture in the tropical rain forest of Zaire. The civilization may be thought to have begun in the era of the first city construction in Mesopotamia in 5000 years ago that was later complemented with the spiritual revolution accomplished by the technical order 2500 years ago.

Lastly I discussed a question whether the so called “Japanese civilization” is “civilization” in the real sense since we find in colloquial modern Japanese many emotional expressions rather than rational ones though contrarily we find in the written Japanese many rational expressions that can be directly translated to the European languages including English. The Japanese “civilization” based on such double structure as seen in modern Japanese language and culture will contribute to construct the future civilization which will save humans from the harmful modern civilization that is destroying both nature and society in the world.

The Harvest Festival (*Niinamesai*) of Asia: The Succession, Consecration and Regeneration of the Living Power

Minoru Kakehata

On the day of the harvest festival (*Niinamesai*), people welcome the spirit of the rice grain (*Inadama*) by offering ears of rice to, and eating new rice with, the ancestral spirits (*Inadama*). This paper compares how the popular understanding of the spirit of the rice grain (*Inadama*) and the ancestral spirits in China’s Yunnan province, on the island of Bali and in ancient Japan.

In Yunnan province, the spirit of the rice grain (*Inadama*) as the living power was considered to have the same origin as the ancestral spirits from ancient times. On the day of the harvest festival (*Niinamesai*), villagers cook the old rice and new rice together and eat both. In this way, the day of *Niinamesai* becomes the day of succession of the spirit of rice grain (*Inadama*) and the ancestral spirits, and is also the day of the regeneration of the villagers themselves.

On the Indonesian island of Bali, all the villagers hold a festival of the spirit of the rice grain (*Inadama*) and the ancestral spirits, and try to purify those spirits and themselves. They believe that with the purified spirits they themselves can regenerate.

In ancient Japan, after the death of the Emperor (*Tenno*) who was successor to the spirit of the rice grain (*Inadama*) and the ancestral spirits, the next Emperor ascended the throne on the day of the harvest festival (*Niinamesai*). Therefore the

day of *Niinamesai* was the day of regeneration.

From these examples, it is clear that the peoples of the rice-producing monsoon region understand the great importance of the day of *Niinamesai*.

The Relation between Telegraph Cables of Great Nordic Ltd. (Store Nordiske) and Japanese Octocoral Collection in Copenhagen, Denmark and UUZM, Uppsala, Sweden Asako K. Matsumoto

GN, Great Nordic Ltd. A/S (The Great Northern Telegraph Company (English): Det Store Nordiske Telegraf-Selskab A/S (Danish)) is the telegraph company which was established in 1869 at Copenhagen, Denmark.

In this manuscript, the octocoral specimens collected by GN and other scientists from Japan and the North West Pacific (NWP) region that are deposited in Zoological Museum, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (ZMUC), and Museum of Evolution, Uppsala University, Sweden (UUZM, UPSZTY, UPSZMC) were examined and listed (Table 1).

The director of GN, Edouard Suenson (1842-1921) collected at least 83 specimen of octacorals (30 gorgonian (examined) + 32 octacorals, 14 unidentified alcyonarians and 4 unidentified pennatularians (database)) in ZMUC and 13 in Uppsala from NWP). Julius V. Petersen (1852-1928) of GN collected 6 specimens from NWP. Hans Christiansen collected 1 (examined) and 13 (database) octacorals from Japan and NWP. 4 (examined) and 15 (database) additional GN specimens are counted. Total 31 specimens of octacorals and 2 specimens of black corals from Japanese waters collected by Dr. Sixten-Bock's 1913-1914 expedition were recognized in Uppsala University. Total 85 octacorals and one black coral from Japanese water of Dr. Phil. Th. Mortensen's Pacific-Expedition in 1914 were recognized in this study (ZMUC) (Table 2).

KEY WORD: Cold water coral, Deep-sea coral, Octocorallia, Gorgonacea, Historical material