

Grasping and Analyzing Mongolian-Expedition-Related Archeological Sites and Remains on the Seabed of Takashima(Kitamatsuura-county, Nagasaki Prefecture, Japan)

Yoshifumi IKEDA

(University of the Ryukyus , Faculty of Law and Letters, Professor)

【Outline of survey】

Numerous Mongolian military ships were wrecked in the area of the waters around Takashima in Nagasaki, by the typhoons and storms during their military expedition against Japan in 1281. Based on this historical fact, Takashima Town Office designated the area of 7.5 kilometers of southern coast of Takashima and 200 meters off-shore of the same area to be the special site which holds buried cultural properties. The actual archeological site, however, is presumed to be wider than this designated area, including Takashima and the entire waters of Imari Bay, considering that the Mongolian boats sailing in this area ran up to 4,400. It also suggests that the expected findings from this research would possibly be more crucial than those which have already been captured in the past investigation. In order to fully comprehend the distribution and actual contents of the sunken ships during the Mongolian Expedition, we will introduce in this research a physical search probe, which is usually a research tool for marine science, in addition to the traditional research devices used for underwater archeological search. In doing so, we shall create a new method for the Mongolian Expedition studies, which has traditionally relied on the document-based research.

【Expected results】

There have been various obstacles against the research activities of underwater Archaeology, usually caused by the difficulties related to the undeveloped diving skills and research devices, and uncooperative climate and geography of the site. This research project will contribute to transforming the present research system by using most updated apparatuses, such as the physical seabed search probe and GPS system. This research will also provide a more detailed explanation for the Mongolian Expedition as one of the worst cases of sea disaster in the world history.

【References by the principal researcher】

Ikeda, Yoshifumi, ed. *Underwater Archeology in East Asia: 2005 Symposium*. (Research Division C01-4 Consideration and Development of a New Approach of the Exchange and Trading Systems of Mediaeval East Asia, a Comprehensive Synthesis of Mediaeval Archaeology, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Special Area Study 2004.)

【Term of project】 FY2006 - 2010

【Budget allocation】 16,300,000 yen

【Homepage address】

under construction.