



Greco-Roman and Japanese Ancient Archives on the Web

Yayoi Tsutsui (twitter @artemismarch)

Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, Japan E-mail: 18195015@gakushuin.ac.jp (by March 2019)



Shosoin 正倉院

Introduction

Foundation : Archives is foundation of democracy. We can find it even in Ancient Athens, the cradle of democracy.

Innovation: Online resources on ancient archives are tremendously increased. Widely welcomed Classics is good reason for grants.

Here I introduce some online resources to clarify my hypothesis about importance of Boule(Council)'s archives and its function.

Some Japanese ancient archival materials on the web are also introduced.

Ancient Greek Archives

Start from **Perseus Digital Library** archieon



⇒**ARCHEION** ([ἀρχεῖον](#)) properly means any public place belonging to the magistrates, whether among barbarians ([Hdt. 4.62](#)) or Greeks ([Xen. Hell. 5.4.58](#); [Dem.] iv. Phil. p. 145.53). At Athens the name was more particularly applied to the archive office, where the decrees of the people and other state documents were preserved. This office is sometimes called merely [τὸ](#) p. 145.53). At Athens the name was more particularly applied to the archive office, where the decrees of the people and other state documents were preserved. This office is sometimes called merely [τὸ δημόσιον](#) p. 145.53). At Athens the name was more particularly applied to the archive office, where the decrees of the people and other state documents were preserved. This office is sometimes called merely [τὸ δημόσιον](#) (Dem. de Cor. p. 145.53). At Athens the name was more particularly applied to the archive office, where the decrees of the people and other state documents were preserved. This office is sometimes called merely [τὸ δημόσιον](#) (Dem. de Cor. p. 275.142). The archives were kept in the temple of the mother of the gods ([υπέρων](#) p. 145.53). At Athens the name was more particularly applied to the archive office, where the decrees of the people and other state documents were preserved. This office is sometimes called merely [τὸ δημόσιον](#) (Dem. de Cor. p. 275.142). The archives were kept in the temple of the mother of the gods ([μητρῶν](#)), and the charge of it was entrusted to the president ([ἐπιτελές](#)) of the senate of the Five Hundred. (Dem. de Fals. Leg. p. 381.129; Lycurg. c. Leocr. § 66 ; [Paus. 1.3.4](#); [Athen. 5.214](#) e; Plut. Vit. x. [Oratt.](#) p. 842 e; Harpocrat., Phot., Suid. s. v. [ὑπέρων](#) e; Harpocrat., Phot., Suid. s. v. [μητρῶν](#); Suid. s. v. [ἀρχεῖα](#). For the building itself, C. Curtius, [Das Metroon in Athen](#), 1868.)

Old Bouleuterion ⇒ Demosion ⇒ Metroon

From Athenian Agora Excavation

The records and decrees of Athens were stored in the Old Bouleuterion where the Boule met during the 5th century B.C. Toward the end of the 5th century, the senate (Council) moved to the New Bouleuterion, but the archives stayed behind in the Old Bouleuterion, and the building became known by a new name, the Metroon, Mother of the Gods, whose cult was also housed in the building.

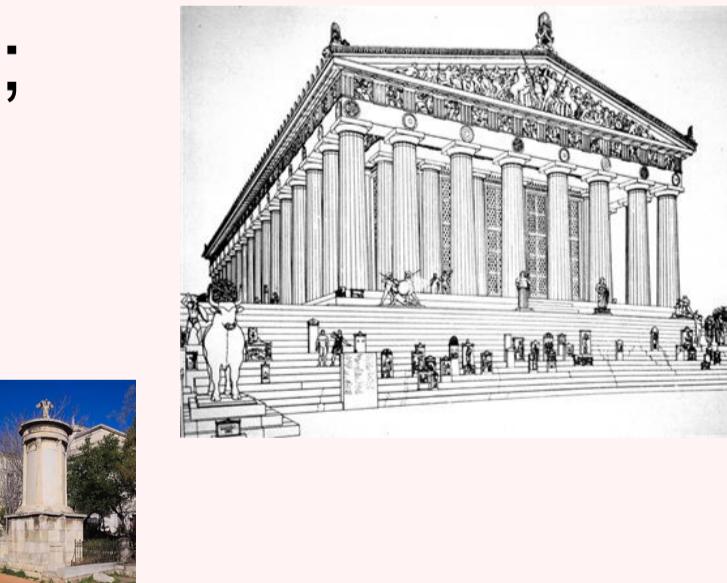


Demosion held laws and degrees as well as related items for the roles of the Boule like the Key and Seal for the treasury, lists of citizens or young soldiers, and standards.

If Metroon was Boule's archives, Athens might have other repositories;

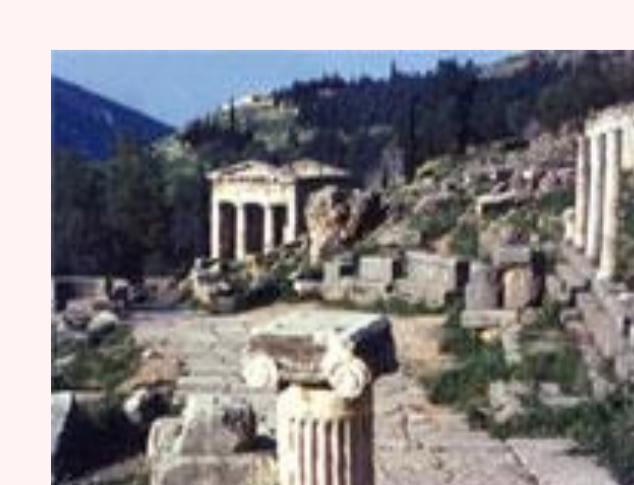
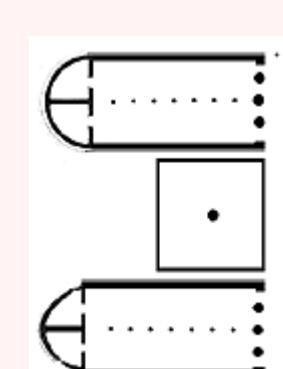
Parthenon Temple was the records' repository of Delian league and diplomatic records as well as ritual records.

Prytaneion was the office of Eponymous Archon. It was located at the old Agora. It might hold the tribal, religious, and hospitable records.



Olympian Bouleuterion, or Council House, had two wings where the official Elean archives where the names of all the Olympic victors might be kept.

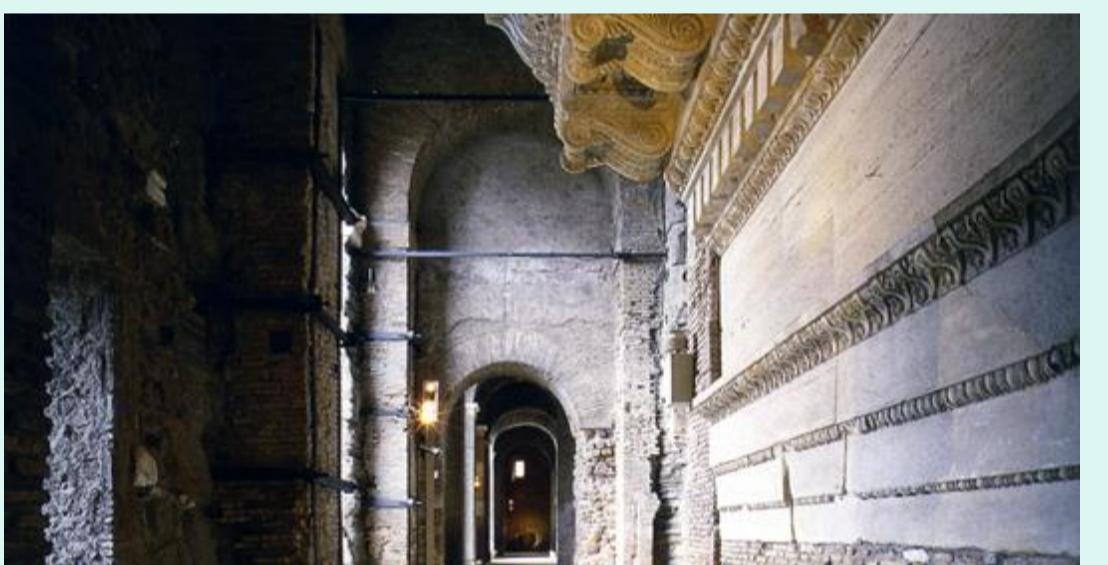
Delphi also had the Bouleuterion next to the Omphalos, so it might hold the oracles.



Ancient Roman Archives

Aerarium is the public treasury at Rome and later Senate's archives to keep money and laws and degrees and etc. After the fire, the **Tabularium** was constructed in 78 BCE and used for the conservation of the bronze tabulae containing the laws and the official deeds of the Roman State.

Michelangelo Buonarroti designed the Roman City Hall upon it. Now we can visit as the Capitoline Museums.



Some Latin words for archives :
archivum
grapharium
chartarium publicum
scrinium
tablinum
principium

Variation of Aerarium
Aerarium populi Romanii
Aerarium sanctius
Aerarium militare
Tribuni aerarium
Publicum

Archeion = archivum in Latin

Code of Justinian was stated both in Greek and Latin.
Justinian Code 1-4-30-2

2. We ordain that if the appointment of guardians and curators is made before the defender, in the presence of the bishop of the city, the record thereof shall be deposited among the archives of the holy church, so that the knowledge thereof may be perpetually preserved, and the protection therefrom of those placed under a guardian or curator may not perish. In this great city, however, guardians and curators shall be appointed by the honorable praetor, according to provisions heretofore made. Given at Constantinople July 29 (531).

Discussions

• Origin of ancient archives indicates the importance of legislative archives.

In 2009 Japanese public records management act was enacted and enforced in April of 2011, just after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Disaster.

Not only administrative records but some judicial records are transferred into the National Archives of Japan. However, the Diet documents are still in the Diet without finding aids. National Archives of Japan is expected to be independent and serve people for preservation and utilization public records including legislative records. It is the right of people to know the process of decision making.

• Frozen Data: Most of academic databases were constructed with temporal grants. Therefore, some of them stopped updating, and even the servers were lost. NDL and NII try to salvage and reuse these frozen data.

Ancient Japanese Archives

Ancient Japan Timeline

Jomon : about BCE15C-4C

Yayoi : BCE4C-AD3C

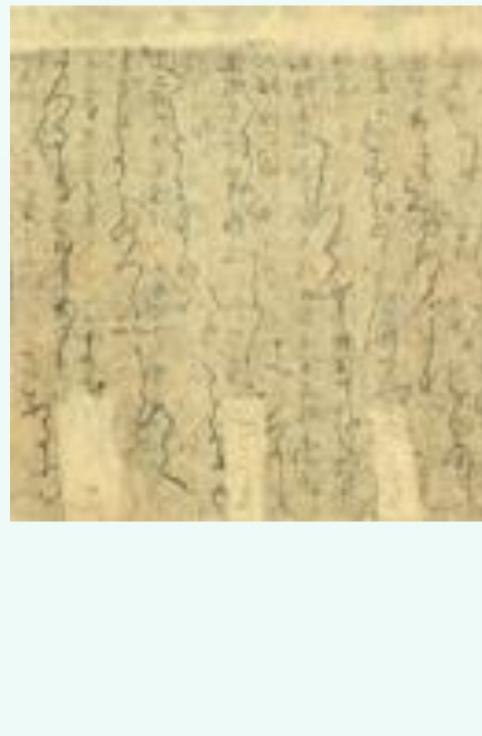
Kofun : AD 3-7C

Asuka : the end of 7C ~ 710

Nara : 710 ~ 794

Heian : 794 ~ 1185

Shosoin Repository is located within the grounds of the Todaiji temple in Nara built in Nara period, 8th century. **Shosoin** holds a lot of treasures. Among them there are **Shosoin Documents**. Both sides of paper were used.



Tokyo National Museum holds **Engishiki**, detailed rules of the **Ritsuryo Code**, copied in Heian period.

Midokampakuki in Heian period, the original handwritten diary of **Fujiwara no Michinaga** was registered in Memory of the World.

