

A Small Study on Greek *Archeion* as the Etymology of Archives

Yayoi Tsutsui

What is this word “archives”? Reviewing the international definition of modern archives and the history of the usage of the word in Japan, this paper shows the etymology of the word *archives*, Greek *archeion*, through lexical research. The on-line resources of the Perseus Digital Library show us the word’s etymology and derivation as well as its meanings. *A Greek-English Lexicon* edited by Henry George Liddell and Robert Scott (LSJ) makes it possible to trace the word chronologically. Latin dictionaries say that *archivum* is the same as *archeion*. In the 6th century the Eastern Roman Emperor Justinian I reviewed all Roman laws and announced that they were to be kept in an “*archivum*”. From here the word appears to have spread over the European world. This paper also attempts to discuss the classical Greek archival system.