

国宝「平城宮跡出土木簡」

地下水に守られて腐蝕の進行が抑えられ辛うじて残った脆弱な木簡は、出土当初は水漬けで保管しますが、最終的には保存処理を施して将来への保存に備えます。しかし、処理後も温度や湿度の変化には敏感なため、奈文研では概ね気温20℃、湿度60%の環境の収蔵庫に、保管性に優れた桐の箪笥や箱を用いて木簡を収納しています。

写真は、桐箱に収められた、2017年9月に国宝になった木簡のうちの7点。右からいわゆる寺請木簡(平城宮第1号木簡)、同文で形態の異なる若狭国の塩の荷札2点、造酒司の呼び出し状、内裏(常宮)から下された物品の帳簿の軸(上)、紫菜(ノリ)の付札(下)、丹波国の小麦の荷札。

National Treasure "Mokkan Excavated at the Heijō Palace

Protected by groundwater from the advance of erosion and just barely surviving, fragile *mokkan* (wooden documents) are kept soaked in water when first recovered, but ultimately are processed to prepare them for preservation for the future. However, as they are sensitive to changes in temperature and humidity even after conservation, at the Institute they are kept in storage in an environment of around 20 °C temperature and 60% humidity, and stored in chests or boxes of paulownia wood, which is superior for preservation.

The photo shows seven items, placed in a paulownia box, from the group of *mokkan* designated a National Treasure in September 2017. From the right is the so-called "temple requisition *mokkan*" (the first *mokkan* registered for the Nara palace), two baggage tags for salt from the ancient province of Wakasa bearing the same message but of different shapes, a work summons from the Sake-making Office, the scroll axle of a register of goods bestowed from the Imperial Domicile (top) and a label for a portion of seaweed (bottom), and a baggage tag for wheat from the ancient province of Tanba.

独立行政法人 国立文化財機構 奈良文化財研究所概要 2018

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〒630-8577 奈良市佐紀町247-1 TEL0742-30-6753 (連携推進課)

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