

## Activities to Preserve a Former Museum's Collection Materials : On Local Private Museums under the Influence of Keizo Shibusawa

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The Ogara Lake Folklore Museum in Misawa City, Aomori Prefecture, opened in 1961 and closed in 2015. It was known as a local private museum specializing in *mingu* (folk crafts implements) that was opened by a businessman in the early postwar period under the guidance of Keizo Shibusawa. In the course of taking possession of some of the material in the collection and sorting it out, the following three points became clear. First, Keizo Shibusawa had envisaged this museum as a comprehensive museum, but thanks to the work of local historian Nakamichi and others, a vast number *mingu* were collected, and as result, it became a “folklore museum.” Second, Nakamichi intended to present this region as place of exchange between the Japanese and other peoples since ancient times. Third, Keitaro Miyamoto, who played an important role in making Japanese *mingu* a cultural property, provided the Ogara Lake Folklore Museum with resources for organizing *mingu*, and may have been involved with the museum as a place to gather “draft plans for the classification and arrangement of civilian tools” in a vast collection. The establishment of this museum was made possible by the diverse conceptions of the researchers, local historians and a businessman who took part in its creation.

Key words: Local Folk Museums, *mingu*, Miyamoto Keitaro, Before Cultural Properties, Railways, Keizo Shibusawa