

The Reality of the Information, Telecommunications and Electrical Industries in the British Economy in the 19th Century : Focusing on the Establishment of the Electrical Section of the London Chamber of Commerce

By YUZUKA SATOMI*

This essay attempts to clarify the actual situation of the information, telecommunications and electrical industries in the British economy in the 19th century by analyzing the trends of the industry at the time of the establishment of the Electrical Section in the London Chamber of Commerce (LCC) in 1888. Since the 19th century, the international information and telecommunications network has expanded rapidly. British telegraph companies led this expansion and the British electrical industry, including telegraph companies, experienced rapid growth during this period. In this essay, we analyze the intention and process of establishing their own section in the LCC at this time, based on reports in the *Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review*, and the results reveal the following. Then, the information, telecommunications, and electrical industries were unstable and lacked a sense of unity. As a result, they faced many problems, such as inconsistencies in product prices and standards, and disputes over patents. Therefore, the section was established in the LCC to share information, exchange views across the industry, and secure a basis for favorable negotiations with the government or local authorities.