

Ancient

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Fiscal 2011 saw a heightened interest in studies related to natural disasters, influenced by the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011 which struck the Tohoku and Kanto regions, as well as a prediction of a great earthquake along Suruga/Nankai Trough, for which serious tsunami damage is assumed. Therefore trends of ancient study are discussed mainly from disaster related studies.

Outstanding disaster-related studies were ones by TANAKA Hiroaki, YANAGISAWA Kazuaki, and YANAGISAWA Ryou, who tried to reconstruct disasters such as big earthquakes, tsunami, or floods in the 9th century CE from traces left on archaeological sites. They also discussed people who faced the disaster and aspects of recovery after the disaster. URABE Atsushi emphasizes that it is our urgent task to reflect traces of earthquakes left on archaeological sites on research results, by regarding earthquakes not as a natural phenomenon but a “disaster” for humanity. Development of “disaster history” study is expected in recent years. Archaeological study of “disaster history” involves reconstruction of a disaster in the past as accurately as possible with cooperation from natural science, as well as efforts to reconstruct aspects of the recovery process by clarifying changes in local communities and people before and after the disaster. It is also important that the research results will be utilized in plans to protect/reduce damages from disasters or revival plans after a disaster.

As for capital city study, HASHIMOTO Yoshinori studied the transition of Imperial Palace, which is the center of the capital, indicating a new method for capital study. Also, Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties summarized the latest studies of Heijokyo, and AMI Nobuya discussed that a conclusion of capital construction sought by the Ritsuryo nation was Heiankyo.

As for regional government office study, OHASHI Yasuo proposed that formation of provincial government offices goes back as far as the end of the 7th century CE to the beginning of the 8th century CE and that construction was influenced by the formation of Fujiwarakyo. The formation was conventionally assumed to have been in the second

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quarter of the 8th century CE. Influence of Fujiwarakyo on formation of provincial government offices was also pointed out by AOKI Takashi, and he suggested that the archetype of governmental offices (*kokucho*) could be found in elements of Fujiwarakyo.

As for temple study, SUDA Tsutomu and SATO Makoto summarized Kokubunji studies in the past as well as the latest excavation research, focusing on various problems at the time of the original construction.

As for traffic study, OMI Toshihide reconstructed river transportation in Nara Basin, and he pointed out the possibility that both land and water transportation were prepared for the Sui delegate in 608 CE. Also, the study meeting of Kodai Kotsu Kenkyukai was held on the theme of ancient transportation.

As for subsistence study, Yamanashi-ken Kokogaku Kyokai discussed the relationship between cows and humans.

As for artifact study, there were a tile study from a viewpoint of East Asia and Japan, a study on pottery aspects during the formation period of Ritsuryo nation, and iron tool study by Kodai Kanga/Shuraku Kenkyukai. Also, a collection of these were published on weapons, armor and coins as a compilation of the past studies.

As for immigrant study, there were studies on the historical background of Tago-no-hi stele, as well as residents of immigrants in the East.