

Early Modern

AKAMATSU Waka

2011 saw many disasters such as the earthquake off the Pacific coast of Tohoku and Typhoon No. 12. Once again we felt the menace of nature, and so many precious lives were lost and cultural properties were damaged. Acts to support damaged cultural properties began right after the earthquake. In such a harsh environment, study of modern archaeology in fiscal 2011 yielded many results.

For castle study in East Japan, earthquake-related projects were outstanding. Urgent measures for damage repair were reported on 12 castles in Tohoku region, at the 6th conference of Kita Nihon Kinsei Jokaku Kentokai, “Higashi Nihon Daishinsai ni Yoru Jokaku no Hisai (Damage to Castles from the East Japan Earthquake).” Excavation research was conducted mainly to confirm and reorganize damage, and this trend is expected to continue in the next fiscal year. In West Japan, castle study was often tied up with preservation and maintenance projects. Site tours were conducted for the remains of Toyama Castle, Wakayama Castle, and Okayama Castle. Excavation reports were published for Kumamotojo site, Matsue-jokamachi site, and so on. As for castle town study, research results were outstanding for the castle towns of Edo and Osaka. Features to solve problems of garbage disposal in Edo were discovered at Yotsuya-yonchome site, and features to verify garbage disposal at Yotsuya-yonchome site were yielded from the 11th excavation of Saieicho site in Shinjuku Ward. For Osaka castle town, many excavations were done for *kurayashiki* (mansions with warehouses). A certain amount of Nabeshima ware potteries were excavated from the remains of a *kurayashiki* owned by the Saga feudal clan. Discussions on how Nabeshima ware that was used as offering gifts were brought to *kurayashiki* were interesting. Also, *Archaeological Journal*, No. 623 featured essays reporting seven examples of modern city archaeology. Since comparison between sites hasn’t been done enough for archaeology, it has contributed much to the modern city study. While study on *machiya* (merchants’ residences) is most active in Edo and Osaka, studies on transition of land utilization and ceramic chronology were conducted in Itamigocho site and Hyogotsu site. More attention should be given to harbor towns and agricultural towns.

¹Unavailable from data protection reasons

As for ceramic study there were many verifications of technological lineage in the past few years. However, this fiscal year saw discussion on “acceptance” such as Kinsei Toji Kenkyukai’s “Bakuhan Taiseika de Reinen Kenjo Sareta Tojiki (Ceramics Offered Every Year under Bakuhan System)” and Bizen Rekishi Forum’s “Bizen to Chato: Chado no Shiten Kokogaku no Shiten (Bizen and Tea Ceramics: Views of Tea Ceremony and Archaeology).” As for pottery study, Edo Iseki Kenkyukai held “Edo Zaichikei Kawarake no Seiritsu (Formation of Edo Local Pottery),” that clarified classification/technical lineage of pottery (*kawarake*) and its distribution, and discussed the relationship between pottery and the ruling class. As for museum exhibitions, exhibitions that mainly used archaeological data were held at Kagoshima University Museum called “Yakimono Zukuri no Kokogaku: Kagoshima no Jomon Doki kara Satsuma Yaki Made (Archaeology of Pottery Making: from Jomon Pottery to Satsuma Wares),” at Tokyo National Museum called “Tohen no Bi (Beauty of Ceramic Pieces),” at Setokura Museum called “Rusu to Yobareta Yakimono: Mindai Seto no Aratana Kokoromi (Ceramic Called Rusu: the New Trial of Modern Seto),” and at Tokishi Mino Toji Rekishikan called “Mino Momoyama no Seisan: Chato no Ryuko to Kamaba no Kosei (Production of Mino Momoyama Ceramics: Popularity of Tea Ceramics and Characteristics of Kilns)” and so on.

As for underwater archaeology, fiscal 2011 was the last year of the three-year project of Asian Research Institute of Underwater Archaeology, “Umi no Bunka Isan Sogo Chosa Purojekuto (Cultural Heritage of the Sea Research Project)” and it could be said that sea-bed and lake-bed sites in Japan became widely known by the past activities.

As for overseas exchanges, “Nanban Boeki to Tojiki (Nanban Trade and Ceramics)” was held in the 32th Boeki Toji Kenkyu Shukai, where Nanban trades were verified mainly using research results of Bungo Otomo Clan related sites. Fiscal 2011 saw excavation research of graves related to feudal lords (*daimyo*) conducted. Publication of *Toeizan Kaneiji Tokugawa Shogunke On’urakata Reibyō* (Mausoleum of Tokugawa Shogunate at Kaneiji Temple, Mt. Toei) and *Hikone Hanshu Iike Bosho Kotokuji Iikebosho Chosa Hokokusho Siteihen/Hozon/Seibihen* (Excavation Report for Grave of Ii Clan, the Feudal Lord of Hikone) were important research results to study *daimyo* graves.

Research results of animal archaeology and preservation science for cultural properties have been accumulated over the past ten years. The 15th conference of Dobutsu Koko Kenkyu Shukai had research presentations by IKEDA Ken, “Osaka Shiroshitacho Ato Shutsudo no Kairui Kenkyu no Genjo to Kadai (Present Situation and Issues of Shell Study Excavated from Osaka Shiroshitacho Ato Site),” and by Maruyama Masashi, “Kobeshi Hyogotsu Iseki ni Miru Kinsei no Suisanbutsu Riyo (Modern Period Utilization of Sea Resources Seen in Hyogotsu Site, Kobe City).” “Chukinsei Toshi Iseki ni Okeru Kinzoku Seihin no Seisan to Kako (Production and Processing of Metal Products in

Modern City Sites)” was held at the 23rd conference of Kansai Kinsei Kokogaku Kenkyukai, and although not many reports were made on metal production techniques and production systems of the modern period, it was a big result that particulars of identification were clarified for metal production/processing features.

Fiscal 2011 continued to see active modern excavation research/study. On artifacts, there were a symposium and some research presented on bricks. The symposium, “Renga Seisan to Kindai Kokogaku (Brick Production and Modern Archaeology)” was held by Osaka Rekishi Gakkai, and details are contained in *Historia* No. 231. As for excavation research, outstanding were publication of *Ariokajoseki Hakkutsu Chosa Hokokusho XVI* (Excavation Report on Ariokajoseki XVI) on a brick-piled press platform (for brewing) which was an introduction of Nadagogo technique; and KIDACHI Masaaki and others, “Gendai Kyoyaki Yoseki no Kokogakuteki Kento: Kyotoshi Gojosaka/Dosen Kagaku Seitoshō Youseki no Hakkutsu Chosa to Minzoku Chosa (Archaeological Examination of Modern Kyoyaki Kiln Site: Excavation and Folklore Research of Dosen Chemical Ceramic Kiln Site in Gojoszaka, Kyoto City).” As for exhibitions, “Bakumatsu Saga no Kindaika Sangyo Isan (Industrial Heritage of Modernization in Saga at the End of Tokugawa Shogunate)” was held at Saga Prefectural Art Museum and “Tatara Seitestu to Kindai no Makuake (Tatara Iron Making and Opening of the Modern Era)” at Shimane Museum of Ancient Izumo. There were many important discoveries and exhibitions in order to learn modern industrial technology.

Thus, trends of fiscal 2011 modern archaeology were overviewed. This fiscal year continued to see many studies on pottery and ceramics. Although many of the studies were on classification/chronology/technical lineage as in the past, discussions that go beyond traditional study were also outstanding. On the other hand, there are studies that depend heavily on documents and pictures. In recent years, animal archaeology and preservation science for cultural properties are yielding big results, and we should actively utilize such natural scientific analysis.