

Jomon Period

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This fiscal year continued to see various research activities on the Jomon period. While many excavation reports on the Jomon period were published, release of excavation reports on websites such as Repository of Archaeological Reports (Comprehensive Database of Archaeological Site Reports in Japan from June 2015 [<http://sitereports.nabunken.go.jp/>]) and others is also progressing. Fiscal 2014 study trends of Jomon archaeology were overviewed; referring to such released reports and existing overviews of Jomon archaeological study.

Since the 1990s, regional Jomon study groups have been active mainly in western Japan, but this fiscal year saw regional study in eastern Japan. In the Kanto region, studies of subsistence, utilization of resources, and trade are being developed under the concept of regional resources. The 2014 convention of the Japanese Archaeological Association held in Hokkaido had two symposia entitled “Kaizuka Kenkyu no Sin-Shiten (New Viewpoints of Shell Midden Study)” and “Haka to Monumento (Graves and Monuments).” In the latter, stone circles, circle mound graves and mounded features were examined by organization of grave systems, and KOSUGI Yasushi pointed out that “the existence of social regions, roles and nature” as well as “increasing complexity of social relationships and social structures” could be assumed from this examination. While regional study is maturing, there were studies on the framework of the Jomon period itself. There were studies on time range such as the beginning and end of the Jomon period, as well as spatial range of Hokkaido and the Nansei Islands.

For pottery typology, there is a decline in the establishment of new pottery types and indications of stage classification, and there were studies on regional distribution of typology.

On features study, TANIGUCHI Yasuhiro expressed the necessity of socioecological viewpoints in settlement study, and ABE Yuji examined stone paving features of stone-paved dwellings. Also, Archaeology Quarterly No. 130 had feature article on grave systems. For artifact study, there were efforts to understand artifacts as a whole or within a site rather than individual studies, but it stayed somewhat low key.

Cooperation with related sciences progressed, and especially the study of plant

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material stood out. Research results of “Joint Research: History of the Relationship between Human and Plants in the Jomon Period” by National Museum of Japanese History was published as *Kokomade Wakatta Jomonjin no Shokubutsu Riyo* (Plant Utilization of Jomon People). It explains well the current studies of plant utilization in the Jomon period. Progress of the pressed mark replica method was outstanding, and NAKAYAMA Seiji and others pointed out utilization of Glycine, *Ceratotropis* and *Perilla* as plant utilization in the Chubu region during Middle Jomon, proposing Jomon type cultivation in the Chubu highlands. YAMADA Masahisa who leads plant utilization study of the Jomon period, advocated Jomon period study through research of plant artifacts, and he stated the necessity to discuss “formation of residential areas” in sites, such as promotion of the relationship within a region between groups by development of “small space economy,” including forest utilization as a space and resource.

Thus, the 2014 Jomon period study could be overviewed as a grouping of new research directions based on existing studies. Organization of timelines in pottery study and creation of regional culture represented by deepening of regional study seems to show an inclination of the study to reevaluation of “the Jomon period.” At the same time, it is creating a new problem of how people understood and shared other regional culture that existed side by side in time and space.