

Yayoi Period

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The academic research to reconsider a framework for and diversity of “Yayoi culture” progressed with the increase in excavations and the accumulation of basic data.

Study about changes in settlement patterns was active. At the symposium “Social Changes from the Yayoi Period to the Kofun Period as Seen from a Dynamic Phase of Settlement” by Kodaigaku-Kenkyukai, there was discussion about a temporal change of relations between groups and a comparison between regions in a long-term viewpoint. This was considered from several standpoints: stages of the change of locations and structure of settlements, functional division between settlements by production and ritual, relations of living areas and graves, and so on. In addition, to grasp the phenomenon of each region, the mechanism of social change was considered. MIZOGUCHI Kōji discussed the correlation between transformation of communication and stratification of communities (“When the World Changes: An Archaeological Approach through a Case Study of the Middle Yayoi Period in Northern Kyushu,” *Quarterly of Archaeological Studies*, Vol.61 No. 3, pp. 50–70). WAKABAYASHI Kunihiko suggested the formation process of a wide area society in Yayoi period was a chain of multi-layered ranges of society (“The Theoretical Framework of the Structure of Community in the Yayoi Period,” *The Archaeological Series of Doshisha University*, 11, pp. 171–184). As a premise of settlement studies, it is important to consider the change of landscape and the relationship between settlement type and land use based on a highly precise geological survey presented by ŌBA Shigenobu (“Yayoi Period Landscape and Land Use in the Southern Kawachi Plain,” *Journal of the Japanese Archaeological Association*, No. 38, 47–65).

The subsistence activity of the Yayoi period, especially based on food production by rice-paddy cultivation, was examined from the viewpoint of activity location, cultivated plants and tools. The gradual change of agricultural techniques in the Yayoi period was clear. In the beginning of the Yayoi period when paddy-rice farming began, the natural terrain was used without making cleared fields (NASU Hiroo, “The Initial Form of Rice and Millet Cultivation during the Final Jomon-Yayoi Transition Era from the View of Archaeobotanical Weed Assemblages,” *Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese*

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History, Vol. 185, pp. 95–110). Then, an intensive irrigation system was established until the latter Yayoi period and the use of the large-scale fields brought improvement to and stability of production capacity. This continued to the Kofun period (EURA Hiroshi, “Agriculture Base in the Beginning of the Kofun Period,” *A Report of Research of the Museum of Yayoi Culture*, Vol. 7, pp. 1–18). Because cultivated plants were detected by impression replica investigation, a variety of aspects became clear. In the Final Jomon to Yayoi transition period, cultivars flowed into the Japanese archipelago as a set, not only rice but also millet (NAKAMURA Yutaka and NAKAZAWA Michihiko, “The Research of Seeds on Pottery by Impression Replica Investigation in Tokushima Region,” *SEIRAN*, No. 10, pp. 47–56). Then, in some regions, the compound cultivation of rice and cereals were carried out until Final Yayoi (ENDŌ Eiko, “Agriculture of the Yayoi period in Kantō Region as Seen from Cultivated Plants,” 60th Annual Meeting of the Society of Archaeological Studies, p. 56). SHITARA Hiromi argued that “an agricultural cultural complex” was formed in each region during the Yayoi period, depending on the relationship with the tradition of the Jomon culture and influence from East Asia (The Jomon and Yayoi Societies, Keibunsha: Tokyo). About the use of wooden tools, the result of study on reconstruction of manufacturing processes of archaeological bark string remains was important (URA Yōko, “A Fundamental Study on Identification of Archaeological Bark String Remains,” 31st Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Scientific Studies on Cultural Property, pp. 240–241). Recently, tree-ring cellulose oxygen isotopic dating is promoted, and the accumulation of further data is expected.

The circulation of valuable items in the Japanese archipelago was considered based on social background; political and economic trends of Mainland China and the Korean Peninsula, negotiations and hierarchical relationships and transformation of the relations between regions. Until recently bronze ware, ironware and beads were often studied according to materials used, but a more complex argument beyond material of manufacture is progressing. This year, many molds made by clay and stone, including the oldest mirror mold found in Japan, were excavated at the Sugu-Utakata site (Kasuga-city, Fukuoka Prefecture). It is an opportunity to reexamine assumptions about the start of bronze production in the Japanese archipelago, the introduction of production technology and its development. The spread of ironware in Yayoi society was considered from a multidirectional approach: examination of use traces of grindstones different from stone tools and ironware, and the approach to the spread of ironware from the processing traces of wooden goods. As a result, there are differences in point in time, location and function, and these clarified a complicated aspect of the spread of ironware (“Problems of the Spread of Ironware from Wooden Goods,” 24th Regular Meeting of Tokai Region of the Society of Archaeological Studies). The distribution and the circulation of comma-shaped beads in particular were discussed (TANIZAWA Ari, “Inter-Regional Relationships in the

Late to Final Yayoi Periods: Seen from the Distribution Pattern of Comma-Shaped Beads in Western Japan,” *Quarterly of Archaeological Studies*, Vol. 61 No. 2, pp. 65–84). The interchange about vermilion was also important (MINAMI Takeshi et al., “Identification of Original Sources of Vermilion Collected from Burial Mounds Using Three Methods for Sulfur, Mercury, and Lead Isotopes,” 31st Annual Meeting of the Japan Society for Scientific Studies on Cultural Property, pp. 110–111). Pottery study is advancing on the points of refining chronologies for each region and understanding the circumstances of acceptance of foreign pottery. In the circulation of these materials, it is necessary to pay attention to the network of coastal areas across the seas.