

Paleolithic

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Regarding the origin and diffusion of humanity, a movement to evaluate the behaviors and spread of humanity beyond frameworks of history of individual countries is active with cooperation from various field of Quaternary study under keywords such as geographical diversity, variability, and adaptation. In this movement, there is an increasing importance placed on regional study of human behavior that seeks to answer the question, “How did people in the Pleistocene adapt to various environments and formed societies and cultures?” A symposium under the theme “Variability, Similarities, and the Definition of the Initial Upper Paleolithic across Eurasia” was held at the 8th meeting of Asian Paleolithic Association, the second APA meeting to be held in Japan (*Program and Abstracts of the 8th Meeting of the Asian Paleolithic Association*). The Initial Upper Paleolithic (IUP) belongs to the beginning of Upper Paleolithic, and it denotes stone tools that share remains of stone tool manufacturing technology from the Middle Paleolithic. IPU is an important research subject in order to understand the transition from Middle to Upper Paleolithic, in other words, the diffusion of modern humans and the emergence of modern human behaviors, and attention has been given to its northern route. In Japan, early Upper Paleolithic stone tools are widely confirmed in paleo Honshu, however, they consist of flake tools including trapezoidal stone tools without IUP elements. Therefore, it is assumed that flake tools from paleo Honshu were brought by a southern route through the Korean Peninsula (Morisaki, K., Sano, K. & Izuho, M. 2016 Early Upper Paleolithic Blade Technology in the Japanese Archipelago, *the 8th meeting of the Asian Palaeolithic Association*). This is becoming a common understanding among many Japanese Paleolithic researchers.

The period from the end of Paleolithic to incipient Jomon continued to be a popular research subject this fiscal year, and there were many study meetings and theses regarding it. Many were research on regional examples of human adaptation to climate and environmental fluctuation during this period. There is some research from the Kanto to Tohoku regions in Honshu related to this period in *Palaeolithic Research 12* published by Japanese Palaeolithic Research Association. SATO Hiroyuki, YAMADA

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Satoru, IZUHO Masami ed., *Banhyoki no Jinrui Shakai (Human Society in Late Glacial)* (Rokuichi Shobo) approached issues of behavioral forms and cultural formation focusing on prehistoric hunter-gatherers in Hokkaido and the northern part of the continent.

Geophysical examination, physical and analytical, and site distribution study of quarries were active in various places, mainly on obsidian quarries as a high-quality stone tool material. As cooperation with geophysical researchers is necessary in stone tool material study, it is almost established as an interdisciplinary theme in recent years. This fiscal year saw research on obsidian quarries from Kyushu to Hokkaido, although so many were naturally in Nagano Prefecture, where obsidian quarry research has been accumulated for a long time.

Other than the above mentioned, there were many studies on various themes such as traceological study including use-mark analysis on stone tools, experimental archaeology, processes of site formation, stone tool manufacturing technology, chronology, diffusion theory, the relationship between ecological change and human behavior, and Middle/Upper Paleolithic.