

## Early Modern

OGAWA Yuji<sup>1</sup>

Early modern and modern archaeology research trends are overviewed herein through introduction of excavation research, symposia, theses, and excavation reports from fiscal 2016.

Excavation of castles was continuously conducted due to preservation projects. Research was conducted at Saishoyama site in Osaka City to confirm the existence of “Sanada-maru,” a fort assumed to have been constructed in the winter campaign of the Siege of Osaka (1614), but no clear evidence was found. It has drawn much interest, such as a symposium titled “*Sanadamaru*” to *Rekishigaku* (“*Sanadamaru*” and History).’

Excavation research continued to be conducted on castle towns including Edo, and this fiscal year, Christianity related sites drew peoples’ interest. It became a hot topic when a human bone excavated from “Kirishitan-yashiki-ato” (Bunkyo Ward, Tokyo), a Tokyo’s historic site, was confirmed to belong to Father Sidotti, an Italian missionary who had a large influence on Japanese history. Excavation reports of this excavation, *Kirishitan-yashiki-ato* (two volumes) are evaluated as results of collaboration among archaeology, physical anthropology, and document history.

As for production sites, there were many symposia and excavation reports on stone walls and quarries due to excavation of castle walls. As for excavation of kiln sites, related facilities and akae (red painting) kiln remains as well as over glaze painting products were excavated from a settlement site next to the national historic site Yanbeta-kama-ato. It became clear that all the processes from molding to over glaze painting were done at Yanbeta kiln, which produced so called “Kokutani.”

As for pottery/ceramics study, there were two symposia on ceramic manufacturing: the 44<sup>th</sup> convention of Japan Society of Oriental Ceramic Studies “*Nihon Jiki no Soushi to Tenkai: Edo Zenki wo Chushin ni* (Founding and Development of Japanese Ceramics: Mainly on Early Edo),” and a research presentation by Okinawa Archaeological Society, “*16–17 Seiki no Okinawa ni Okeru Yogyo no Tenkai to Sono Haikei* (Development of Ceramics in 16th to 17th Century Okinawa and Its Background).” As for publications, *Chukinsei Tojiki no Kokogaku* (Archeology of Medieval and Early Modern Ceramics)

<sup>1</sup> c/o Archaeological Research Unit, The University of Tokyo, 4–6–1 Komaba, Meguro Ward, Tokyo 153–8904, Japan  
(ogawa.yuji@aru.u-tokyo.ac.jp)

volume 3 to 5 were published from Yuzankaku, and many discussions on various topics were presented on early modern alone.

Thus, the trend of fiscal 2016 was that many studies were on ceramics, and they tended to be minutely divided and deepened. Also, as for excavation reports, active cooperation with related fields are seen despite today's harsh research situation, and many researchers tried to grasp a site more multilaterally.

As for modern sites, attention was given to excavation research of Zenshoen-gakuen-atochi within the National Sanatorium Tama Zenshoen. Excavation yielded a moat surrounding patients' quarters which was a result of insufficient understanding of Hansen's disease, but it is important to hand down such "negative history." Modern sites may not be excavated unless they overlap with sites of other periods, and it is undeniable that modern research may have limitations. Information gained from excavation is still not adequate, and urgent measures are desired also from the viewpoint of future research and site protection.