Korean Peninsula

MISAKA Kazunori

Fiscal 2016 research trends of Japan and South Korea on Korean Peninsula are overviewed herein.

KIM Jaehyeon and KIM Juhui [“Pusan Kadokuto Shutsudo no Shinsekki Jidai no Jinkotsu no Maiso Patan ni Bansuru Bunseki (Analysis on Burial Patterns of Neolithic Human Bones Excavated from Gadeok-do, Busan)” *Archaeology: Is It Science?* Chugoku Shoten, pp. 1115–1126] revealed Neolithic burial patterns which were previously obscured, based on initial/early phases of Neolithic human bones excavated in excellent condition from Janghang site.

Spatial and temporal changes of artifacts and features from the Bronze Age were grasped more clearly. SONG Youngjin (*A Study on the Burnished Pottery of Bronze Age in Korea* Gyeongsan National University doctoral dissertation, 332p, in Korean) grasped regionality and temporal changes of burnished pottery in the Bronze Age in southern Korean Peninsula and indicated processes of formation and localization after influences from Liaodong to the northwestern part of Korean Peninsula, as well as the northeastern Korean Peninsula. NAKAMURA Daisuke (“Formation and Regionality of Double-rim Pottery in the Korean Bronze Age” *Archaeology Quarterly* 138, pp. 22–25) recognized continuity among clay-band pottery, double-rim pottery, and other cultural elements. AHN Jaeho and LEE Hongjong (Ed.) [*청동기시대의 고고학 2* (Archaeology of the Bronze Age 2: Chronology) Seogyeong Munhwasa, 293p, in Korean] presented the goal of Bronze Age chronological study. MIYAMOTO Kazuo [*Tohoku Ajia no Shoki Noko to Yayoi no Kigen (Initial Agriculture of Northeast Asia and the Origin of Yayoi)* Doseisha, 311p] pointed out that each phase of “four phases of initial agriculture in northeast Asia” was accompanied by coastline regression and global cooling. Due to these factors, a decrease in food production and an increase in population pressure took place, causing people to move to land suitable for farming, resulting in a factor for agricultural diffusion. Also, he presented a hypothesis that the third and fourth phases were accompanied by diffusion of “Japonic language.”

As for the Proto-Three Kingdoms and Three Kingdoms of Korea, spatial and...
temporal changes of artifacts and features were grasped in more detail, and various discussions were deepened based on this knowledge. Tsuchida Junko [Higashi Ajia to Kudara Doki (East Asia and Baekje Pottery) Doseisha, 311p] reconfirmed that Chinese ceramics can be used to decide dating of Baekje pottery, and identified the chronology and dating of Baekje pottery using Chinese ceramics as well as artifacts from Wa, Shilla, and Gaya that were excavated together. Also, Tsuchida proposed that Baekje expanded its territory by controlling critical points such as iron ore and gold mines and strategic points of transportation. Kim Woodae (Ancient Korean and Japan as Seen through Metalcraft Kyoto Daigaku Gakujutsu Shuppankai, 411p) proposed chronologies for 5th and 6th century pendant earrings and ornamental swords from Silla, Baekje, Daegaya, and Wa, that have always depended on dating of other artifacts, and reviewed exchanges and the political relationship between Japanese Archipelago and countries in the Korean Peninsula. Nakakubo Tatsuo [Nihon Kodai Kokka no Keisei Katei to Taigai Koryu (Formation Process and Foreign Exchanges of the Ancient Japanese Nation) Osaka Daigaku Shuppankai, 333p] examined handicraft production, burial systems, and settlement structures based on analysis of 3rd to 5th century Japanese and Korean pottery, and pointed out that the center of exchanges between the Japanese Archipelago and Korean Peninsula/continental China has changed from time to time. Nakakubo expounded the importance of the influence of accepted migrants’ culture on the formation of the Japanese nation, while understanding that “major political power” in Japan has changed strategies on foreign exchanges. Takesue Junichi and Hiraoka Kazuhisa [“Mikumo/Iwara Iseki Banjo Chiku Shutudo no Sekken (Inkstone Excavated from Banjo District, Mikumo Iwara Site)” Kobunka Danso 76, pp. 1–11] theorized that a stone object excavated from Banjo district, Mikumo Iwara site was an inkstone, based on comparison with excavated artifacts from Lelang Commandery. Lee Yeongcheol and others (“Taegan-ri Jarabong Tomb in Yeong-am County” Nihon Kokogaku No. 41, pp. 77–85) revealed the dating of Jarabong tomb that was said to be the oldest keyhole-shaped mounded tomb as latter half of 5th century.

Although the number of research results for Unified Silla, Goryeo, Joseon are not so many compared to the pre-Three Kingdoms, archaeological analysis has accumulated steadily.