

China

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Fiscal 2017 saw publication of doctoral theses covering from the Neolithic to Shang/Zhou periods as far as the author knows and many systematic studies were published.

As for conferences and symposiums, conferences were actively held related to KAKENHI/Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research on Innovative Areas “Rice Farming and Chinese Civilization: Renovation of Integrated Studies of Rice-based Civilizations (Principal Coordinator: NAKAMURA Shinichi).” The path is being drawn for the new civilization that had rice farming on its center in the lower Yangtze river basin due to a series of international and interdisciplinary studies by this project.

Other than the above, there were especially many conferences related to bronze tools as there are many Japanese researchers in the field. A total of 22 single and joint research presentations were made by Japanese researchers at the 11th conference of the Society for the History of Asian Casting Technology held at the Institute of History and Philology, Academia Sinica in Taipei. Many presentations were also done by Chinese and Korean researchers, and it was an extremely valuable opportunity for international exchanges of research results. Also, the fiscal 2017 convention of the Japan Society for Chinese Archaeology held at Tokyo University still has a significant position as the center of Chinese archaeology study in Japan.

As for books/theses, there were a sizable number of Neolithic study theses on Hemudu culture and Liangzhu culture in the lower Yangtze river basin due to the “Rice Farming Civilization” project above. The origin of rice and other cereals and their diffusion to Japan is an important research theme. The majority of studies on Erlitou culture and Western Zhou were on bronze tools. It seems interests were especially high on manufacture and usage of bronze tools in the Shang period. Also, there were studies related to animals such as horses and elephants. Studies on Eastern Zhou were mainly bronze tools related to typology, distribution, and manufacturing technology. Other than the above, there were studies on the eastern advancement of Yan culture, which is indispensable in talking about the Yayoi period in Japan. There were not many archaeological studies on the Qin and Han periods this fiscal year. All the studies the author could confirm were on bronze mirrors, which seems

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rather unbalanced. As for studies from the Wei, Jin, and Northern and Southern dynasties to Sui and Tang dynasties, these are relatively scarce with exception of some related to Gao-ling of Caocao, Yungang Grottoes, and the Silk Road. However, Japanese researchers seem to be interested in capital city planning and so on, as it is related to Japan. After the Song dynasty, there is no concentrated field of study, and study subjects seems to be scattered. If anything, there are multiple studies on the Liao dynasty. Referring to study on the northern plains in the end, sizable studies were conducted, and especially active study was study on bronze objects and horses which are dispersed in extensive areas.

As for the number of theses, many were on older periods, with 20 from the Neolithic to Eastern Zhou, and 11 on the Qin and Han and later. Most published books were on these periods. It may be natural since historical construction using archaeology is effective in older periods as written documents are abundant in China. Also, study using scientific methods which have increased in recent years is more effective in older periods, and it is a factor for increasing the number of studies.