

Yayoi Period

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There were mainly three themes for which many results were seen in trends of the Yayoi period study in fiscal 2018. First is study on the beginning of the Yayoi period and early rice cultivation. As the view on calendar dates of the beginning of Yayoi period has changed, images of social changes from Jomon to Yayoi period are being reevaluated, and some theses and books on the matter were published. Also, cultivation techniques when rice cultivation was begun are being studied based on examination of rice paddy features and excavated rice.

Second is study on regional exchanges. Multiple study conferences were held for regional exchanges, especially on Late Yayoi to the beginning of the Kofun period. This is assumedly due to an increased awareness that activation of wider regional exchanges at this phase was significant in social changes from the Yayoi period to the Kofun period and the formation process of ancient nations.

Third is study on manufacturing techniques of artifacts. Multiple theses were published on foundry techniques of bronze, processing techniques of wooden objects, and manufacturing techniques of beads. Study to reconstruct manufacturing techniques based on minute observation, scientific analysis, and manufacturing experiments is becoming universal.

Other than above, many research theses were published on features and artifacts. As for study on settlements/tombs and other features, special notes should be given to a study on structure of settlement/regional society using GIS, and study related to features of pillared buildings. As for artifact study, many were on pottery, lithics, and bronze tools. As for bronze study, outstanding was study on bronze bell (*dotaku*). Analysis on stone measuring weights saw progress, and there is a possibility that a widely shared measuring standard existed in the Yayoi period. Also, study on red pigments is conducted constantly in recent years.

In a macroscopic viewpoint, these study trends are influenced by reexamination of period division and the concept of Yayoi culture as larger research trends in recent years.

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