

Ancient

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Ancient study in the fiscal 30th year of Heisei was active with many symposiums and theses. Research trends of the ancient period were described under “disaster and ancient study,” “capitals,” “regional offices,” “ancient temples,” “region/settlements,” “immigrant/immigration,” “production,” “construction/civil engineering,” “ancient transportation/*jōri*,” “pottery,” “artifacts,” and “wooden tablets” in this article.

As for disaster history, periodicals had special articles on volcanos, verification of data covering a wide area was conducted on a historical earthquake, and various seminars were held. Also, structural verification of pit buildings (settlements) and reconstructive examination of pillared buildings were conducted on disaster struck remains.

On the study of capital city and regional offices, *Dazaifu no Kenkyū* (Study on Dazaifu) raised issues regarding its formation period, diplomacy, and officers in Dazaifu and areas under their jurisdiction. Also, study on ancient mountain forts was active, with discussion on relationships between warehouses in a fort and ones in a county office.

On the other hand, it was epochal that a study conference was held on the relationship between *sake* dealers and government offices, temples and settlement focusing on Sue ware large jars that are universal artifacts but have somehow always been neglected. Steady results are being achieved on ancient temples due to organization of historic sites, and tile study is achieving fruitful results. Above all, study was active on immigrants and ancient temple/tiles.

There were theses that handled settlements, regional exchanges, and migration in northern Tohoku and Hokkaido. As for migration it was discussed not only by movement (carry-in) of pottery but also pursued through typological examination of “final stage mounded tombs.”

Study on ancient transportation and *jōri* was also active with cooperation with historical geography.

There were extremely many theses on ancient pottery. They were highly diversified from regional ranges to extraction of social groups that engaged in transportation to consumption through minute typological examination. There was a thesis on ceramic inkstones and seals that symbolize ancient document administration. As for wooden tablets (*mokkan*), there were special featured articles, and theses on tributes like salt and cotton, as well as Hojoe.

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