

Early Modern

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It will be the 50th year in 2019 since NAKAGAWA Shigeo and KATŌ Shinpei announced “advocation of early modern archaeology” at the 35th general meeting of the Japanese Archaeological Association. Related to the commemoration, this fiscal year saw featured articles of periodicals and conferences on past results and issues of early modern archaeology. From the above, an issue was indicated to extract characteristics for the period called early modern thorough 1) relationships between regions and 2) analysis of continuity and discontinuity with periods before and after the early modern. To achieve such tasks, 3) cooperation between research fields is important. Based on the above, research trends of fiscal 2018 were organized. First, they were organized under “site/features” and “artifacts.” Further, “site/features” was organized under “castle/castle town related sites,” “production related sites,” and “others”; and “artifacts” was organized under “ceramics and potteries” and “others.” Also, those that are hard to classify under two categories of “site/features” and “artifacts,” were organized separately. Namely they were “archaeozoology/archaeobotany,” “faith/religion,” “Hokkaido/Okinawa” and “modern and current day.” As a result, there was a tendency to discuss the period in relation with histories of trade, economics, politics and society so the author pointed out the importance of interdisciplinary research in the future. According to KOIZUMI Hiroshi, the role of archaeology in conducting interdisciplinary research is our unique methodology and interpretation drawn from it. On the other hand, he pointed out a necessity to organize limits of information acquired from archaeological data and analysis. Also, he pointed out a scarcity of cooperation between archaeozoology/archaeobotany and other fields. Furthermore, Koizumi pointed out that study on early modern society which formed a model of each region is being reevaluated, through promotion of excavation/research as organization of castle remains and castle towns is currently being conducted all over Japan. It was pointed out that in order to reveal the original Japanese landscape and formation process of Japanese culture that continues to the present day, it is important to discuss process of change and continuity between periods before and after (especially modern and current day).

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