

## Medieval

ISHIKAWA Yasushi<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal 2012 saw active studies on religion related sites such as feudal estates (jokan) and temples. This trend seems to have continued for a while. The author would like to express his deep gratitude to many researchers who offered helpful instructions despite their busy schedule. The study trends of this fiscal year are discussed under each topic.

### 1. City/settlement sites

The Osaka convention of Chusei Toshi Kenkyukai was held under the theme “Chusei Toshi kara Jokamachi he (Medieval City to Castle Town).” Hakata/Yamaguchi/Oita Santoshi Kenkyukai held a study meeting on the relationship between Ouchi Clan and Otomo Clan in the 15th and 16th centuries. Archaeology and Medieval History Symposium was held under the theme “Mizu no Chusei: Kaihatsu/Seikatsu/Saigai (Water in the Medieval: Development/Life/Disaster).” The excavation at Nakazuhigashihara site (Masuda City) yielded rare harbor features. An outstanding thesis was Kokogaku Kara Mita Nakajo-shi Kanren Iseki (Nakajo Clan Related Sites Seen from Archaeology).

### 2. Feudal estates

Although concentrated in the late medieval, there were three topics. First were garden features, where a study on the headquarters of a famous feudal lord was added to these results. Second was the excavation of stone walls from the Shokuho lineage castle wall, which was conducted successively. Accumulation of data is continuing. Third is that 3D aerial laser survey was used to get data. The usefulness of technology became clear once more.

### 3. Artifacts

A study meeting “Chusei Atsumi/Tokoname wo Otte” was held and results gained in

<sup>1</sup> Tokigawa Town Board of Education, 2490 Tamagawa, Tokigawa Town, Saitama Prefecture, 355–0395, Japan  
(isikawa0117@yahoo.co.jp)

the editing process of *Aichikenshi Betsuhen Yogyo 3: Tokonamekei (History of Aichi Prefecture Supplementary Volume: Ceramic Industry 3: Tokoname)* were reported. At a symposium “12 Seiki no Musashinokuni (Musashinokuni in 12th Century)” and a study meeting “Kamakura Soso no Kawarake (Pottery in the Beginning of Kamakura), aspects of pottery in south Kanto before and after 1180 (4th year of Jisho) were organized and discussions were deepened.

#### 4. Temple and religious sites

A symposium “Kodai Tohoku ni Okeru Tou to Garan (Stupa and Temple Cloisters in Ancient Tohoku)” was held. Outstanding excavations were Muryokoin (Hiraizumi Town, Iwate Prefecture), Negorojikeidai and Negorojiteien (Iwade City), and Yamashinahonganji (Kyoto City). In Kanto organization of early Kamakura temple cloisters is continuing at Youfukuji (Kamakura City) and Kabasakidera (Ashikaga City). Also, a historical museum for the remains of Heisenji temple, Hakusan Heisenji Rekishi Tanyukan Mahoroba, was opened. *Archaeology Quarterly* had a special featured article on “Yamadera no Kokogaku (Archaeology of Mountain Temples).”

#### 5. Burial systems and stone objects

*Mikageishi to Chusei no Ryutsu (Granite and Distribution in the Medieval period)* and *Chusei Sekito no Kokogaku (Archaeology of Medieval Stone Stupa)* were published. Excavation continues for a quarry site in northern Musashi: Shimozatowariya-Itabi-Sekizai-Saiseiki site (Ogawa Town, Saitama Prefecture). It will possibly be the guideline for a quarry site for crystalline schist, which is found in many parts of the country. It would be interesting to find out the relationship between piled stone features of castle walls in the warring-states period. Also, research presentations were held on themes, “Chusei Bushi no Haka to Sekito (Graves of Medieval Samurai and Stone Stupa),” and “Chusei no Bosei: Chuseijin no Shiseikan (Funeral Systems of the Medieval: Medieval Peoples’ View of Life and Death).”

#### 6. Great East Japan Earthquake and disasters

In Fukushima Prefecture, protective structures for Kannondo stone Buddha and one of the Daihisan stone Buddhas at Koizumi, Odaka-ku, Minami-Soma City collapsed in the March 2011 earthquake. Action for reconstruction is being taken mainly by preservation society members. As for excavation, a large-scale and continuous residential district was yielded from Tanihara site (Yamamoto Town) in Miyagi Prefecture, and a defensive

settlement around 11th century was found at Shindate site (Noda Village) in Iwate Prefecture. A symposium “Chusei no Sainan: Kassen to Saigai (Misfortunes of Medieval: Battle and Disaster)” was a good event.

Various projects involved with reconstructive projects from the Great East Japan Earthquake should be shared by everybody as a continuous work in the future. The author pays respect to all the people engaged in the projects, and hope that the valuable achievements will be utilized in many fields.