

Ancient

TAKAHASHI Toru¹ & MATSUMOTO Taro²

Fundamental research exclusive to archaeology stayed low-keyed, and fields that are likely to provoke discussion among document historians seems more common for the time being.

1. General History

Distribution of the 5th series of *Iwanami Koza Nihon Rekishi* (*Iwanami's Lecture on Japanese History*) has begun. Many of books in the series were on the general history of the ancient.

2. Transportation

Research related to transportation was the most common field, blessed with new study results and viewpoints. Sanyodo road and its roadhouses were active topics as exhibitions and study meetings were held on them. Meshima Roadhouse in Hitachi Province, that drew attention in Kanto, has not been confirmed yet as the location of the roadhouse has not been discovered.

Kodai Kotsu Kenkyukai (Ancient Transportation Society) held the 17th convention on waterborne traffic, and published results of its previous convention, *Kodai Yamaguni no Kotsu to Shakai* (*Ancient Traffic in Mountainous Areas and Society*) (Yagi Shoten). Kodai Josaku Kanga Iseki Kentokai (Ancient Josaku and Kanga Sites Society) organized sites related to josaku (fortified government offices) and kanga (government office), and compiled characteristics of roadhouses in Dewa Province from ancient documents.

There was publication of *Nihon Kodai Doro no Fukugenteki Kenkyu* (*Reconstructive Study of Ancient Japanese Road*) (Yoshikawakobunkan) which compiled research results from many years.

¹ Miyagi Prefectural Research Institute of the Tagajo Site, 22-1 Takasaki, Tagajo City, Miyagi 985-0862, Japan

E-mail address not disclosed

² Ichikawa City Museum of Archaeology, 2-26-1 Horinouchi, Ichikawa City, Chiba 272-0837, Japan

E-mail address not disclosed

3. Capital

While there were many studies on palaces and capitals such as Asuka, Fujiwara, Heijo, and Heian, as in previous years, other fields were active this year. In Naniwa, a large project by Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research was concluded. *Kodai no Tojo to Higashi Ajia (Ancient Capital and East Asia)* was published (Seibundo Shuppan). *Jorisei/Kodaitoshi Kenkyu (Jori System/Ancient City Study)* Vol. 29 contained a transcript of a presentation on Shigaraki Palace from previous fiscal year. Regarding Nagaoka palace/capital, *Nagaokakyo no Rekishi Kokogaku Kenkyu (History and Archaeological Study of Nagaokakyo)* was published (Yoshikawakobunkan).

4. Local government office related sites

There is the possibility that the biggest government office in Kyushu found at Fukubaru Chojabaru site, Fukuoka Prefecture could be the early *kokuchō* (provincial government office) prior to its relocation. *Kodai Nihon no Shihai Kozo (Control Structures of Ancient Japan)* (Hanawa Shobo) compared the *Hyo* (unit of administrative region) system established by Emperor Kotoku and *Hyo* related sites, as well as discussion based on results of the excavation of Kume Kanga sites in Ehime Prefecture.

5. Theories on artifacts and features

There have not been many symposia on pottery study in recent years, *Shio no Seisan Ryutsu to Kanga/Shuraku (Production and Distribution of Salt and Government Office/Settlements)* (Kuba Pro) discussed various elements comprehensively, mainly on theories of pottery used for salt making. *Togoku no Doki to Kanga Iseki (Potteries in Togoku and Government Office Sites)* (Rokuichi Shobo) developed theories on government offices based on detailed analysis. There were other theses in Kanto and Tohoku on the chronology of pottery, dating, and regional characteristics and so on. Other than pottery, noteworthy were an analysis on bows based on typified picture scrolls (*Emaki*) and folklore data, and a presentation on a long governmental facility (*Chosha*) in the capital and ritualistic space, at the 17th convention of Kodai Kanga/Shuraku Kenkyukai (Society for Ancient Government Office and Settlement).

6. Temples and ceremony

Kofun kara Jiin he: Kanto no 7-seiki wo Kangaeru (From Mounded Tomb to Temple: Thoughts on 7th Century Kanto) (Rokuichi Shobo) indicates that the relationship between

large mounded tombs in Final Kofun and early temples cannot be explained consistently. Excavation of river bed features and ritualistic artifacts was reported at Kitashita site, Chiba Prefecture. *Cultura Antiqua* vol. 65 discussed continuity beyond age and epochs for transformation of ritual tools, and shrine policies and so on.

7. Settlement

While settlement theory seems stagnated, reexamination of Ohshimago koseki (family registers) and surrounding settlements are on the rise. Other than a special featured article on the topic, it was discussed at joint research with National Institutes for the Humanities, and Ichikawa City tried to sort out buildings in the city history.

8. Disaster

Disaster history should be examined from its methodology as a field that could be useful today.