

Jomon Period

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Fiscal 2017 saw publication of numerous theses on the Jomon period partly due to a large volume of publications: ANZAI Masato ed. *Riron Kokogaku no Jissen (Practice of Theoretical Archaeology)* I and II (Tokyo: Doseisha), and YAMAMOTO Teruhisa ed. *Yamamoto Teruhisa Sensei Koki Kinen Ronshu Nijuisseiki Kokogaku no Genzai (Theses in Commemoration of Professor Yamamoto's 70th Birthday: The Present of 21st Century Archaeology)* (Tokyo: Rokuichi Shobo). Furthermore, many symposia were held in various places. Outstanding ones were on national historic sites and fire-shaped pottery. Since evaluation of Incipient Jomon has become an issue lately, symposia were held on periodical divisions and frameworks of the Jomon period. As for the division of periods, the problem is how to evaluate universality, diversity, and uniqueness within world prehistory.

As for artifact study, outstanding was pottery studies that focused on large-area chronology and relationships with surrounding regions. Also, vessel type study and clay analysis were active. As for stone tool study many theses were on stone material study, especially based on analysis data of obsidian sources. As for study on building remains, symposia and conferences were held on keyhole-shaped paved settlements, and discussions were exchanged on their emergence processes, regional development, and significance. The concept of “monument” is being used increasingly for large-scale structure study, but the word is being used vaguely without a clear definition.

As for social theory, outstanding was a joint research led by YAMADA Yasuhiro “Senshijidai ni Okeru Shakai Fukuzatsuka/Chiiki Tayoka no Kenkyu (Study on Social Complication/Regional Diversification in Prehistory)” (*Bulletin of the National Museum of Japanese History* 208), in addition to individual theses. It concluded that regional diversity is emphasized with the increasing complexity of prehistoric society and it is difficult to grasp complexity/diversification of prehistoric society uniformly.

As for subsistence study, analysis methods using replicas of pressed marks on pottery are achieving significant results in recent years. This enables remains of plants that are hard to be preserved as an artifact to be yielded as pressed marks and it is effective to supplement plant remains. In addition to carbon/nitrogen isotope analysis on material adhered inside

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pottery, lipid analysis is being conducted in Japan recently. As for dating measurement study, there is KOBAYASHI Kenichi *Jomon Jidai no Jitsunendai Doki Keishiki Hennen to Tanso 14 Nendai (Actual Dates of the Jomon Period: Chronology of Pottery Type and C-14 Dating)* (Tokyo: Doseisha). Three-dimensional measurement on features and artifacts is becoming popular. It is effective as a method of data processing, and future development is expected in this study.

Viewing the entire Jomon period study, outstanding were research results related to chemical analysis and new research results using replica method and three-dimensional measurement. On the other hand, orthodox studies on artifacts, features and settlements tend to be stagnated. For example, viewpoints on large-area chronology and the relationship between regions is observed for pottery study and results of study meetings are sparse. As for features study, despite the fact that discussion was heightened on four large stone rods excavated from SV1 at Midorikawahigashi site, overall study is being progressed by individual researchers and it can be said that there is a lack of places for exchanging discussions. As for social conditions surrounding archaeology, recently getting a job related to buried cultural properties is quite favorable, but there seems a drastic decrease of young researchers in the past ten years. It is possible that this will become a serious problem in the future.