

Northeast Asia

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Research trends of northeast Asia from fiscal 2014 to 2018 are herein overviewed. As in the past, this article reviews archaeological results of Japanese researchers over Mongolia, Siberia within Russian territory, and the Far East region.

Local research for the Paleolithic to Neolithic is conducted mainly in the Far East region, such as a Japan-Russia joint research by HASHIZUME Jun and others, and results have been accumulated by many researchers. Also, in Mongolia, research on the Bronze Age to Iron Age are active, and facts of burial system and handicraft manufacturing are being revealed by excavation research jointly conducted by Japan and Mongolia, led by MIYAMOTO Kazuo and others or Research Center of Ancient East Asian Iron Culture, Ehime University. Other than above, progress is seen in excavation of Balhae sites in Primorsky Krai, Russia, natural scientific analysis on excavated artifacts, and digital archiving of endangered Mongolian sites.

As for theses on the Paleolithic to Neolithic, they were quite diverse from microlith technology around IUP/EUP, group behavior in response to environmental change analyzed through stone tools, as well as examination of material culture at the pottery emergence period at the end of the Pleistocene to the beginning of the Holocene. Research on the Bronze Age is quite active. There are many publications of theses and books to reveal classification and transition of burials in Slab Grave culture and Khereg-suur culture, dynamics of bronze culture in Eurasian grasslands, and so on. Other than above, many theses and books were published on the Xiongnu period, Bohai, Liao/Jin dynasties, the Mongol Empire period, and Okhotsk culture phase. Also, many research presentations took place on archaeological material in northeast Asia in symposiums held in various places.

There are quite many joint research projects and studies with overseas researchers, and such international joint research will continue to be conducted in the future.

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