

China

OBINATA Ichirō¹

Fiscal 2019 research trends related to Chinese archaeology in Japan are overviewed herein. As for academic conferences/symposiums, the fiscal 2019 convention of Japan Society for Chinese Archaeology was held on Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 at Ehime University. On the first day, a symposium “Kodai Chugoku no Sangyo to Kokogaku (Ancient Chinese Industry and Archaeology)” was held jointly with the Research Center for Asian Archaeology of Industry and Culture, Ehime University. On the second day, a presentation by Qin Xiaoli and NAKAMURA Shin’ichi, “Choko Churyuiki ni Okeru Gyokki no Seisan to Ryutsu (Production and Distribution of Jewelry in the Middle Yangze River Basin)” was held, along with 12 in-person and 10 poster presentations. Other than the above, there were the 13th convention of the Society for the History of Asian Casting Technology at Northeastern Polytechnical University, Xi’an, the 21st meeting of the Research Association of Northern Asia, as well as presentations related to Chinese archaeology at the fiscal 2019 Okayama convention of the Japanese Archaeological Association. Contents of the presentations tended to be more on metalware, such as Chinese Bronzeware of the Yin and Zhou Dynasties and bronze mirrors.

As for books and theses, research on the Neolithic and Qin/Han dynasties was prominent. There were many works on the lower Yangze River basin such as Hemudu culture and Liangzhu culture, regarding Neolithic study. There were a few studies on the Yin dynasty and the Western Zhou, and the majority were on bronze inscription and its casting technology. On the Eastern Zhou, there were three-dimensional measurements of bronze mirrors and inscriptions on bronze objects, eastern advancement of Yan culture, manufacturing technique of tiles, and so on. As for study after the Qin/Han dynasties and surrounding areas, remarkable were works on bronze mirrors and steppe culture, theses with the latest study on horse culture, and publication of books that discussed historical transition of jade and ceramics.

Fiscal 2019 saw a continuation of the increase of joint research/presentations with Chinese scholars or research institutions, and presentations by Chinese scholars at Japanese academic conferences in recent years. Also, opportunities were increased for researchers and students outside of the field to grasp the latest research movements and

¹ *Department of Archaeology, Kokugakuin University, 4-10-28 Higashi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 150-8440, Japan*
(obinata@kokugakuin.ac.jp)

outlines related to Chinese archaeology by the publication of the Intriguing Asia series and History of Chinese Pottery and Porcelain. ISHIKAWA Takehiko pointed to a decline in interest on mainland China among Japanese archaeologists, so these may be a help to improve this situation.