

## Overview

TSUJI Hideto<sup>1</sup>

Fiscal 2020 saw the full-force spread of the novel corona virus infection. In the world of archaeology, many conventions, conferences and symposia were canceled or postponed for many academic societies including the Japanese Archaeological Association. While face-to-face exchanges of opinion were restricted and opportunities for research presentations were lost, the study of Japanese Archaeology continued steadily, achieving many results as mentioned in the following.

For the Paleolithic, the origin of humanity in the Japanese archipelago, that is, existence of the Lower/Middle Paleolithic was discussed, without reaching an articulate conclusion. As for the transitional period from the Paleolithic to Jomon period, there was a discussion on the relationship between climate change and aspects of artifacts. Use-wear study on lithic continues.

For the Jomon period, the emergence of pottery was pursued, and wide-area chronology was constructed. Results were achieved from attributive analysis of substances remaining in pottery in order to pursue the diet of the Jomon people.

For the Yayoi period, while there was the spread of an understanding that the beginning of the Yayoi period goes back several hundred years earlier than was once thought, actual images of the Yayoi period were pursued. Also discussed were the nature of highland settlements, grave systems, funeral rituals, stone materials, and supply relationship of beads.

For the Kofun period, discussed were the relationship between the Yamato sovereignty and regional powers, regional development of mounded tombs, relationship with migrants, and so on. Horizontal graves and burial processes were examined, and for artifacts, discussed were sankakuen-shinjukyo (mirrors with triangular rims and sacred animal motifs), haniwa (clay figurines), Haji wares, imported goods, and so on.

For the ancient, study on castle towns (tojo) was conducted vigorously. A comprehensive collection of theses on Naniwanomiya was published, providing the foundation of tojo study. Research results on each region's provincial office (kokufu) were compiled, indicating the terminus of the study. Other than the above, discussed were transportation, temples, handicraft production, migrants, and so on.

For the medieval, many excavation surveys were conducted. Aeronautical laser surveys

<sup>1</sup> Faculty of Letters, Tohoku Gakuin University, 1-3-1 Tsuchitoi, Aoba-ku, Sendai City, Miyagi 980-8511, Japan (tuji@mail.tohoku-gakuin.ac.jp)

## *TRENDS IN ARCHAEOLOGY IN JAPAN*

were exploited, to grasp the complete image of citadels. Also discussed were stone structures and imported ceramics.

For the early modern, the full picture of a village buried under a mudflow is getting clear. Also examined were ceramic production of each domestic kilns, and distribution of Chinese ceramics. As for the modern era, Takanawa Embankment, an embankment of a railroad constructed in the Meiji period was discovered in an excellent condition. It is an extremely significant features to remind the look of the Meiji period Japan, and its preservation is desired.

Thus, fiscal 2020 Japanese archaeological study saw summarization and systemization of individual research and comparative study of regions in order to create composite historical images, based on abundant accumulation of individual research.