

Medieval

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Medieval archaeological study in fiscal 2020 saw consistent accumulation of data and research from discoveries in excavation research, publication, and online lectures despite many symposia and conferences being delayed or canceled by the COVID-19 infection.

The most results reported for excavation research was *jokan* (castle) sites. There were many cases of accurately grasping scales and structures of *kuruwa* (quarters), *horikiri* (moats), *ishigaki* (stone walls), and locations and structures of buildings with cornerstones and gates through not only research of records retention but also small-scale excavations for organization of historical sites. Also, discoveries of gardens with ponds were reported for multiple sites such as Muromachidono remains. On the other hand, efforts to grasp features of castle remains in mountains or underground are being conducted for multiple castle remains such as Azuchi Castle by non-destructive methods like aeronautical laser survey and ground-penetrating radar survey. There were many publications on castle sites and their contents were quite varied from comprehensive discussions of regions based on historical documents and results of excavation research, to ones with many figures and pictures so easy to be understood by the general public.

Accumulation of data and publication of research results continues for Hiraizumi, Kyoto, Hakata and so on for city/settlement sites. There were multiple reports on discoveries of residential quarters consisting of pillared buildings, ditches, and wells in rural areas, and examples of each region are gradually being accumulated.

Although there were few examples of excavation related to grave systems and religion, there were multiple publications of theses on regional compilations and characteristics of stonework, and national trends are becoming clear.

Styles of holding academic lectures are being explored that accommodate the influence of COVID-19 such as limited audiences and the use of online. As it is proportional to the amount of excavation results and publications, the most conducted events were on castle sites as the quality and quantity of information provided by the presenter and preference of the audience are highly compatible. Also, attempts to deepen understanding of children and their parents through a hands-on lecture using excavated medieval artifacts are being made in various places.

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