

Early Modern

TAKEUCHI Akira¹

This article compiled excavation research conducted in Japan on the early modern period, as well as research cases and excavation reports published or reported in fiscal 2020.

Much excavation research in this fiscal year was related to castles as in other years, on the other hand, there were some that focused on towns around a castle and townhouses (*machiya*). Research of early modern archaeology has been conducted mainly on big cities like Edo, Osaka, Kyoto, and production places for ceramics and so on. On the other hand, archaeological research in rural areas is still slow, and still in many regions the early modern is not recognized as cultural properties. In the study of early modern age when a commodity economy and distribution network has already been developed, it is important to study not only cities but also the relationship with areas around them and remote places, therefore the progress of future study can be expected from an increase of excavation research in various places.

The major excavation research was on an old prefectural office of Nagasaki Prefecture, where a stone wall of the early modern Nagasaki Magistrate's Office (*bugyosho*) was found. The same excavation yielded "Hanajujimongawara" tile, the same type of tile that had been used in Christian related facilities. A possibility was pointed out that it could be related to "Misaki no Kyokai" that existed before the Nagasaki Magistrate's Office was constructed.

As for material culture like artifacts, there were many studies on metal products. Metal products and coins were also themes for conferences. On the other hand, it was pointed out that knowledge and research development on early modern metal products were rather behind compared to other periods. In order to reconstruct early modern life history from material culture, development in that field of study is our future assignment.

Influenced by the global pandemic, many academic conferences were held online over the internet. Although it seems harder to hold active exchanges of opinions compared to traditional ways of holding conferences, an advantage is that it is easy to join a conference held in remote places. It is desirable to dispatch and share information further through verification of conference methodology.

¹ Contact postal address undisclosed
(takeuchi-akira@tef.or.jp)